

Travel Ban Aff - Index

Index

TRAVEL BAN AFF - INDEX..... 1

1AC 1/..... 3

1AC 2/..... 4

1AC 3/..... 5

1AC 4/..... 6

1AC 5/..... 7

1AC 6/..... 8

1AC 7/..... 9

1AC 8/..... 10

1AC 9/..... 11

1AC 10/..... 12

1AC 11/..... 13

1AC 12/..... 14

1AC 13/..... 15

FRONTLINE: T – CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT..... 16

FRONTLINE: T – CUBA..... 17

FRONTLINE: T – WITH (LCDC)..... 18

FRONTLINE: T – WITH (NON-LCDC)..... 19

FRONTLINE: SPEC 20

INHERENCY EXTENSIONS (1/3)..... 21

INHERENCY EXTENSIONS (2/3)..... 22

INHERENCY EXTENSIONS (3/3)..... 23

SOLVENCY EXTENSIONS 1/2..... 24

SOLVENCY EXTENSIONS 2/2..... 25

TOURISM EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS..... 26

TOURISM EXTENSIONS: INTERNAL LINK 1/2 27

TOURISM EXTENSIONS: INTERNAL LINK 2/2 28

HURRICANE AID EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS 1/3..... 29

HURRICANE AID EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS 2/3..... 30

HURRICANE AID EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS 3/3..... 31

HURRICANE AID EXTENSIONS: LINKS 32

HURRICANE AID EXTENSIONS: IMPACTS 33

YOANI SANCHEZ: QUALS 34

SOFT POWER EXTENSIONS – INTERNAL LINK 1/2 35

SOFT POWER EXTENSIONS – INTERNAL LINK 2/2 36

SOFT POWER EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS 37

A/2: POLITICS 38

A/2: MEXICO TOURISM D/A (1/2)..... 39

A/2: MEXICO TOURISM D/A (2/2)..... 40

A/2: CARIBBEAN TOURISM D/A 1/2 41

A/2: CARIBBEAN TOURISM D/A 2/2 42

A/2: SHUNNING..... 43

A/2: OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PROVIDING HURRICANE RELIEF 44

A/2: TOURISM IS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (1/2)..... 45

A/2: TOURISM IS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (2/2)..... 46

A/2: REMITTANCES ARE RACIST/CREATE INEQUALITY 47

A/2: TOURISM IS BAD FOR THE ECONOMY 48

OLD PLAN TEXT 49

HURRICANE AID ADVANTAGE 1/4..... 50

HURRICANE AID ADVANTAGE 2/4..... 51

HURRICANE AID ADVANTAGE 3/4..... 52

HURRICANE AID ADVANTAGE 4/4 53
HUMAN RIGHTS EXTENSIONS: UNIQUENESS 54
CASON/REICH INDICTS 55
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS HARMS SCENARIO 56
1AC 1/ (2.0) 57
1AC 2/ (2.0) 58
1AC 3/ (2.0) 59
1AC 4/ (2.0) 60
1AC 5/ (2.0) 61
1AC 6/ (2.0) 62
1AC 7/ (2.0) 63
1AC 8/ (2.0) 64
1AC 9/ (2.0) 65
1AC 10/ (2.0) 66
1AC 11/ (2.0) 67
1AC 12/ (2.0) 68
1AC 13/ (2.0) 69

1AC 1/**Observation 1: Inherency:**

While the government is planning to repeal family travel and remittance restrictions on Cuban-Americans, passage of the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act is unlikely.

The Economist Intelligence Unit argues on April 7, 2009. The Economist is the world's premier newsmagazine. "USA/Cuba Politics – Road to Havana."
http://viewswire.eiu.com/index.asp?layout=VWArticleVW3&article_id=1044420689®ion_id=440000444&refm=vwReg&page_title=Latest+regional+analysis&rf=0 accessed 4/7/09. //WC

The US government looks set to end family travel and remittances restrictions applied to Cuban-Americans, just ahead of President Barack Obama's planned trip to Trinidad and Tobago for the April 17th Summit of the Americas. If this is indeed announced, it will be the second loosening of restrictions related to Cuba in two months. However, the new administration is not yet talking about ending the 47-year-old trade and investment embargo, or of normalising diplomatic relations with the island nation. The impediments to these measures would be much greater. A first step toward a change in policy came with the Obama administration's appropriations budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, approved on March 10th. It contained provisions to relax modestly restrictions on trade with and travel to Cuba. Under one provision the government will grant a general license (which does not require individual approval in advance) for Americans who travel to Cuba for the purpose of selling agricultural and medical goods. Also, Cuba will no longer have to pay for such imported goods before they are loaded on ships in US ports, a requirement put in place in 2005 by the George Bush administration. The budget reversed this policy by removing funding for US enforcement of the requirement. The bill also ended funding for government enforcement of Bush-era restrictions on family travel to Cuba. These limited travel to only immediate family members and to just one visit every three years for a maximum 14-day period. Prior to this 2004 tightening, family members could visit once a year with no time limit. Removal of the funding means that Cuban-Americans would be able to travel more frequently without fear of punishment. Now the White House is poised to allow completely unrestricted family travel and remittances, according to reports citing unnamed administration officials, and could well announce the change in the days ahead. The lifting of a travel ban for all Americans is also on the table. This would be a much more significant reform, and perhaps a step towards revising the broader trade and investment embargo. A bipartisan group of US senators and non-governmental entities is supporting a bill, the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act, to end the ban. It was introduced at the end of March by Senators Byron Dorgan (D, North Dakota) and Michael Enzi (R, Wyoming), and is backed by 20 co-sponsors, as well as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the US Chamber of Commerce and Human Rights Watch. A similar bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Whether such a measure could be approved anytime soon is highly uncertain, as it is intimately linked to the controversial domestic debate about the embargo, whose reform would face significant obstacles. Indeed, any changes to the embargo or normalisation of relations with Havana would require concessions on Cuba's part, including addressing human-rights issues by releasing political prisoners, and other steps towards democratisation. Though Cuba's president, Raúl Castro, has expressed a willingness to talk with Washington, he would be loathe to submit to demands from the US government in exchange for improved relations. Furthermore, because the trade embargo is codified in a law, the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, it is beyond the president's authority and could only be

modified by Congress, where the influence of conservative politicians and Cuban-Americans opposed to the Castro regime still remains strong.

1AC 2/

Thus, the plan:

The USFG, through an act of Congress, should pass S.428, The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act. Agency, Funding and Enforcement are normal means. We reserve the right to clarify intent.

1AC 3/

Solvency:

1. The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act will make all regulations and prohibitions on travel to and from Cuba by United States citizens null and void.

The Text of S.428, as published on opencongress.org in **2009**. “Text of S. 428: Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2007.” 2/12/07. <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s428/text> accessed 4/6/09. //WC

On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, and subject to section 3-- (1) the President may not regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents, or any of the transactions incident to such travel that are set forth in subsection (b); and (2) any regulation in effect on such date of enactment that regulates or prohibits travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents or transactions incident to such travel shall cease to have any force or effect.

1AC 4/**2. Engaging with the Cuban people by lifting the travel ban is our best hope for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.**

Senator Chris **Dodd** of Connecticut argues in a press release on August 15, **2007**. Chris Dodd is a Senator from Connecticut. "Dodd on Cuba Policy." Matt Browner-Hamlin, August 15, 2007.

<http://havanajournal.com/politics/entry/chris-dodd-supports-s721-freedom-to-travel-to-cuba-act-of-2007/> accessed 11-12-08.
//WC

I want to see the peaceful transition to democracy occur on the Island of Cuba in my life time. That isn't going to happen if we continue the misguided policies of the last forty-six years. We must open the flood gates to contacts with the Cuban people. We must remove restrictions on the ability of Cuban Americans to provide financial assistance to their loved ones. Even small sums of money in the hands of ordinary Cuban families can serve as catalysts for private investment to gain a foothold in Cuba. I have long supported the freedom to travel to Cuba, which is why I have joined with twenty of my colleagues in a bi-partisan way to co-sponsor S.721 the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2007. It is simply un-American to bar American citizens from traveling to foreign countries. In fact, Americans are currently free to travel to both Iran and North Korea, two countries which pose far more serious threats to American national security than the government of Cuba. But more than that, the United States' most potent weapon against totalitarianism is the influence of ordinary American citizens. They are some of the best ambassadors we have, and the free exchange of ideas and the interaction between Americans and Cubans are important ways to encourage democracy in Cuba. For more than forty-six years, the United States has maintained an isolationist policy toward Cuba, which I believe has not achieved its intended objectives, namely to hasten a peaceful and democratic transition on the Island of Cuba. Rather, it has solidified the authoritarian control of Fidel Castro, and has adversely affected the already miserable living conditions of 11 million innocent men, women, and children on the Island. I have long opposed restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to the Cuban people. Frankly I believe it is immoral to deprive innocent people from access to American medical and farm products. Moreover, we hurt our American farm families with such an ill conceived policy. It is a commonsense policy to encourage Cuban authorities to purchase US food and medicine rather than other foreign purchases that may impact adversely on our nation's security. The Island of Cuba is in the throes of a transition to a post-Castro Cuba. A US policy of staying the course leaves us on the sides as the future of Cuba is being written. It is time to engage before it is too late to have a positive influence on the political landscape which is rapidly taking shape there. In a Dodd administration the United States will engage with the Cuban people in support of a peaceful transition to democracy.

1AC 5/**Advantage 1: Tourism****A. Uniqueness: The Cuban economy is currently in dire straits, having exhausted its savings.**

Jagger and Catan, Business Correspondents for The Times of London, argue in **2008**. Suzy Jagger and Thomas Catan. "Island outcast on the brink as its people clamour for a better life." The Times of London, March 1, 2008. Accessed on Lexis on 8-23-08. //WC

The Cuban people did not get any of that. Fifty years on, the grandchildren of the Cuban Revolution wait for another beginning. Since Fidel Castro, crippled by illness and age, handed power to Raul recently, Cubans - and the outside world - have been waiting to see whether the small island will liberalise its economy, open up to the outside world and feed its population of 11million. Milk, tobacco and toys are rationed. Cubans cannot access the internet freely and relatives who have defected to the United States - Florida is only 90 miles away - can visit only once every three years, so fraught are relations with Washington. Cubans are scared to speak their mind and waiters are discouraged from speaking to tourists. Last weekend Raul hinted at the unthinkable by suggesting that he might end rationing and implement agricultural reform, a move that he introduced in the 1990s but that his older brother rescinded. He also reiterated his admiration for the Chinese model of economic reform - a model that has allowed foreign companies to take minority stakes in state-owned businesses. His comments sparked speculation that Cuba was preparing to open the economy to foreign investment and global markets. One of the world's leading experts on Cuba, Jorge Castaneda, the former Mexican Foreign Minister, said: "Since what they have now doesn't work, they have to do something. But what the Chinese do isn't necessarily an option for Cuba. China is very big and has conducted its reforms over a long period. Raul has to widen the pool of countries allowed to invest in Cuba. He must extract funding from Europe and beyond, not just from Mexico, Brazil and Spain. Part of the problem is that Raul would like to implement the economic reforms of China without the political reforms." At present 97 per cent of the Cuban economy is controlled by the military, the head of which is Raul. It is the most centralised socialist state in the world. Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin was Cuba's biggest customer, buying 85 per cent of the island's exports, principally sugar, in return for cheap oil. In the 1990s, as glasnost foreshadowed the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Cuba's foreign market disappeared and Cubans starved. Although Venezuela and China took the place of the Soviet Union - Cuba pays for Venezuelan oil with doctors - and Canada and Spain were allowed to build hotel resorts along the Cuban coastlines, the foreign investment was too limited to offset Havana's sliding economy, principally oil, tourism and farming. It is not known exactly how the Cuban economy is faring, although it is believed to be struggling. Mauricio Font, of the City University of New York, said: "The Cuban economy has no choice. Raul has acknowledged this. Cuba has exhausted its savings, and investments have to come from somewhere. They are no longer able to generate sufficient savings on their own. They have to look to outside."

1AC 6/**B. Link: Lifting the travel ban would dramatically increase American tourism to Cuba.**

Will **Weissert**, journalist for the Associated Press, reports in **2007**. Will Weissert has written articles published in The Independent (Associated Press Writer), The Guardian, The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday. “Americans flout U.S. Travel Ban to see Cuba.” USA Today, 9/12/07.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2007-09-12-american-travel-to-cuba_N.htm accessed 8-23-08. //WC

The U.S. Treasury Department issued 40,308 licenses for family travel last year, almost all to Cuban Americans, and the Cuban government counts these travelers as Cubans, not Americans. Separately, Cuba said 20,100 Americans visited the country through June of this year, almost all presumably without U.S. permission. Other than family members, the U.S. government granted permission 491 times for people involved in religious, educational and humanitarian projects. Some other Americans — including journalists and politicians — can come without licenses, though few do. Cuba said about 37,000 Americans not of Cuban origin came in 2006 — down from the more than 84,500 it reported in 2003, before the latest restrictions. The American Society of Travel Agents recently estimated that nearly 1.8 million Americans would visit in the first three years following an end to the travel ban.

1AC 7/**C. Internal Link:****1. Tourism is key to economic recovery in Cuba.**

Marina **Sanchez** reports for The Peninsula on April 15, **2006**. Marina Fornieles Sanchez is a reporter for The Peninsula, Qatar's leading English newspaper. "The state of Cuban tourism with statistics" Originally published in the Peninsula on April 15, 2006. Last accessed September 10, 2008.

<http://havanajournal.com/travel/entry/the-state-of-cuban-tourism-with-statistics/> //RA

In Cuba, tourism achieved a great development during the 90s. Despite the prevailing difficulties, this sector was the only one that exhibited the annual growth rate of nearly 20 per cent. In the middle of a growing shortage of supplies, tourism became Cuba's salvation thanks to its rapid development. When talking about the benefits of tourism, we are obliged to acknowledge its dynamic contributions in hard currency, its role as a major source for employment and as the driving force behind the activities of another group of industries. Considered as the oil of 21st century, tourism has become the salvation for many countries' economies, including Cuba which has incorporated it in its strategy for the national recovery since last decade with successful results. This audacious step has been rewarded by a steady increase of profits in the 90s. Today, tourism has become the mainstay of Cuban economy. Cuba already has 10 international airports where 93 foreign and regular airlines operate – in 1990, only 18 airlines functioned – connecting the island with 40 cities and capitals around the world. US interventionist and extraterritorial policy has greatly affected socially and economically the island, a banned territory for any US citizen.

"It's true that so far Washington has ignored the United Nations' call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, but we will not despair," said Cuban Foreign Minister, Felipe Perez Roque who has talked on the progress Cuba would experience if the US stopped its aggressive policy. "For example, if Cuba received five million US tourists per year, that would represent extra income of more than (seven billion dollars,)" pointed out Perez Roque. Without the scourge of the US blockade, tourism in Cuba could take nearly \$576m during the first year. In addition, the island could take another extra \$70m per year from a half million tourists traveling by cruisers. Each seven days some 80 cruisers navigate around the Cuban archipelago. Tourism is vital for the revival of the island's economy, that's why US successive administrations since 1959 have implemented a number of measures and laws aimed to reduce Cuba's national income.

1AC 8/**2. Increased tourism would improve the lives of average Cubans, not just rich ones.**

Philip **Peters**, Vice-President of the Lexington Institute, argues on September 18, **2008**. Philip Peters is the Vice-President of the Lexington Institute. “Families Torn Apart: Human Rights And U.S. Restrictions on Cuban-American Travel.” Hearing before the subcommittee on international organizations, human rights, and oversight of the committee on foreign affairs. 110th Congress, Second Session, 9/18/2008. Serial No. 110-220. p. 55. accessed 11/29/08. //WC

An increase of American travelers would boost the incomes of average Cubans in the tourism industry and in private businesses, both legal and black market, improving their living standards and their independence. It would enable lots more Cubans to enter private business, such as the thousands that legally rent rooms to travelers from abroad.

D. Impact:**Economic growth solves for poverty, marginalization, powerlessness, coercion, and allows individuals to live fuller, happier lives.**

Johan **Norberg**, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, argues in **2003**. Johan Norberg (born 27 August 1973) is a Swedish writer devoted to promoting economic globalization and individual liberty. He is the author of the much celebrated In Defense of Global Capitalism. Since March 15, 2007 he is a Senior Fellow at Cato Institute. “In Defense of Global Capitalism.” Washington D.C.: The Cato Institute, 2003, p. 27. //WC

“But,” the skeptic asks, “what do people in the developing countries want consumption and growth for? Why must we force our way of life upon them?” The answer is that we must not force a particular way of life on anyone. Whatever their values, the great majority of people the world over desire better material conditions, for the simple reason that they will then have more options. As Indian economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has emphasized, poverty is not just a material problem. Poverty is something wider: it is about powerlessness, about being deprived of basic opportunities and freedom of choice. Small incomes are often symptomatic of the absence of these things, of people's marginalization or subjection to coercion. Human development means enjoying a reasonably healthy and secure existence, with a good standard of living and freedom to shape one's own life. It is important to investigate material development because it suggests how wealth can be produced and because it contributes to development in this broader sense. Material resources, individual and societal, enable people to feed and educate themselves, to obtain health care, and to be spared the pain of watching their children die. Those are pretty universal human desires, one finds, when people are allowed to choose for themselves.

1AC 9/**Advantage 2: Soft Power****A. Uniqueness****America's standing in Latin America has reached an all time low.**

Peter **McKenna**, reporter for the Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald, argues on August 10, **2008**. Peter McKenna is the Latin America beat reporter for the Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald. "Obama's Latin American strategies would repair damage of Bush years" Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald, 08/10/2008. Accessed on August 25, 2008. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotian/1072382.html> //RA

Long before Sen. Obama came on the political scene, and even before the Americas-focused Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the United States had been preoccupied with what was happening in its own hemispheric "backyard." But ever since Monroe's presidential proclamation, Washington has argued that it has vital interests in the region, of a political, economic and strategic nature, and it has not been shy about defending them. This, of course, has been a major source of conflict and contention with the 20 or so countries that comprise Latin America. Over the years, a great deal of mistrust, resentment and frustration has built up in the region against the hegemonic ways of the United States. But since President George W. Bush launched his "war on terror" in late 2001, Latin America and the Caribbean (with the exception of Venezuela and Cuba) have practically fallen off the political radar screen. The Bush administration has essentially discarded the nostrums of the Monroe Doctrine for a policy of implacable neglect and shortsightedness. Its relentless pursuit of the neo-liberal model and free market economics have also discredited the Bush White House throughout most of the region. And its unflinching support for Colombia, longstanding opposition to Cuba, and heavy-handed approach to Venezuela have all cast a dark cloud over its entire policy for the Americas. Not surprisingly, a deep-seated anger has erupted throughout the region — and the image, credibility and profile of Washington has sunk to an all-time low. This wrong-headed neglect has, in part, led to a flurry of left-leaning governments coming to power in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Argentina, to name a few. At the same time, this has created a situation in which core U.S. interests in its own neighbourhood have been cavalierly ignored and undermined. In a word, the influence of the U.S. in the region has waned considerably under Bush's watch. Other countries, such as China and Iran, have strengthened their profiles in the Americas and have sought to take advantage of the absence of any serious U.S. engagement in hemispheric affairs.

1AC 10/**B. Link****Lifting the travel ban will increase our soft power in Latin America.**

William **Reinsch**, President of the National Foreign Trade Council, argues on September 4, **2003**.
“USA*Engage Urges Congress to Prepare Now for Post-Castro Cuba “ 9/4/2003.

http://www.usaengage.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=151&Itemid=61 accessed 11/29/08. //WC

Second, because of its symbolic importance to the U.S., how we deal with Cuba as it approaches this transition will affect our standing in the region and beyond. The U.S. should be seen to be working constructively toward a peaceful transition to free market democracy in Cuba. By moving now to engage Cuba, the United States will be able to deploy its most powerful arsenal before we are overtaken by events. That arsenal is our "soft power," which goes beyond American affluence to include American values, institutions and traditions such as the rule of law, tolerance and freedom of expression and association. These factors have played a significant role in transitions in places as diverse as South Korea, Eastern Europe and South Africa. Now, having failed to influence events in Cuba through a policy of isolation, it is time to call Castro's bluff and start removing the crutches he uses to stay in power. Increasing contact between Americans and Cubans is one way to begin. To that end, we support enactment of S.950, which would repeal the prohibition on American citizens' freedom to travel to Cuba. Ending the travel ban does not reward Castro; it punishes him by building pressure that will lead to a free people and democratic government in Cuba. These travel restrictions are perhaps the most counterproductive of all the U.S. sanctions on Cuba. They hurt families on both sides of the Florida Straits and restrict the freedom of American citizens who are accustomed to traveling throughout the world without constraint.

1AC 11/**C. Impact****1. Soft power is key to preventing disease, terrorism, and the use of weapons of mass destruction.**

Joseph Nye, professor of International Relations, argues in **2004**. Joseph S. Nye Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor, is also the Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations and former Dean of the Kennedy School. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. "US military primacy is fact - so, now, work on 'soft power' of persuasion." Christian Science Monitor, 4/29/2004. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0429/p09s02-coop.html> accessed 8-23-08. //WC

Soft power co-opts people rather than coerces them. It rests on the ability to set the agenda or shape the preferences of others. It is a mistake to discount soft power as just a question of image, public relations, and ephemeral popularity. It is a form of power - a means of pursuing national interests. When America discounts the importance of its attractiveness to other countries, it pays a price. When US policies lose their legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of others, attitudes of distrust tend to fester and further reduce its leverage. The manner with which the US went into Iraq undercut American soft power. That did not prevent the success of the four-week military campaign, but it made others less willing to help in the reconstruction of Iraq and made the American occupation more costly in the hard-power resources of blood and treasure. Because of its leading edge in the information revolution and its past investment in military power, the US probably will remain the world's single most powerful country well into the 21st century. But not all the important types of power come from the barrel of a gun. Hard power is relevant to getting desired outcomes, but transnational issues such as climate change, infectious diseases, international crime, and terrorism cannot be resolved by military force alone. Soft power is particularly important in dealing with these issues, where military power alone simply cannot produce success, and can even be counterproductive. America's success in coping with the new transnational threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction will depend on a deeper understanding of the role of soft power and developing a better balance of hard and soft power in foreign policy.

1AC 12/

Advantage 3: Human Rights

A. Uniqueness

The Castro regime violates the human rights of its people in a myriad of ways.

Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization, argues on February 18, **2008**.
“Cuba: Fidel Castro's Abusive Machinery Remains Intact.” Human Rights Watch, 2/18/08.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/02/18/cuba-fidel-castro-s-abusive-machinery-remains-intact> accessed 11/29/08. //WC

For almost five decades, Cuba has restricted nearly all avenues of political dissent. Cuban citizens have been systematically deprived of their fundamental rights to free expression, privacy, association, assembly, movement, and due process of law. Tactics for enforcing political conformity have included police warnings, surveillance, short-term detentions, house arrests, travel restrictions, criminal prosecutions, and politically motivated dismissals from employment. Cuba’s legal and institutional structures have been at the root of its rights violations. The rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly, movement, and the press are strictly limited under Cuban law. By criminalizing enemy propaganda, the spreading of “unauthorized news,” and insult to patriotic symbols, the government curbs freedom of speech under the guise of protecting state security. The courts are not independent; they undermine the right to fair trial by restricting the right to a defense, and frequently fail to observe the few due process rights available to defendants under domestic law. “Since Fidel Castro first turned power over to his brother, the Cuban government has occasionally indicated a willingness to reconsider its approach to human rights,” said Vivanco. “But so far it hasn’t taken any of the steps needed to end its abusive practices.”

1AC 13/**B. Link:****Lifting the travel ban is key to facilitating a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, thus solving for the human rights abuses of the current regime.**

Jennifer **Windsor**, executive director of Freedom House, argues in a press release dated January 7, **2009**. Freedom House is an independent non-governmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. "Obama Administration Should Pursue New Approach to Promote Democracy in Cuba." <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=70&release=796> accessed 4/6/09. //WC

"Cuba remains one of the most repressive countries in the world," said Jennifer Windsor, executive director of Freedom House. "It is well past time to reassess a policy that impedes the ability of American citizens to freely interact with Cubans on a large scale and thus expose them to unfettered information about the outside world. We call on the incoming administration of Barack Obama to reexamine the embargo and to immediately lift the restrictions on remittances and travel to and from the island." The United States first began introducing economic sanctions against Cuba in 1960 following that government's seizure without compensation of U.S. assets on the island. Current U.S. sanctions, which strictly limit trade with Cuba to cash-only sales of U.S. farm products and medical supplies, are unique to all other U.S. sanction policies in that they also prohibit U.S. citizens from traveling to Cuba unless they obtain a U.S. government waiver. "While the Bush administration expanded American support for democracy activists in Cuba, U.S. policy would be even more effective if Americans were allowed to engage more freely with Cuban counterparts," Windsor continued. "Those countries that have moved from dictatorship to democracy in recent decades have done so in large part because of the movement of people and ideas across borders."

C. Impact:**Human Rights are the most important impact in the round, because they are a prerequisite to human action.**

Alan **Gewirth**, Professor of Philosophy, argues in his book entitled Human Rights published in **1982**. Alan Gewirth, Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago, HUMAN RIGHTS, 1982. //WC (LCDC)

The primary thesis of the following essays is that human rights are of supreme importance, and are central to all other moral considerations, because they are rights of every human being to the necessary conditions of human action, i.e., those conditions that must be fulfilled if human action is to be possible either at all or with general chances of success in achieving the purposes for which humans act. Because they are such rights, they must be respected by every human being, in the primary justification of governance is that they serve to secure these rights. Thus the Subjects as well as the respondents of human rights are all human beings; the Objects of the rights are the aforesaid necessary conditions of human action and of successful action in general; and the justifying basis of the rights is the moral principle which establishes that all humans are equally entitled to have these necessary conditions, to fulfill the general needs of human agency.

Frontline: T – Constructive Engagement

- 1 . We Meet: (insert argument.)
- 2 . Counter interpretation: Allowing citizens to travel to countries with odious regimes is constructive engagement.

Global Exchange, a human rights think tank, argues on their web site last updated in 2007. Global Exchange is an education and action resource center working for human rights and social, environmental, and economic justice. “Freedom to Travel Fact Sheet.” Global Exchange, last updated 12/11/07. <http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/americas/cuba/TravelQuestions.html> accessed 8/21/08. //WC

So how can the government still justify the travel ban in this post Cold War era? The U.S. government says the Cuban government is not democratic and does not respect the human rights of its citizens. It argues that if U.S. citizens spend money in Cuba, we would be propping up the Castro regime. Yet there are scores of countries --from Guatemala to Saudi Arabia to China with well documented human rights abuses and curbs on democratic rights -- where we can travel freely. The government generally refers to this type of policy as "constructive engagement."

3. Reasons to prefer the counter-interpretation:

- a. **Specificity – My interpretation is specific to the Cuba travel ban. It is therefore the most applicable to determining whether or not the travel ban is topical.**
- b. **Literature – My interpretation comes from the literature on US-Policy towards Cuba. Not only does that make it the most predictable interpretation, it also means that my opponent's claims to abuse are completely specious, because he should be prepared for the travel ban.**

4. (Answer their standards)

5. **Don't vote on T without articulated abuse – potential abuse is non-unique because every interpretation of a resolution has different ground attached to it**
6. **Don't vote on T unless you are 100% sure – it's a no lose position for the neg, so err aff to preserve competitive equity**

Frontline: T – Cuba

- 1. I meet: Americans will meet Cuban government officials at airports.**
- 2. Counter-interpretation: Cuba is a society.**

From The State Department's Website in 2008. “Background Note: Cuba.” 8/2008.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2886.htm> accessed 11/12/08. //WC

Cuba is a multiracial society with a population of mainly Spanish and African origins. The largest organized religion is the Roman Catholic Church, but evangelical protestant denominations continue to grow rapidly. Afro-Cuban religions, a blend of native African religions and Roman Catholicism, are widely practiced in Cuba. Officially, Cuba has been an atheist state for most of the Castro era. In 1962, the government of Fidel Castro seized and shut down more than 400 Catholic schools, charging that they spread dangerous beliefs among the people. In 1991, however, the Communist Party lifted its prohibition against religious believers seeking membership, and a year later the constitution was amended to characterize the state as secular instead of atheist.

- 3. I meet the counter-interpretation per the Dodd evidence from solvency, which indicates that lifting the travel ban will link our societies.**

- 4. Reasons to prefer the counter-interpretation**

- a. Political context – My interpretation comes from the State department, which makes it the most predictable in the context of US government action.**
- b. It's liberatory – Your interpretation renders the Cuban people as helpless subjects of their government, discursively recreating their oppression. Our interpretation recognizes that Cuba will exist post-Castro – creating a liberatory discourse.**

- 5. (Answer their standards)**

- 6. Don't vote on T without articulated abuse – potential abuse is non-unique because every interpretation of a resolution has different ground attached to it**

- 7. Don't vote on T unless you are 100% sure – it's a no lose position for the neg, so err aff to preserve competitive equity**

Frontline: T – With (LCDC)

1. I meet: Per the Dodd evidence, plan text links American and Cuban societies and facilitates their interaction.

2. Your interpretation is bad – it requires multi-actor fiat which is both abusive to your ground and not resolitional.

3. Counter-Interpretation:

From Dictionary.com in 2008: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/with> accessed 8/5/08

In some particular relation to (esp. implying ineration, company association, conjunction, or connection.) I dealt with the problem. She agreed with me.

4. Reasons to prefer:

a) **Integrity – My counter-interpretation uses the whole of the dictionary.com definition, whereas the neg's interpretation cuts words out. This makes my interpretation more predictable and more fair, and internally link turns the “each word is key” standard.**

b) **Bright Line – my interpretation has a clearer bright line at the point that you don't have to figure out what exactly interaction means before using it.**

5. Don't vote neg without articulated abuse – potential abuse is non-unique because every interpretation of a resolution has different ground attached to it.

6. Don't vote on T unless you are 100% sure – it's a no lose position for the neg, so err aff to maintain competitive equity.

Frontline: T – With (Non-LCDC)

1. I meet: Per the Dodd evidence, plan text links American and Cuban societies and facilitates their interaction.

2. Counter-Interpretation:

From Dictionary.com in 2008: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/with> accessed 8/5/08

In some particular relation to (esp. implying interaction, company association, conjunction, or connection.) I dealt with the problem. She agreed with me.

3. Reasons to prefer:

a) **Contextuality - My interpretation is the most contextual because it doesn't require multi-actor fiat, which my opponent's interpretation does. This is especially problematic when the resolution only calls for the United States as an actor. The resolution is the epicenter of predictability so you should prefer my interpretation.**

b) **Ground - Under my opponent's interpretation I could fiat Cuba's cooperation with my plan text in order to spike out of disadvantages, which would be extremely abusive. Under my interpretation, my opponent has full access to arguments about why Cuba might not like the plan.**

c) **Real World - There is no real-world policymaking framework for a joint US-Cuba action, which means that there is no literature calling for such an action. Literature is only basis for argument preparation in evidence debate, so you should prefer an interpretation that allows access to the literature on the topic.**

4. Don't vote neg without articulated abuse – potential abuse is non-unique because every interpretation of a resolution has different ground attached to it.

5. Don't vote on T unless you are 100% sure – it's a no lose position for the neg, so err aff to maintain competitive equity.

Frontline: SPEC

- 1. We meet: We specify normal means. They don't argue why this isn't specification.**
- 2. Your interpretation is bad:**
 - a. Infinitely regressive – there's no limit to what you might ask me to specify.**
 - b. Cross -X checks – you have the ability to ask me what normal means is during C-X and stick me to that.**
 - c. Extra-topicality – there is no agent in the resolution besides the USFG. Specifying beyond that would make me extra-topical, which guts predictability and fairness.**
- 3. Counter Interpretation: The affirmative should have to specify normal means.**
- 4. Counter-Standard: Ground: If I specified, that could easily link you out of your D/As by specifying an obscure, rarely-used agency. Under normal means, you always get access to your links.**
- 5. Counter-Standard: Education: My interp leads to an interrogation of how our government works by figuring out what the normal means of implementing plan would be, rather than just fiating it through.**
- 6. (answer their standards)**
- 7. Don't vote on procedurals without clear articulated abuse – potential abuse is non-unique because every interpretation of a resolution has different ground attached to it**
- 8. Don't vote unless you are 100% sure – E-SPEC is a no lose position for the aff to run so err neg to maintain competitive equity.**

Inherency Extensions (1/3)

Senator Robert Menendez will derail any Congressional attempt to repeal the travel ban.

Chebium, journalist for the Gannett Washington Bureau, reports on April 2, 2009. "Menendez to oppose Cuba travel." Raju Chebium, Gannett Washington Bureau, April 2, 2009.

<http://www.app.com/article/20090402/NEWS03/904020370/1007> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

The most powerful Hispanic in Congress says he will oppose a bipartisan effort to lift a longstanding ban on travel to Cuba. Sen. Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat and the son of Cuban immigrants, also said he would fight any move to overhaul U.S. policy toward the communist nation. Joining him is the state's other Hispanic lawmaker, Rep. Albio Sires, a West New York Democrat and Cuban native whose district contains one of the largest populations of Cubans in the country. Sires said the U.S. shouldn't change course on Cuba unless it gets more in return. New Jersey is home to about 85,000 people of Cuban origin, second only to Florida, which has about 1.1 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The two lawmakers argue it's premature to significantly alter or dismantle longstanding restrictions on travel to and trade with Cuba. They say the island nation, about 90 miles south of Florida, remains a dictatorship and human-rights violator, although leader Fidel Castro has stepped down because of failing health. Menendez heads the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, a group that recruits and funds Democratic Senate candidates and supports the re-election campaigns of Democratic incumbents. That makes him the only Hispanic in the Senate leadership. Menendez told the Gannett Washington Bureau that Senate legislation aimed at changing U.S. policy toward Cuba is similar to bills that have failed in the past. The legislation is sponsored by farm-state lawmakers who are looking for new agricultural markets, he said, adding that they want to let business owners from their states visit Cuba on sales trips. "Democracy and human rights isn't their focus," Menendez said. "It seems to me that our great nation should stand for human rights and democracy. I opposed it in the past, and I will oppose it again." A bipartisan group of Senate lawmakers, led by North Dakota Democrat Byron Dorgan, introduced legislation Tuesday to prevent any U.S. president from restricting travel to Cuba unless Cuba and the U.S. go to war. Dorgan called the current travel ban a "failed policy that has failed for 50 years." The American Farm Bureau Federation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and human-rights groups are rallying around the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act, which would lift a travel ban imposed in 1961. Cuba is the only country in the world that U.S. citizens are barred from visiting. Supporters of lifting the travel ban say a freer flow of people and goods between the U.S. and Cuba would nurture democracy and human rights on the communist island. Anti-ban lawmakers have worked for years to turn the proposal into law but have lacked the votes. Dorgan said he believes the bill has enough support to pass this year, but Menendez questioned that assumption. President Barack Obama supports cautiously loosening some restrictions, not scrapping U.S. policy, Menendez said. Menendez nearly derailed a \$410 billion spending bill earlier this year because it contained language that he said was slipped in secretly with the aim of relaxing U.S. policies toward Cuba. He relented after receiving written assurances from Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner that those policies wouldn't be overhauled. The Dorgan bill goes far beyond the language in the spending bill.

Inherency Extensions (2/3)

Obama will not push to repeal the travel ban in its entirety.

Hidalgo, project coordinator for the Cato Institute, argues in 2008. Juan Carlos; project coordinator for Latin America at the Cato Institute. "Beyond Castro." The American Spectator, 6/3/08.

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=9442 accessed 8/21/08. //WC

Latin America finally came to the fore of the campaign last week, when John McCain and Barack Obama both spoke in Miami, one epicenter of the U.S. Hispanic community. As expected, Cuba was the main topic of their speeches, and both candidates went through the campaign ritual of vowing to fight for liberty in the island. If only their proposals weren't more of the same. McCain declared that he "will not passively await the day when Cuban people enjoy the blessings of freedom and democracy," but his proposal is just that: waiting until the Castro regime suddenly embraces free elections and political dissent. McCain promised to maintain present policies towards Cuba, as if almost 50 years of American embargo had brought any results. Obama's proposal on Cuba is a little more daring, but still fails to break the status quo. The Democratic candidate would allow unlimited travel and remittances from Cuban Americans to the island, but he still promises to keep the embargo and travel ban in effect for most Americans.

Cuba is not a priority for Obama's administration – he's focused on the economy.

Grogg, 2008. "Obama awakens hopes for a thaw in US-Cuba Relations." Patricia; Anti-war.com, 11/6/08.

<http://www.antiwar.com/ips/grogg.php?articleid=13726> accessed 11/12/08. //WC

"Without a doubt, the situation could improve in the next few months, and that would be a positive signal, but for now, Obama's priority is to improve the US economy and rebuild the nation's prestige," economy Professor Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva told IPS. He also said, however, that he has no doubts that if the US Congress passes laws favorable to Cuba, Obama will not veto them. "He wouldn't have any reason to do so, and besides, the hard-line Cuban-Americans are Republicans, to whom Obama is not beholden." Luis René Fernández, assistant director of the University of Havana's Center for the Study of the Hemisphere and the United States (CEHSEU), agrees that Cuba is not "a priority" on Washington's agenda,

The Travel Ban is the prohibition on spending money in Cuba.

Global Exchange, a human rights think tank, argues on their web site last updated in 2007. Global Exchange is an education and action resource center working for human rights and social, environmental, and economic justice. "Freedom to Travel Fact Sheet." Global Exchange, last updated 12/11/07.

<http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/americas/cuba/TravelQuestions.html> accessed 8/21/08. //WC

U.S. citizens are technically allowed to visit Cuba. But unless they are fully employed journalists, academic researchers, government officials or otherwise receive a special license, they are not allowed to spend money on the island. This monetary restriction is, in effect, a travel ban. Those who violate it are subject to up to ten years in prison, a \$250,000 criminal fine, and a \$50,000 civil penalty. This is quite a drastic punishment for visiting our neighbors and trying to gain a more profound understanding of our world!

Inherency Extensions (3/3)

The United States' travel ban on Cuba will not be repealed in the status quo.

Gee, international affairs journalist, argues in 2008. Marcus; International Affairs Journalist for Canada's The Globe and Mail. "Enough with the Embargo." The Globe and Mail, 2/29/08. Accessed on Lexis on 8/21/08. //WC

The United States has made it very clear that it is not going to lift the U.S. embargo on Cuba just because Fidel Castro has formally stepped aside as the island's leader. Washington's view is that nothing has really changed in Havana and that as long Cuba suffers under Communist tyranny, the ban on trade and travel must stay. The caution is well justified. With Mr. Castro's brother, Raul, in charge, there is no sign yet of a change or even a softening of what can still rightly be called the Castro regime. Hopes that Raul might be the Mikhail Gorbachev of the Cuban revolution, always a bit fanciful, seem to have been laid to rest by his decision to appoint an aging Communist, Jose Ramon Machado, as first vice-president. Along with incumbent George W. Bush, both leading candidates to be the next U.S. president say they want to see a move to greater democracy before the embargo comes off.

Obama will lift travel and remittance restrictions for Cuban-Americans, but not for all Americans.

Meckler, journalist for the Wall Street Journal, reports on April 4, **2009**. "U.S to Lift Some Travel Curbs." Laura Meckler, The Wall Street Journal, April 4, 2009.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123879435046687885.html#printMode> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama plans to lift longstanding U.S. restrictions on Cuba, a senior administration official said, allowing Cuban-Americans to visit families there as often as they like and to send them unlimited funds. The gesture, which could herald more openness with the Castro regime, will fulfill a campaign promise and follows more modest action in Congress this year to loosen travel rules. The president has authority to loosen the restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba on his own. The new rules will affect an estimated 1.5 million Americans who have family members in Cuba. Other Americans are allowed to travel to Cuba but only if they qualify through certain cultural, educational and other programs. President Obama doesn't intend to call for lifting of the trade embargo against Cuba, which would require congressional action, nor is any specific diplomatic outreach contemplated, the official said.

Solvency Extensions 1/2

Cuban businesses have plans to build new hotels if and when the travel ban is lifted.

Peters, Cuba Expert, argues in 2002. “International Tourism: The New Engine of Cuban Economy.”

Philip Peters, Vice President of Lexington Institute, December 2002, page 5

lexington.server278.com/docs/cuba3 accessed 8/21/08 //AY

According to Lester Felipe Oliva, the tourism ministry’s top official in Varadero, plans call for the construction of about 9,000 more hotel rooms, two new golf courses (both slightly inland), and the quadrupling in capacity of Varadero’s 150-slip marina to prepare for the day when Americans travel without restriction to Cuba. Oliva and local tourism executives are also keen on expanding the area’s shopping, restaurant, and recreational offerings so they can market Varadero, in one executive’s words, “not just as a beach, but as a complete destination.”

One million Americans will travel to Cuba in the first year after the travel ban is repealed, greatly benefiting average Cuban families.

Peters, Cuba Expert, argues in 2002. “International Tourism: The New Engine of Cuban Economy.”

Philip Peters, Vice President of Lexington Institute, December 2002, page 15

lexington.server278.com/docs/cuba3 accessed 8/21/08. //AY

When restrictions on American travelers are eliminated, Cuba will experience a second boom. American travel analysts predict that in the first year after travel restrictions are dropped, one million Americans will visit Cuba – a number that would cause a 58 percent increase over current visitation levels. “If Americans come, we have hotel capacity for the first million,” an official says. This near-term shortage would benefit thousands of Cuban families that would be able to rent rooms in their homes to a segment of the new American market.

Solvency Extensions 2/2

Repealing the travel ban would encourage economic development and help individual Cubans and their communities.

Peters, Cuba Expert, argues in 2001. Philip Peters is the Vice President of the Lexington Institute. He has published studies on small business, foreign investment, information technology, historic preservation, state enterprise reform, and other topics. He is also an analyst of U.S. policy toward Cuba. "End the Travel Ban to Cuba." The Cato Institute, 1/30/2001. http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=4385 accessed 8-23-08 //WC

So here's a start: Congress and the president should end the travel ban so that all Americans may exercise their right to travel freely to Cuba, without having to seek a special license from the federal government. This policy, which aims to deny hard currency earnings to the Cuban government, may have made sense when Cuba and the Soviet Union were threatening countries in this hemisphere. It makes no sense today when, according to a 1998 Pentagon report, Cuba poses no national security threat and its military capabilities are "residual" and "defensive." The travel ban is unevenly applied. While all others are barred from travel without a special license, Cuban-Americans may travel once annually in the case of a family "humanitarian emergency" – a restriction that is not enforced in practice, and that leads to huge numbers of late December and New Year's visits to supposedly sick relatives. The travel ban is also arbitrary. It targets this source of hard currency earnings when other flows remain open. Together, family remittances and revenues from U.S. phone calls pump about \$60 million each month into Cuba, much of which reaches the government. But one of the most important reasons to allow Americans to travel to Cuba is that it would serve our national interest. In the past decade Cuba's economy has made small turns toward free-market policies: allowing microenterprises to open, allowing farmers to sell produce on the open market, opening over 300 freely priced farmers markets across the island, opening joint ventures with foreign companies in tourism, mining, communications, and other sectors. Each of these reforms is limited by Cuba's still-prevailing socialist ideology – but each has allowed many thousands of workers to gain skills and experience in market settings and to lift their families' earnings above the Cuban average. As American travelers rent rooms in private homes, hire taxis, dine in family restaurants, and buy artists' works, they will boost these entrepreneurs' earnings – and they in turn will fuel demand for the produce that private farmers bring to market. Cuba's emerging private sector will expand. Finally, an end to the travel ban would transmit American ideas and values as students, churches, cultural and sports groups, and individual Americans meet their Cuban counterparts. Strong links between our societies may not topple Fidel Castro any sooner than the trade embargo – but as Cuba makes its way in a post-Soviet world, they will encourage free-market development, help individual Cubans and their communities, and build links to the generation of Cubans that will succeed Castro's generation. All of this serves our national interest. "There's nothing positive in isolating a people," a Havana priest once told me. America should heed his advice.

Tourism Extensions: Uniqueness

The Cuban economy is in such dire straights they are defaulting on loans to other countries

The Daily Yomiuri writes on August 20, 2008. The Daily Yomiuri is a daily newspaper publication based in Tokyo Japan. "Cuba defaults on debts owed to Japanese firms" The Daily Yomiuri(Tokyo) August 20, 2008 Wednesday. Accessed on Lexis Nexis August 25, 2008.

[//RA](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/results/docview/docview.do?docLinkInd=true&risb=21_T4421045309&format=GNBFI&sort=BOOLEAN&startDocNo=1&resultsUrlKey=29_T4421042583&cisb=22_T4421042582&treeMax=true&treeWidth=0&csi=145202&docNo=2)

The National Bank of Cuba told Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) on Aug. 11 that the bank would not be able to pay for imports into Cuba in due terms as the country is short of funds, the independent administrative institution said Monday. Observers say more of Cuba's debts may become uncollectible in the near future as it has been seriously affected by soaring oil and food prices. Though the extent to which Cuba is short of settlement funds is unclear as it is not a member of the International Monetary Fund, observers say the influence of the country's financial situation on the global economy will be limited as its economy has been cut off from international financing. Meiwa Corp., a midsize trading house, said Monday that 872 million yen worth of its accounts receivable for medical instruments and other items may be uncollectible. The company said it would not be seriously affected by the situation as 97.5 percent of the bad debts are covered by NEXI. Exports from Japan to Cuba, mainly comprising medical and other precision instruments, were worth about 20.9 billion yen in 2007. Most of this amount was insured. NEXI said it had already covered losses several companies have incurred on their exports to Cuba, but has not made the details public.

The hurricanes have hurt Tourism: Britain has recommended its citizens stop going.

AFP reports in 2008. Agence France Presse is a French News Wire Service. "Govt warns against travel to storm-hit Cuba." Agence France Presse, 9/8/08.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5g96gGZkAqxL7k05DsUi2MFLqXaNA> accessed 9/9/08. //WC

LONDON (AFP) — The Foreign Office warned travellers Sunday against all but essential travelling to Cuba after Hurricane Ike strengthened to an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm while closing in on the island nation. With sustained winds near 215 kilometres (135 miles) per hour, Ike was expected to barrel into Cuba on Sunday or Monday, according to the Miami-based National Hurricane Center. "We advise against all but essential travel to Cuba," said the Foreign Office in London, forecasting that Ike would hit southeast Cuba, in the provinces of Holguin and Las Tunas, in the early hours of Monday. Cuba, a popular destination for British and other holidaymakers, is still stinging from a hard hit in the west by Hurricane Gustav.

Tourism Extensions: Internal Link 1/2

American visitors are key to any expansion of the Cuban tourist industry

Heyer, travel reporter, argues in 2008. Hazel Heyer is a reporter for numerous travel industry publications including eTurbo News and Travel Daily. "Stakes are high for Cuba tourism in the hands of the next US president" eTurboNews September 08, 2008. eTurboNews is a website that reports global travel industry news. <http://www.eturbonews.com/4855/stakes-are-high-cuba-tourism-hands-next-us-president> //RA

Currently, Ya'lla Tours USA operates humanitarian trips to Cuba, under a humanitarian license issued to Salve Regina by the US Treasury Department. Participants will carry medical supplies, clothing, school supplies, over-the counter pharmaceuticals and hygiene products to share with the Cuban people travelers will meet while touring the country. "But we don't do beach packages, which are the most famous in Cuba, as we go by what we are mandated to do as travel agent," said Ronen Paldi, president of Ya'lla Tours. Cubans are also thinking of competing with neighboring countries like the Dominican Republic for golf. D.R. gets more tourists because of the fact that they have more than 20 golf courses. "So Cubans are now trying to figure out a way to finance their golf courses on fee simple basis. At the ministerial level, and council of ministers, mega projects over \$10 million must be approved by the council. Hopefully, they will approve the set up for golf by the end of the year," said Zamora. Indicators suggest that if 30 more hotels, and another 40,000 rooms are to go online in Cuba, opening golf courses will not make any sense if Americans will not come. "If American investors are not going to build, it will be useless," said the Miami lawyer who talked about a 49-49 stake rule in the new investment environment in real estate that prevails in Cuba in which Americans can participate. Cuba is also building a 1500-slip marina at the end of the island. "This won't work without the support and presence of Americans in Cuba. Raoul Castro is trying to negotiate. Cuba will not make headway without the US, in all certainty," closed Zamora.

The fact that Cubans want to work in tourism is proof that the industry benefits average Cubans.

Peters, 2008. Philip Peters is the Vice-President of the Lexington Institute. "Families Torn Apart: Human Rights And U.S. Restrictions on Cuban-American Travel." Hearing before the subcommittee on international organizations, human rights, and oversight of the committee on foreign affairs. 110th Congress, Second Session, 9/18/2008. Serial No. 110-220. p.74. accessed 11/30/08. //WC

With regard to the other point you made about the money, one of the problems that the Cubans perceive about their own economy is that everybody wants to work in tourism. It is true what you said about the hard currency and the peso. But If that was the whole story, Cubans would not want to work in tourism because they would make the same money there as they would make anywhere else, so why bother? The fact is there is so much money that sloshes around the tourism sector, whether it is tips or whether it is the foreign company that gives some extra money on the side after the Rube Goldberg transaction that you described takes place, that is why they want to work there. That is why they want to work in foreign corporations, the joint ventures and all that, because after the transaction you describe takes place there is money paid on the side to these workers. But that whole issue has nothing to do with the issue of people going to help their family. If somebody goes to help their family, and let us say Mr. Hernandez would go and bring \$500 to his sister down there, you convert the \$500. In the Cuban economy there is the peso that you referred to and there is also a hard currency peso. It is a strange economy where two currencies circulate side by side. You convert the money. The Cuban Government takes its cuts, excessively I would say, but then that purchasing power goes to the sister, and it is used. So there is no doubt in my mind, I have never heard of a story—

Tourism Extensions: Internal Link 2/2

The expansion of tourism is key to Cuban economic growth.

Kirk, professor of Latin American Studies, argues in 2007. John M. Kirk, Ph.D., the author or coeditor of ten books on Cuba, is a professor of Latin American studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (john.kirk@dal.ca). Since 1993 he has worked as a consultant for a variety of Canadian and European companies with investments in and trade to Cuba, as well as with several NGOs. "Toward an understanding of the tourism potential in Cuba." Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly, Nov. 2007. <http://www.entrepreneur.com/tradejournals/article/171018488.html> accessed 8-23-08. //WC

Tourism in Cuba is often described as being the locomotive engine that pulls the rest of the economy behind it. When the Soviet Union imploded in 1990, the Cuban government looked around for resources that could be exploited to avoid economic collapse and found tourism. Today the importance of tourism to Cuba's economy is being challenged by the sale of medical goods and services, but tourism remains a premier influence in showing Cubans a different approach to development. The growth figures are dramatic indeed. The island had only twelve thousand hotel rooms in 1990, but that figure had grown to forty-two thousand in 2007, an annual growth rate of 8 percent, and the number of visitors grew 13 percent during that period. An estimated 80 percent of all construction on the island in the past year was sparked by tourism, and ten international airports have been built or refurbished to handle the demand. Last year some 2.4 million tourists visited the island, of whom six hundred thousand were from Canada, and 2007 will be the fourth year in a row that more than 2 million tourists have visited Cuba (which numbers 11.2 million in population). Tourism clearly has been good for Cuba. In total some three hundred thousand Cubans work directly or indirectly in the tourist trade, which grossed some US\$2.4 billion in 2006. Plans announced by the minister of tourism indicate that thirty new hotels (comprising ten thousand rooms) are to be built, along with ten golf courses. Tourism has also been good for the joint venture partners. In this regard, Cuba does not allow direct foreign investment in any industry, and investors are paired with a Cuban counterpart. Companies such as Spain's Sol Melifi chain (the principal investor in the industry), Accor of France, and Super Clubs of Jamaica have done well in Cuba.

Hurricane Aid Extensions: Uniqueness 1/3

Gustav has devastated Cuba's homes and electrical grids.

Franks reports for Reuters in 2008. “Cuba says Gustav damaged more than 90,000 homes.” Reuters. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0134127920080902?sp=true> accessed 9-7-08. //WC

HAVANA, Sept 1 (Reuters) - Cuba said on Monday more than 90,000 houses were damaged or destroyed when Hurricane Gustav tore through the western province of Pinar del Rio on Saturday with 150-mile-per-hour (240-kph) winds. Officials and state media said 80 percent of the province, which has about 750,000 residents, was without power after Gustav knocked down 80 high-tension towers with cables that distribute electricity throughout the region.

The Castro regime will say no to government sponsored aid – lifting the travel ban is the only way to get aid through.

Masferrer argues in 2008. Marc Masferrer is an editor at the Bradenton Herald and one of the most prominent voices on Cuba-US relations. He writes about Cuba on his weblog, Uncommon Sense. “The Cuban Cop-Out.” Weblog entry on the Uncommon Sense weblog, 9/8/08. http://marcmasferrer.typepad.com/uncommon_sense/2008/09/the-cuban-cop-out.html accessed 9/9/08. //WC

But many advocating for the stay-tough approach on travel and remittances know, and perhaps hope, that the dictatorship will say, "No." That way, they get to say, "I told you so," about the dictatorship, and a policy that's more about American politics than helping the Cuban people remains intact. So what do supporters of the limits, come Gustav or Ike, offer then to provide some relief for those blown or washed out of their homes by the storms? Nothing, except their own self-satisfaction.

Cuba has rejected direct offers of American hurricane aid.

Lacey reports for the New York Times in 2008. “Cuba Rejects American Offer of Hurricane Aid.” New York Times, 9/6/08. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/07/world/americas/cubaforweb.html> accessed 9/9/08. //WC

The Cuban government turned down Washington’s offer of hurricane assistance Saturday, saying the best way for the United States to help Cuban victims of Hurricane Gustav would be for it to lift the economic embargo on the island. Cuba said it had its own experts on the job while rejecting the State Department offer to send disaster specialists to assess the damages to the western Pinar del Rio Province and the Island of Youth. On Wednesday, Thomas A. Shannon Jr., assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, told the Cuban Interests Section in Washington that the United States would aid Cuban victims with \$100,000 in immediate aid and more once the extent of the need was known. The aid, State Department officials said, would be sent through non-governmental organizations and not to the Cuban government. But Cuba said that the trade embargo costs the island yearly damages that exceed the billions of dollars in destruction that it attributes to Hurricane Gustav. Cuba has accepted hurricane assistance from Russia, Venezuela and other allies. Such aid has frequently taken on a political dimension between Cuba and the United States over the years.

Hurricane Aid Extensions: Uniqueness 2/3

Hurricane Gustav has devastated Cuba, destroying basic infrastructure.

The Staff of the Miami Herald reports in 2008. The Miami Herald is a daily newspaper owned by The McClatchy Company headquartered in Downtown Miami, Florida. It circulates throughout South Florida, the Caribbean, Latin American, and the rest of the United States. "Hurricane Gustav brings devastation to Cuba." Miami Herald, 9/1/2008. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/cuba/v-print/story/667123.html> accessed 9-7-08. //WC

Some residents of picturesque Los Palacios, in the western province of Pinar del Río, have already rebaptized their town in the wake of Hurricane Gustav: They now call it The Ruins. In the storm Cuban authorities are saying was the worst here in more than 50 years -- one that registered unprecedented wind speeds -- Los Palacios has the dubious distinction of being the first that lay directly in Gustav's path. The pastel-colored houses in this town of 15,000 collapsed. Cars went flying. Power and phone lines throughout the city tumbled. At least 10 army trucks and several bulldozers charged into the community Sunday to begin cleanup, while the people in nearby Isle of Youth remained in complete darkness as every single TV, electric and mobile phone tower fell. "The devil came through here," said Juan Carlos Rodríguez, who works for the municipal school management office and spent the night guarding the building. "It swept it completely." Gustav made landfall in Cuba on Saturday evening as a Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph winds and gusts up to 212 mph, Cuban meteorologists said, sweeping by in just four hours and leaving a path of devastation. In a testament to the Cuban government's unparalleled hurricane preparedness system, no deaths were reported. Some 250,000 people had been evacuated in four provinces. According to Olga Lidia Tapia, President of Pinar del Río civil defense committee, 86,000 homes were damaged, 80 electric towers and 600 electric posts fell. "Many people cannot go back to their homes because they lost them," she said on the nightly news program Mesa Redonda, adding that people are building makeshift shelters with whatever materials they could find. In the Isle of Youth, municipal defense committee president Ana Isa Delgado phoned in to the news show: "Regarding housing, everything has been affected. All towns." Vicente de la O, who heads Cuba's electric company, said that a total of 136 electric towers toppled over. In a previous hurricane, 30 towers were damaged and it took 15 days to restore service, but he said he hoped to have service restored in 10 to 12 days in Pinar del Río Province. The situation in the Isle of Youth was much worse. "100 percent of the electrical grid is damaged," de la O said. "Totally destroyed." In Los Palacios, Rodríguez estimated that 90 percent of the homes were affected, as well as about half of the electric infrastructure. "This is very sad. It's unbearable to watch," a woman in Paso Real said, as she burst into tears and walked away without giving her name. An elderly man gathered pieces of clay tile. A few blocks ahead, a woman swept her wet front porch. There was no flooding in Los Palacios, but the rain seeped into many homes and also fell directly into roofless houses. "It was horrendous," said Alberto García, a 68-year-old retiree. Along the highway to Pinar del Río, tree branches partially blocked the road, and a twisted mass of electric towers lay on the ground like a row of fallen dominoes as far as the eye could see. The force of the wind decimated entire fields of banana trees. At a police control station, all the lamp posts toppled over and the metal mobile structure lay upside down in a ditch. In San Cristóbal, fallen branches and tree trunks blocked the main street into the town. Many houses lost their roofs or were flooded. In other destruction in Los Palacios, debris was scattered everywhere on the wet streets, in many cases blocking the roads with tree branches, downed power lines, tiles, masonry from ornamental columns, pieces of wood, doors, phone booths and corrugated metal sheets that once served as roofs. Oddly, a community garden stood unharmed, its vegetable rows lined up in perfect order. Dogs and chicken roamed the streets. The main school building lost all its windows on the upper floor, and authorities postponed the start of school until next week. "It will take us at least six months to get back to a basic level of infrastructure," Rodríguez said. There was no electricity, no gas, no fuel and no water, although Rodríguez said residents had enough drinking water stored for 72 hours. "I stayed in my closet with my two children and prayed the whole time," said Mabel Ayerbe, a 36 year-old housewife and mother of two boys, ages 5 and 6. "The little one was crying and the older one wanted to see the wind. The first pass took about two hours. Then, we were in the eye for some 45 minutes and the weather was totally clear. After the eye it lost some strength, but the first pass was violent." Gustav traveled about 100 miles when it entered Cajío and left the city of La Palma at 9:10 p.m., the state media said. The eye crossed at a speed of 11 miles an hour and was 37 miles wide. The government media said the damage was so bad, the name "Gustav" may have to get scratched off the list of potential future hurricanes -- a move only taken in the worst of natural disasters. "I don't want to see this again. It was terrible," Ayerbe said. "We no longer call this Los Palacios. It is now The Ruins. We Cubans are optimists. We'll see how we work it out and p'álante!" -- onward! This article was reported by a Miami Herald correspondent in Cuba, whose name is being withheld because the journalist did not have the journalism visa required by the Cuban government.

Hurricane Aid Extensions: Uniqueness 3/3

Cuba's government hasn't helped the victims of previous hurricanes and floods – external assistance is essential.

Sanchez, an award-winning Cuban blogger, argues in 2008. Yoani Sanchez is a Cuban blogger working in the tourism industry in Cuba. She won the Spanish equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, the Ortega y Gasset, in 2008, for her writings on her Generacion Y Weblog. “To lose it all.” Entry on the Generacion Y Weblog, 9/6/06. <http://desdecuba.com/generaciony/?p=258> accessed 9/9/08. //WC

The images of the disaster left by Gustav in the west of the country play across the screen. Somber faces in front of houses that couldn't stand against gusts of more than two hundred kilometers per hour. In the midst of the tears and anxiety the national television reporters have managed to extract phrases such as: “The Revolution will not abandon us.” “The government will rebuild our houses for us.” The slogans no longer show the conviction – lost years ago – that the Father-State can solve everything; rather they try to commit the authorities in front of the cameras. As if, by taking the microphone and screaming that the government is going to restore what is lost, they might force it to do so. The victims of today demand a quick solution, but those affected by past hurricanes or floods are also waiting. Only the combination of institutional help, citizen solidarity, and foreign donations will alleviate the plight of all these families. Cuban civil society cannot undertake, on its own, a campaign for collecting assistance. It would be illegal, without going through official channels, to launch a call for neighbors to send clothes, medicines and food to the affected areas. Our civic disability reaches to the point that not even in the case of disaster can we spontaneously come together to help our fellow man. From the United States there is talk about a moratorium on sanctions against Cuba as a way to help those affected. Lamentably, to relax those awkward regulations for only three months will not be enough. When the national and foreign reporters return home, and the linemen finish restoring power in the disaster areas, only then will the true depression come for what is lost. There will be no journalists there hunting for slogans, nor hearing the victim's complaints over unfulfilled promises. But support from citizens, help from family living abroad and from international NGOs [non-government organizations] – solidarity that doesn't look for political support, nor acts of faith – cannot disappoint them.

The hurricanes have damaged the food stores and the water supply, making disease a major possibility.

Gross, journalist for the Miami Herald, argues in 2008. Liza Gross has served as a reporter and editor on the Latin America Desk of the Associated Press in New York City, managing editor of Hispanic Magazine, and executive editor of Times of the Americas, a Washington, DC-based bimonthly covering Latin America and the Caribbean. “Will Cuba rebuild after Hurricane Ike?” Miami Herald, 9/11/08. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/cuba/story/681519.html> accessed 9/15/08. //WC

Gustav and Ike, which struck the island Aug. 31 and Monday, respectively, created havoc in every sector of the economy. The housing stock sustained extensive damage. In the town of Herradura in the western province of Pinar del Río, for example, all 600 homes collapsed. Several key large structures, like the eastern sugar mills of Chaparra and Delicia and the hospital Héroes de Baire on the Isle of Youth off Cuba's southwest coast, were severely damaged. Many crops across the island were decimated, and food warehouses were destroyed. Hundreds of high tension electrical towers and power lines were down and the network of the water supply is affected, raising the possibility of epidemiological emergencies.

Hurricane Aid Extensions: Links

Lifting family sanctions will allow for simple, effective acts of charity, and reduce the burden on relief agencies.

Peters, Cuba Expert, argues in 2008. Philip Peters is the Vice President of the Lexington Institute. He has published studies on small business, foreign investment, information technology, historic preservation, state enterprise reform, and other topics. He is also an analyst of U.S. policy toward Cuba. "Ike Advances, President Bush Holds Firm." Entry on The Cuban Triangle Weblog, 9/9/08.

<http://cubantriangle.blogspot.com/2008/09/ike-advances-president-bush-holds-firm.html> accessed 9/9/08. //WC

U.S. regulations limit visits to once every three years, limit remittances to \$100 per household per month, and restrict the content of gift parcels to food, medicine, medical supplies and equipment; receive-only radios, and batteries for radios. (In 2004, these items were dropped from the list of permitted items: clothing, personal hygiene items, seeds, fishing equipment, soap-making equipment, and veterinary medicine and supplies. The Federal Register notice explained that gift parcels "decrease the burden on the Cuban regime to provide for the basic needs of its people.") On top of all that, visits, remittances, and parcels may be sent to immediate family only. How does this affect the situation today? It means that a Cuban American who visited his mother last year in Holguin and wants to locate her now and look after her, can't do so because his visit was too recent, and he has to wait until 2010. It means that a woman who has heard from her brother in Ciego de Avila that his house is intact but his refrigerator is destroyed, cannot send the money to buy a new one, because it would exceed the limit on remittances. It means that in the case of a family in Pinar del Rio whose house was flattened and garden wrecked, their relatives cannot send seeds and new clothes, because those items are now banned. It means that two men in Hialeah who want to draw on their savings to go to Cuba, buy supplies however they can, and put a new roof on their aunt's house, cannot do so. The aunt is not immediate family, and the visit is not allowed. You get the idea. It may be that direct family aid would address only one percent of Cubans' needs today. But even if it reaches a small percent of Cuban families, it would resolve the lion's share of their needs, and it would reduce the burden on the relief agencies that are the only option for everyone else. Why stand in the way of that? I have never been a fan of President Bush's Cuba family sanctions. I have never bought the idea that they, as part of the larger embargo, are an expression of American solidarity with the cause of human rights in Cuba, or are going to put decisive pressure on the Havana government. Today, the family sanctions are even harder to accept. They stand in the way of simple, effective acts of charity that people in Cuba desperately need, and don't square with the idea of supporting civil society, the bedrock of which is the family.

Hurricane Aid Extensions: Impacts

Impact: Aid delivered after a hurricane saves lives.

Americares, an NGO, argues in 2007. AmeriCares is an international relief organization specializing in the delivery of aid in the aftermath of natural disasters. “AmeriCares is Prepared for Destructive Hurricane Season”. 9/4/07. <http://www.americares.org/newsroom/news/americares-is-prepared-for.html> accessed 9/8/08. //WC

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005, AmeriCares delivered in-kind aid such as medicines, hospital supplies and other materials valued at more than \$10 million to Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama. Recognizing the ongoing needs of this devastated region, we have continued to work with local partners to support primary health care and mental health needs, and help communities deal with other pressing recovery issues such as shelter and disaster preparedness as another hurricane season is now upon us. When a disaster like a hurricane strikes, it is critical to respond with aid immediately to attend to health concerns and save lives. AmeriCares responds to such disasters both here in the United States and in other countries.

Yoani Sanchez: Quals

Yoani Sanchez has won awards for excellent journalism.

Reuters reports in 2008. "Cuban blogger wins Spanish digital journalism prize." Reuters, 4/4/08.
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/internetNews/idUKN0440148520080404?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0> accessed 9/8/08. //WC

Independent Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez, who chronicles the woes of life in communist-run Cuba, was awarded one of Spain's top journalism awards on Friday, the Ortega and Gasset prize for digital journalism. Spanish newspaper El Pais, which awards the prize annually, said Sanchez won it for her "shrewdness" in overcoming hurdles to freedom of expression in Cuba, her "vivacious" style and her drive to join the "global space of citizen journalism."

TIME named Yoani Sanchez one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

CBS News reports in 2008. "Cuban Blogger Given Journalism Honor." CBS News, 5/7/08.
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/05/07/world/main4078861.shtml> accessed 9/8/08. //WC

A Cuban woman who has gained worldwide acclaim with a blog that voices stinging criticism of the Havana government received a major journalism award Wednesday, and said it gave her a "small protective shield" to keep pressing for democracy in her country. Yoani Sanchez, 32, was denied permission to travel to Madrid to accept her Ortega y Gasset Prize in digital journalism for creating a now year-old blog called "Generation Y," which gets more than 1 million hits a month, mostly from abroad. Time magazine deemed Sanchez this month as one of the world's 100 most influential people. Sanchez's blog has drawn a wide audience with her wry comments on life on the Caribbean island and frequent digs at the communist government.

Soft Power Extensions – Internal Link 1/2

C. Internal Link

1. Tourism is key to US-Cuba relations and international understanding.

Kirk, previously cited. John M. Kirk, Ph.D., the author or coeditor of ten books on Cuba, is a professor of Latin American studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (john.kirk@dal.ca). Since 1993 he has worked as a consultant for a variety of Canadian and European companies with investments in and trade to Cuba, as well as with several NGOs. "Toward an understanding of the tourism potential in Cuba." Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly, Nov. 2007.

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/tradejournals/article/171018488.html> accessed 8-23-08. //WC

Tourism is crucially important to foster international understanding. Such an effort apparently has not been a goal in Washington since January 1961, when the Eisenhower administration broke diplomatic relations with Cuba. In total, ten U.S. presidents have vowed to bring about regime change in Cuba, but forty-eight years have elapsed since Fidel Castro came to power. Indeed, the goal of isolating Cuba that Washington undertook seems to have backfired. In November 2006, some 183 countries at the United Nations voted to condemn the U.S. embargo of the island, while just 3 others (Israel, Palau, and the Marshall Islands) joined in supporting the United States's position. This is the fifteenth year in a row that Washington has been embarrassed in this vote. The only country isolated in this regard is the United States itself. It is crucially important for the United States government to realize that the twenty-first century is a wholly different time from the cold war days. Tourism can help to prepare the way for the eventuality of restored relations with Cuba. Before this can happen, however, it is important for America to understand the aspirations of revolutionary Cuba. A balanced understanding of the reality of Cuba, as well as its history, would be a good place to start. For example, Americans are only too well aware of acts of terrorism of September 11, 2001, but they are ignorant of the deaths of thousands of Cubans resulting from terrorism committed by right-wing exile groups based in the United States, or the many assassination attempts on Castro by the CIA. (If anybody has any doubts about this, they should Google "Luis Posada Carriles" or look at the National Security Archive website at George Washington University.) Nor do they appreciate that the cost of the U.S. embargo has been an estimated \$89 billion for this small island. Unfortunately, over the years Cuban American groups have hijacked the Cuba file, turning their personal frustration into a badly flawed national policy. I see the panorama brightening, at least somewhat. After all, if America can trade with Vietnam (where nearly sixty thousand U.S. citizens were killed) or China (with its horrendous human rights record), why can the country not do so with Cuba? Why should the citizens of New Orleans have been deprived of medical support (as occurred when the Bush administration rejected the Cuban offer of some eleven hundred doctors and thirty-six tons of medicine in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc there)? Surely it is time to turn the pages of history and inject some common sense. The United States has reopened some trade with Cuba. In 2000 Congress passed a bill to allow the sale of humanitarian and food supplies to Cuba, and Havana has been a regular purchaser of U.S. agricultural products ever since, spending \$1.6 billion since 2001. Some 66 percent of wheat imported by Cuba and some 77 percent of poultry come from U.S. companies--in all, about 30 percent of Cuba's food imports in the past year. Even the official Communist Party newspaper is printed on Alabama newsprint! Moreover, if the current restrictions (requiring that all shipments be paid in advance in cash) were made more flexible, the International Trade Commission believes that U.S. exports to Cuba would double. In addition, some eighty U.S. citizens (mainly from visible minorities) study medicine--at no charge--in Cuba, eight of whom graduated in the summer of 2007. For eighteen years the Pastors for Peace organization has been taking humanitarian assistance to Cuba. Dozens of state delegations headed by a variety of governors, celebrities, and business groups have traveled to Cuba in recent years, seeing for themselves the potential for increased trade, investment, and travel once bilateral relations are normalized by the federal government. The point of this analysis is that isolationism has not worked in overthrowing the Castro government. The United States is now the sixth largest trading partner of Cuba, despite the "Trading with the Enemy Act," and tourists from all over the world (except from the United States) travel to Cuba. Speaking in the U.S. Senate on June 21, 2007, Senator Max Baucus (D-Montana) summed up well the need for a change in policy, saying, "Americans do not benefit from this policy. The Cuban people do not benefit from this policy. Only those who seek to keep Americans and Cubans apart benefit from our misguided policy of isolation. It is time to reach out to the Cuban people. It is time to restore Americans' fundamental right to travel anywhere they want. It is time to lift the travel ban." It is indeed time to attempt to bring about what five decades of bluster and antagonism have not done--communication between two disparate governments and political systems. Interim President Raul Castro has mentioned in three public speeches since December 2006 the interest of the Cuban government in negotiating a peaceful end to this distressing situation, but only if there is respect for Cuba's sovereignty. Dialogue and reconciliation would appear desirable goals in the Middle East, so why not apply the same objectives to a small island just ninety miles from Florida? Tourism is an invaluable step in this process, as the authors of "Cuba at the Crossroads" indicate. Americans traveling in Cuba are respected (even as many are doing so illegally, flouting the prohibition), and treated like any visitors to the island. Why can this not be extended to the U.S. population as a whole? In the Cuban case, promoting the rights of U.S. tourists to visit the island is an idea whose time has come.

Soft Power Extensions – Internal Link 2/2

2. Building international understanding is key to rebuilding soft power.

Nye, dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, argues in 2004. Joseph S. Nye Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor, is also the Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations and former Dean of the Kennedy School. He received his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Princeton University, did postgraduate work at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, and earned a PhD in political science from Harvard. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. "Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics." Published by PublicAffairs, 2004, p. 124.

http://books.google.com/books?id=hTBxIMnpMloC&pg=PA124&lpg=PA124&dq=soft+power+international+understanding&source=web&ots=LeWHP6ij5c&sig=Ix6qcW2fv4BbrusaJk0_oltDOdo&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=4&ct=result accessed 8-23-08. //WC

Equally important is to establish more policy coherence among the dimensions of public diplomacy and to relate them to other issues. For example, despite a declining share of the market for international students, "The U.S. government seems to lack overall strategic sense of why exchange is important...In this strategic vacuum, it is difficult to counter the day-to-day obstacles that students encounter in trying to come here." There is little coordination of exchange policy with visa policies. After 9/11, Americans became more fearful. As one observer noted, "While greater vigilance is certainly needed, this broad net is catching all kinds of people who are no danger whatsoever." By needlessly discouraging people from coming to the United States who could make a valuable contribution to international understanding, such policies undercut our soft-power resources.

Soft Power Extensions: Uniqueness

The United States has lost its soft power.

Drezner, professor of International Politics, argues in 2008. Daniel W. Drezner is a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He has previously taught at the University of Chicago, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Donetsk Technical University in the Republic of Ukraine for Civic Education Project. He has also served as an international economist in the Treasury Department and as a research consultant for the RAND corporation. "Projecting Power." Newsweek, 1/15/08. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/94613> accessed 8-23-08. //WC

It's a truism among foreign policy wonks that during the Bush administration America has seen an erosion of its ability to persuade other countries to do what it wants them to do. The unilateralism, the blunders in the Middle East, and the Manichean view of the rest of the world ha(s) been so off-putting that, as poll after poll shows, the attitudes of people in other countries toward the United States have declined precipitously. To borrow Joseph Nye's phrase, the country has suffered a loss of its "soft power." Once Bush leaves office, the argument goes, America's image abroad will improve—but that won't happen until January 2009.

A/2: Politics

No Link: There is no way to predict the political effects of lifting the travel ban.

Ignacio **Sosa**, member of the Cuban Study group, argues in the Washington Post on September 11, **2008**. Ignacio Sosa is member of the executive board of the Cuba Study Group. "Cuba's Katrina." Washington Post, 9/11/08. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091002723.html> accessed 9/15/08. //WC

It is impossible to predict the political consequences of temporarily lifting restrictions on Cuba. But those who are suffering care little about politics. They just want roofs over their heads, food to eat and perhaps a visit from relatives in Miami to cheer them up. It's time for the United States to show the world once again that it will not allow politics to get in the way of people helping themselves in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

A/2: Mexico Tourism D/A (1/2)

Uniqueness overwhelms the link: Tourism is booming because of cheap gas prices and a devalued peso.

The **A**ssociated **P**ress, a news wire service, reports in an article entitled "Mexico turns to tourism to lift economy" on February 6, **2009**. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28780345> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

Tourism officials say Mexico saw 3 percent more visitors who spent an estimated 4 percent more in 2008, with tourists flocking to its beaches and cobblestoned streets even during the global economic crisis. And, unlike most tourist destinations around the world, there is no sign that this year will be any different.

The article continues...

Mexico attributes the positive tourism trend to a tumbling peso, which lost 30 percent of its value in 2008. In August, it was trading at 10 to the dollar. Now it is 14 to the dollar. Another advantage is the drop in jet fuel prices, which has made flying cheaper and Mexico more attractive to North Americans looking to save some money. Brian Hoyt, a spokesman for Orbitz Worldwide Inc., which owns Cheaptickets.com and Orbitz.com, said the company's hotel bookings in Mexico were up 25 percent in the first 11 months of 2008, compared to the same period the prior year. "There's never been a better time to travel (to Mexico) from a value standpoint than right now," Hoyt said.

The Caribbean islands can't compete with Mexico because airfare is too expensive.

The **A**ssociated **P**ress, a news wire service, reports in an article entitled "Mexico turns to tourism to lift economy" on February 6, **2009**. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28780345> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

The Caribbean, meanwhile, has seen a sharp drop in tourism prompting resorts to lay off workers. Cheaper rooms can still be found in the region's islands but experts say they are often offset by expensive airfare. Jesus Almaguer, president of Cancun's Hotels Association, said Mexico is already drawing more North American tourists who would normally go to other Caribbean spots. "We compete a lot for Canadian tourists with Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and I would dare to say that we're winning the battle this year," Almaguer said.

A/2: Mexico Tourism D/A (2/2)**The Romeu study only projects a 15% decline in tourism to Cancun, not a complete collapse of the Mexican tourist industry.**

Brian **Till**, correspondent for the Havana Note, reports on July 31, **2008**. Brian Till is a correspondent for the Havana Note an e-News source for news on Cuba. "Opening Cuba to U.S. Tourism -- Good for the Entire Caribbean?" Posted on the Havana Note on July 31, 2008. Last accessed September 10, 2008.

http://thehavananote.com/2008/07/opening_cuba_to_us_tourism_goo_1.html //RA

The working paper, titled "Vacation Over: Implications for the Caribbean of Opening U.S.-Cuba tourism," is authored by Rafael Romeu. It can be found here. Romeu projects that normalizing tourism relations between the U.S. and Cuba would lead to a 10% increase in overall travel to the Caribbean at large. The report states that the opening would lead to "seismic shift" in tourism, with U.S. travel quickly out-pacing the Cuban tourism infrastructure, leading to a spill over of travel for other islands. Cuba currently receives 1.38 million tourists per year. The study estimates between 3 and 3.5 million U.S. tourists would travel to Cuba if restrictions were opened. Small islands with strong European ties are most likely to gain, picking up European tourists that seek new destinations: Martinique, Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados are all projected to receive bumps. But the study also has some clear losers. The project's third scenario -- which is based on a model where 2/3 of travelers select Cuba over a different location in the region and where 1/3 are deemed "new " travelers -- projects a 23% decline in the number of travelers for the U.S. Virgin Islands, a 10-15% decline for Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cancun, Bermuda, and a 17-20% decline for Anguilla, Aruaba, and the Bahamas. Regional governments are already concerned, reflecting the growing understanding that U.S. Cuba policy is about to shift seismically. An interesting op-ed, by Miami Herald columnist Andres Oppenheimer, suggests that negative repercussions of possible travel opening may be the driving force behind Mexican efforts to cozy up with the Havana regime.

As an underview to this card:

- 1) Oppenheimers op-ed was based on the Romeu study, so you should prefer specific numbers from this study over Oppenheimer's extrapolations.**
- 2) A 15% decline in tourists to Cancun is not going to destroy the Mexican economy. That's only one tourist destination in one sector of the country's economy.**
- 3) The model for the Romeu study is unrealistic - in all probability, far more than 30% of the tourists that go to Cuba will be new tourists, which means that there will be more spillover and Mexico will be fine.**
- 4) Also, the Romeu study doesn't take into account the devalued peso and cheap gas prices stipulated by the AP, because those factors were revealed after the study was released, so the study must be overestimating the damage to Cuban Tourism.**

A/2: Caribbean Tourism D/A 1/2

Lifting the travel ban would have a net positive effect on the whole Caribbean region not just Cuba.

Andres Oppenheimer International Affairs expert argues in 2008. Andres Oppenheimer, International Affairs expert for the Miami Herald. "U.S.-Cuba tourism could shake up region" Miami Herald 06/27/2008

Accessed at: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/columnists/andres-oppenheimer/story/619076.html> 08/25/2008 //RA

According to the IMF study, "an opening of Cuba to U.S. tourism would represent a seismic shift in the Caribbean's tourism industry," and would "increase overall arrivals to the Caribbean." This is because there would be a massive surge in U.S. tourism to Cuba, which would overwhelm Cuba's hotel room capacity and drive Canadian and European tourism currently vacationing in Cuba to be redirected to neighboring countries. As a result, "the region would enjoy a period of sustained demand," it says. "In the wake of this change, some countries would potentially stand to lose U.S. tourists but would gain new non-U.S. tourists." Currently, the biggest tourism destinations in the Caribbean, in addition to Puerto Rico, are the Dominican Republic, with 2.2 million foreign visitors a year; Mexico's resort of Cancún, with nearly 2 million tourists; the Bahamas, with 1.4 million tourists; Cuba, with 1.3 million, and Jamaica, with 1.2 million. The figures reflect annual arrivals between 2000 and 2004, and have since gone up somewhat, Romeu says. But an opening of U.S. tourism to Cuba would shake this mix immediately, because an estimated 3 million to 3.5 million American tourists would flock to Cuba, the study says. Much of it would be because traveling to Cuba -- in addition to being a novelty -- would become substantially cheaper. Currently, the cost of traveling from the U.S. to Cuba for Cuban Americans and others exempted from travel restrictions is equivalent to that of traveling to Australia. According to the study, there would be winners and losers from an opening of U.S. tourism to Cuba: "It won't be a disaster for many countries, because many of them will more than offset the loss of U.S. tourists with a greater influx of European and Canadian tourists, with whose countries they have age-old cultural ties," Romeu told me in an interview.

A/2: Caribbean Tourism D/A 2/2

Lifting the travel ban would increase overall arrivals to the Caribbean by up to 11%.

Rafael **Romeu**, economist for the IMF, argues in a working paper dated July **2008**. "Vacation Over: Implications For The Caribbean of Opening U.S.-Cuba Tourism." p. 23
www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2008/wp08162.pdf accessed 4/6/09. //WC

First, a future liberalization of Cuba-U.S. bilateral tourism would increase overall arrivals to the Caribbean. This surge would likely drive tourism in Cuba to full capacity, although much is unknown about short run supply constraints. As U.S. visitors overwhelm capacity, OECD visitors currently vacationing in Cuba would have to be redirected toward neighboring countries. Hence, while short-run constraints would be binding in Cuba, the region would enjoy a period of sustained demand. In the wake of this change, some countries would potentially stand to lose U.S. tourists but would gain new non-U.S. tourists, as trade redistributes in line with fundamentals. The results suggest that total Caribbean arrivals would increase by approximately 2-11 percent; hence, as costs obey fundamentals in lieu of trade barriers, strong tourism growth would await some Caribbean destinations while others would potentially face long-term declines.

Lifting the travel ban would increase Cuban tourism so much that the spillover would be beneficial for other countries in the region as well.

Till reports in 2008. Brian Till is a correspondent for the Havana Note an e-News source for news on Cuba. "Opening Cuba to U.S. Tourism -- Good for the Entire Caribbean?" Posted on the Havana Note on July 31, 2008. Last accessed September 10, 2008. http://thehavananote.com/2008/07/opening_cuba_to_us_tourism_goo_1.html
//RA

The working paper, titled "Vacation Over: Implications for the Caribbean of Opening U.S.-Cuba tourism," is authored by Rafael Romeu. It can be found here. Romeu projects that normalizing tourism relations between the U.S. and Cuba would lead to a 10% increase in overall travel to the Caribbean at large. The report states that the opening would lead to "seismic shift" in tourism, with U.S. travel quickly out-pacing the Cuban tourism infrastructure, leading to a spill over of travel for other islands. Cuba currently receives 1.38 million tourists per year. The study estimates between 3 and 3.5 million U.S. tourists would travel to Cuba if restrictions were opened.

A/2: Shunning

- 1. Non-unique: This card comes from 1989, so we've been shunning for 20 years. And yet there are still mass human rights violations, as indicated by the Human Rights Watch evidence.**
- 2. No link – we engage the Cuban people, but not the government, which is responsible for the human rights violations.**
- 3. TURN: Extend the Reinsch evidence from Advantage 2, which says that lifting the travel ban actually punishes the Castro regime. Beversluis advocates shunning because it is a form of punishment, but that does not exclude the possibility of there being additional ways to punish the regime.**
- 4. TURN: Extend advantage 3 which says that lifting the travel ban is the best way to undermine the Cuban government is to allow connections between American and Cuban citizens to undermine the government, and stop the human rights abuses of that government.**
- 5. As an underview: the choice for you as a policymaker is to do nothing, and allow the Cuban people to starve and human rights violations to continue, or you can pass plan and solve for both. The affirmative is winning a try-or-die scenario on the biggest impact in the round – you can sign your ballot right here.**

A/2: Other Countries Are Providing Hurricane Relief

- 1. Extend my Yoani Sanchez evidence – it says that the state distribution apparatus is poorly organized and is horrible at delivering aid to people who need it. Official foreign aid goes through the government so it will be ineffective.**
- 2. The same evidence also says that families are the best mechanism for delivering aid to families, because family-based aid circumvents the state apparatus. This means plan gains unique solvency for hurricane aid.**
- 3. At best this argument is defensive – in a world where some Cuban americans are able to help their families post plan, you still vote for it.**

A/2: Tourism Is Bad For The Environment (1/2)

TURN: Improving the Cuban economy will give the Cuban government money to enforce its environmental regulations and protect its coral reefs.

Burke and Maidens, associates in the People And Ecosystems Program of the World Resources Institute, argue in September, **2004**. Laretta Burke is a Senior Associate in the People and Ecosystems Program of the World Resources Institute. Jonathan Maidens is an associate in the same program. "Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean." September, 2004. <http://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-risk-caribbean> accessed 11-15-08. //WC

In 1999 the Cuban government passed a decree establishing a legal framework for a National System of Protected Areas that includes extensive coral reef habitats and fishery reserves. Nine "no-take" areas were declared, and 20 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were planned. Officially approved MPAs increased significantly from virtually none in the last 4 years, with plans to cover 22 percent of the marine shelf (not including Special Regions of Sustainable Development). Agreements between fishery, conservation, and tourism stakeholders are converting dive sites in no-take areas, but illegal fishing is still being poorly controlled in most of them. [19] Cuba has the necessary professional capability and the institutional capacity for the research and management of coral reefs. However, the country's present economic difficulties seriously limit the financial resources available to implement and enforce such conservation actions. [20]

A/2: Tourism is Bad for the Environment (2/2)**Cuba's construction regulations will prevent tourism from hurting the environment.**

Whittle, director of the Southeast Oceans Program for the Environmental Defense Fund, argues in **2004**. "Protecting Coastal Resources in Cuba: A Look At Current Laws and Institutions." Paper presented at the 2004 Coastal Society Conference, 5/23-5/26, 2004. //WC

Cuba's coastal zone management law, Decree Law 212, was patterned in part after state laws in the U.S. and is designed to avoid and mitigate impacts to lands and waters from new construction and other activities. The law provides for two zones where new construction is either prohibited or restricted: the "coastal zone" and its "zone of protection." The coastal zone extends inland from the high water mark for a minimum of 20 to 40 meters depending on the type of coastline at issue. The coastal zone is generally off-limits to permanent structures, subject to a limited exemption for water- or coastal-dependent structures and activities. Other new or expanded construction is prohibited in the coastal zone unless justified for public utility or social interests. Some specific structures and activities are expressly banned in the coastal zone, including new and expanded hotels, residences, waste disposal, most vehicles, and the extraction of sand. Adjacent to the coastal zone is another buffer area called the "zone of protection" that extends inland another 20 to 40 meters from the outer boundary of the coastal zone. DL 212 prohibits most permanent structures in the zone of protection, including hotels, residences and the other structures. The law provides for some light construction of non-permanent structures in the zone of protection, such as concession stands, in "exceptional cases and with the previous authorization of [CITMA]." Agricultural crops may be grown in the zone of protection provided that such production does not impede the public's right of way, threaten the stability of the ecosystem or cause the removal of the natural vegetation. DL 212 provides additional specialized protections for small islands and keys. New construction is prohibited on any island or key on which the coastal and protection zones encompass the entire land mass, which are covered by mangrove vegetation, exhibit incipient development of beaches, or are fragile due to their stage of geomorphological development. The only express exception to this construction ban is where construction is needed for national defense purposes. In the coastal areas targeted for tourism, the setbacks mandated by DL 212 are significant and, if strictly enforced, will do much to protect the vulnerable wetlands, mangroves, dunes and waters. These buffers will be most effective, however, if combined with careful and well-planned development outside of the zones. CITMA is in charge of conducting environmental impact assessments and issuing licenses for proposed construction projects, and it is through these avenues that it has the greatest leverage over the placement, construction and operation of tourist and other facilities in and around coastal zones.

Sustainable Tourism is a priority for the Cuban government.

Whittle, director of the Southeast Oceans Program for the Environmental Defense Fund, argues in **2004**. "Protecting Coastal Resources in Cuba: A Look At Current Laws and Institutions." Paper presented at the 2004 Coastal Society Conference, 5/23-5/26, 2004. //WC

Tourism officials generally acknowledge that the model they used for developing tourism in the early 1990s was not based on principles of sustainability and that rapid expansion of tourist facilities came at a high environmental cost. Sustainable tourism development is the now official policy, a policy that is reinforced by a suite of coastal protection, environmental licensing and other environmental laws enacted in the late 1990s. Sustainable tourism in Cuba is built on four "pillars" of sustainability— economic, environmental, cultural, and social.

A/2: Remittances are Racist/Create Inequality

- 1. Non-unique: The current policies are racist, in that they discriminate against Cuban-Americans, by preventing them and only them from helping their families at home.**
- 2. No link: My plan doesn't lift any bans on remittances. Read the plan text.**
- 3. TURN: We solve for this racism by ensuring that Cuban-Americans access the same rights that all Americans access – the right to help their families.**
- 4. TURN: Plan solves for inequality by ensuring that people who are in desperate poverty due to the Hurricanes get aid. The rich have already gotten aid, now it's time for the poor to get it.**
- 5. Case outweighs: Even if there is inequality post-plan, you still prefer a world in which some people have a decent standard of living and some don't to a world where everyone is in wretched poverty.**

A/2: Tourism Is Bad For The Economy

1. **Extend my Marina Sanchez evidence – Tourism supplies hard currency, provides employment, and stimulates industries throughout the economy. The average Cuban benefits immensely from all these things. Three conceded warrants mean you always prefer the affirmative on this question.**
2. **Inflation is non-unique – the Cuban currency is horrible and basically worthless. American dollars give the average Cuban access to goods they otherwise wouldn't have.**
3. **Revealed Preference checks back – if Tourism really made people poorer, then people wouldn't jump at jobs in the tourist industry. (Read Peters Evidence) The fact that they voluntarily choose to work there shows that it is benefiting average Cubans.**
4. **TURN: Increased economic growth decreases inflation.**

Henderson, 2007. David Henderson is a research fellow with the Hoover Institution, an economics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School and co-author of "Making Great Decisions in Business and Life" (Chicago Park Press, 2006). "A Rise-able Fallacy." Wall Street Journal, 7/20/07.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118489662504772590.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries accessed 11/30/08. //WC

The idea that an increase in economic growth leads to an increase in inflation -- and that decreased growth reduces inflation -- is reflected endlessly in the media. On April 28, for example, AP writer Rajesh Mahapatra claimed that "high economic growth" of more than 8.5% annually in India since 2003 "has spurred demand and caused prices to rise." This makes no sense. All other things being equal, an increase in economic growth must cause inflation to drop, and a reduction in growth must cause inflation to rise. In his congressional testimony yesterday, Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke thankfully did not state that the higher economic growth he expects will lead to higher inflation. Although he didn't connect growth and inflation at all, Mr. Bernanke has long understood that higher growth leads to lower inflation. Here's why. Inflation, as the old saying goes, is caused by too much money "chasing" too few goods. Just as more money means higher prices, fewer goods also mean higher prices. The connection between the level of production and the level of prices also holds for the rate of change of production (that is, the rate of economic growth) and the rate of change of prices (that is, the inflation rate). Some simple arithmetic will clarify. Start with the famous equation of exchange, $MV = Py$, where M is the money supply; V is the velocity of money -- that is, the speed at which money circulates; P is the price level; and y is the real output of the economy (real GDP.) A version of this equation, incidentally, was on the license plate of the late economist Milton Friedman, who made a large part of his academic reputation by reviving, and giving evidence for, the role of money growth in causing inflation. If the growth rate of real GDP increases and the growth rates of M and V are held constant, the growth rate of the price level must fall. But the growth rate of the price level is just another term for the inflation rate; therefore, inflation must fall. An increase in the rate of economic growth means more goods for money to "chase," which puts downward pressure on the inflation rate. If for example the money supply grows at 7% a year and velocity is constant and if annual economic growth is 3%, inflation must be 4% (more exactly, 3.9%). If, however, economic growth rises to 4%, inflation falls to 3% (actually, 2.9%.)

Old Plan Text

Thus, the plan:

The USFG will substantially increase its constructive engagement with Cuba by passing legislation repealing the travel ban that prohibits the spending of money by American citizens in Cuba. Agency, Funding and Enforcement are all normal means, we reserve the right to clarify intent.

Hurricane Aid Advantage 1/4

Advantage 2: Hurricane Aid

A. Uniqueness

1. Cuba has been devastated by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and many people have lost their homes.

Sosa, member of the Cuban Study Group, argues in 2008. Ignacio Sosa is member of the executive board of the Cuba Study Group. "Cuba's Katrina." Washington Post, 9/11/08.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091002723.html> accessed 9/15/08. //WC

Hurricane Gustav hit Cuba this month with 140-mph winds, just shy of being a Category 5 storm as Hurricane Katrina was. The most severe hurricane to hit Cuba in 50 years, it has displaced more than 400,000 Cubans and damaged or destroyed more than 130,000 homes. Agriculture in the western province of Pinar del Rio has been virtually wiped out. Fidel Castro himself said that Pinar del Rio resembles Hiroshima after it was bombed. This week, Hurricane Ike barreled down the length of the island, making landfall twice, damaging more than 27,000 homes and killing at least four people. The damage to Cuba's economy from Gustav alone will be much worse proportionately than what the United States suffered after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Yet the United States has pledged only \$100,000 in aid to Cuba, enough to rebuild just a handful of homes. Cuba has declined this aid, calling it insufficient. Complicating matters are U.S. laws limiting the ability of Cuban Americans to send direct aid to their families or to visit relatives. What the long-suffering Cuban people need is not U.S. government aid. The Cuban people need both governments to get out of the way and allow Cuban Americans and private American relief organizations to help Cubans get back on their feet.

Hurricane Aid Advantage 2/4

2. The travel ban is preventing crucial aid from reaching ordinary Cubans.

Masferrer, editor at the Bradenton Herald, argues in 2008. Marc Masferrer is an editor at the Bradenton Herald and one of the most prominent voices on Cuba-US relations. He writes about Cuba on his weblog, Uncommon Sense. "U.S. policy bad for Cubans in need." Uncommon Sense Weblog Entry, 9/7/08.

http://marcmasferrer.typepad.com/uncommon_sense/2008/09/us-policy-bad-for-cubans-in-need.html accessed 9/7/08. //WC

In the wake of Hurricane Gustav's destruction and in advance of whatever Hurricane Ike brings to Cuba, rarely has the cruelty of American government limits on how Cubans in the United States can help family — and other Cubans — on the island been so evident. Under the clearest skies, the restrictions on remittances and travel to Cuba hurt the Castro dictatorship far less than they burden the Cuban people and those who want to help them. Instead of allowing Cuban Americans to provide some relief to the daily existence of Cubans in Cuba, the government enforces arbitrary, burdensome limits while at the same time encourages farming interests to sell whatever they can to Havana. That the United States continues to enforce those limits after Gustav destroyed tens of thousands of homes on the Isle of Pines and Piñar del Rio, and Ike bears down for a knockout blow, shows how out of whack American policy has become.

Hurricane Aid Advantage 3/4

B. Link: Lifting the travel ban will allow for direct family assistance to Cubans hit by Gustav.

Berman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, argues in 2008. Howard L. Berman is a Democratic Congressman from Van Nuys, and the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

“Berman Asks Bush to Lift Some Restrictions of Cuba Visits, Gifts Remittances to allow for Hurricane Assistance.” House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 9/5/2008.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/usnw/20080905/pl_usnw/berman_asks_bush_to_lift_some_restrictions_of_cuba_visits_gifts_remittances_to_allow_for_hurricane_assistance accessed 9/7/08. //WC

“We have the opportunity now to harness the deep desire and capacity of Cuban American families to assist their loved ones in this time of great need by temporarily suspending regulatory restrictions on Cuban American visits, remittances, and gift parcels,” Berman said in a letter to Bush. “There is no more effective way to urgently get relief to Cubans in need than to lift U.S. government restrictions to allow direct family assistance. Whether or not one agrees with current U.S. policy toward Cuba, the entire spectrum of opinion on the issue shares the goal of providing relief for the citizens and people of Cuba in a time of great hardship.”

C. Internal Link

1. Direct family assistance is the most viable way to bring food, clothing, and medicine to the victims of Gustav.

Yoani Sanchez, an award-winning Cuban blogger, argues in 2008. Yoani Sanchez is a Cuban blogger working in the tourism industry in Cuba. She won the Spanish equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, the Ortega y Gasset, in 2008, for her writings on her Generacion Y Weblog. “Scorched Earth.” Entry on the Generacion Y Weblog, 9/8/2008. <http://desdecuba.com/generaciony/?p=266> accessed 9/8/2008. //WC

The helplessness of the citizen before these catastrophes of weather is crushing. One hammer costs practically a month’s salary, and having boards and nails is such a luxury that they can only use a few. Only one option is left when a cyclone comes: Evacuate and leave the larger belongings to the mercy of the storm. The most difficult process for those we want to help is the absence of a civic route for sending donations to the victims. The State distribution structure cannot overcome the indolence and poor organization it demonstrates in other economic activities. Many choose to work through churches, but they lack the infrastructure and personnel to reach everywhere. Yesterday evening, Sunday, we talked with the members of the Convivencia [Coexistence] team and other members of the nascent civil society in Pinar del Río about how to bring clothing, food and medicine to the victims. Unfortunately, all the options have been dismantled over the years in which we Cuban citizens have lost our autonomy before an overprotective and authoritarian State. If a group of people could gather aid, the problem would be transporting it to the disaster zones and distributing it without being denounced and in the end arrested. Thus, the most viable initiative is for family members abroad to send cash to their relatives in Cuba. For those of us who live on the Island and want to lend a hand, we must take it in person to the devastated areas and deliver our donations directly. “Anything helps,” a gentleman sobbing with sadness told me, while showing me his house, poverty-stricken before the cyclone and now blown down.

Hurricane Aid Advantage 4/4

2. Poverty is the lack of food, shelter, and medicine: by ensuring aid reaches ordinary Cubans, plan saves them from poverty.

The World Bank argues in 2008. “Understanding Poverty.”

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0..contentMDK:20153855~menuPK:373757~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336992,00.html> accessed 9/8/08. //WC

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

D. Impact: Solving for poverty is a moral imperative.

Pinstrup-Andersen, professor at Cornell University, argues in 2007. Per Pinstrup-Anderson is a professor of International Nutrition and Public Policy at Cornell University. *Ethics, Hunger, and Globalization*. By Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Peter Sandoe. Published by Springer in 2007. p. 23. Accessed on Google Books, 9/8/08. //WC

Failure to deal effectively with perceived and real social injustice will render current military efforts ineffective in dealing with the threat of terrorism.. No society – national or international – will be secure when material inequalities and material deprivations are as extreme as they are now. We must try to understand the frustration, hopelessness, and anger of the many millions of people who are poor, hungry, and without the opportunities to escape the human misery they are in. We must then tailor our efforts to assure a socially just, stable, and secure world accordingly. This is our ethical obligation and it is in our own self-interest. Returning to the question posed in the title of the chapter, I believe that the elimination of poverty, hunger, and associated human suffering is a moral imperative.

Human Rights Extensions: Uniqueness

Cuba is a totalitarian regime that is guilty of massive human rights abuses.

The State Department, 2007. "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2006."

Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. Released 4/5/07.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2006/80591.htm> accessed 11/29/08. //WC

Cuba is a totalitarian state led by an acting president, General Raul Castro. Citizens do not have the right to change their government and therefore could not challenge the July 31 announcement that Fidel Castro "was delegating" authority to his brother. The government's human rights record remained poor, and the government continued to commit numerous, serious abuses. There were at least 283 political prisoners and detainees at year's end. Thousands of citizens served sentences for "dangerousness," in the absence of any criminal activity. Beatings and abuse of detainees and prisoners, including human rights activists, were carried out with impunity; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions included denial of medical care. The government retaliated against those who sought peaceful political change through frequent harassment, beatings, and threats against political opponents by government-recruited mobs, police, and state security officials; frequent arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights advocates and members of independent professional organizations; denial of fair trial, particularly to political prisoners; and interference with privacy, such as pervasive monitoring of private communications, including use of the Internet. There were also severe limitations on freedom of speech and press; denial of peaceful assembly and association; restrictions on freedom of movement, including selective denial of exit permits to thousands of citizens; and refusal to recognize domestic human rights groups or permit them to function legally. Sex tourism, discrimination against persons of African descent, and severe restrictions on worker rights, including the right to strike or form independent unions, were also problems.

Cason/Reich Indicts

James Cason is an idiot.

Landau, fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies, argues on Counterpunch on December 27, **2004**.

"James Cason's Cuban Delusions." Saul Landau teaches at Cal Poly Pomona University, where he is the director of Digital Media Programs and International Outreach, and is a fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies. <http://www.counterpunch.org/landau12272004.html> accessed 4/4/09.

On December 10, US Interest Section Chief in Havana James Cason offered yet another Bush Administration policy missile to overthrow the Cuban government and replace it with a "democratic" regime, i.e.; one that would revere private property and kiss Washington's butt. Bush had already tightened the harsh trade and travel restrictions on Cuba, following this year's presidential panel recommendations. Headed by Secretary of State Colin Powell, the Cuba policy panel listed measures Washington should take to foster a post-Castro transition. Cuban Vice President Ricardo Alarcon dismissed these measures as nothing more than a blueprint for overthrowing the government. Cason denies any such intentions. Cason seems neither to learn from his false predictions nor forget his passionate rhetoric. Apparently oblivious to flagrant human rights abuses committed by US personnel at the Guantanamo Gulag, Cason used International Human Rights Day to throw a bash at his posh Havana residence, where Senator Jack Kennedy once cavorted. Cuban dissidents drank and mingled with the Havana press corps, when Cason announced, according to the Associated Press, that Castro's government "is on its last legs." Some imbibers spilled their rum over this remark.

Otto Reich is a right-wing hack.

Dubro, media officer for Foreign Policy in Focus, argues in April **2001**. Alec Dubro is currently the senior editor of TomPaine.com, and online public affairs journal of progressive analysis and commentary. "Otto Reich's Dirty Laundry." Alec Dubro, A Global Affairs Commentary, FPIF, April 2001. http://www.fpif.org/commentary/0104reich_body.html accessed 4/4/09. //WC

Certainly the Bush team knew that nominating Otto Juan Reich for assistant secretary of state for hemisphere affairs would be trouble. After all, the aggressively rightwing Cuban American had been a key player in the Iran-contra scandal by heading the notorious Office of Public Diplomacy (OPD) in the State Department. There he manufactured op-eds that were passed off to the U.S. media under the name of Nicaraguan rebel leaders as he berated editors and journalists he deemed too soft on the Sandinistas or too tough on the Reagan administration. In recent years, Reich has also associated himself with some of America's least favorite industries: liquor, tobacco, and armaments. He's a lobbyist for Bacardi, British American Tobacco, and Lockheed Martin. He's also remained in the propaganda business. From the U.S. Cuba Business Council and other organizational springboards, Reich broadcasts the exile line, denouncing baseball exchanges, and the return of Elian Gonzalez and trade delegations to Havana.

Hurricane Preparedness Harms Scenario

The travel ban is impeding the flow of ideas that could improve the disaster response in the United States.

Van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, argues for the Center For Democracy in the Americas in **2009**. "Avenues of Potential Cooperation Between the U.S. and Cuba on Hurricane Preparedness and Disaster Management." p. 74 Ivor van Heerden, writing Chapter 7 of 9 Ways For US to Talk To Cuba & For Cuba To Talk To Us." Center for Democracy in the Americas, 2009. <http://democracyinamericas.org/9-ways-us-talk-cuba-and-cuba-talk-us-new-report> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

While the current sanctions allow scientific visits to Cuba under certain circumstances, they are hampered by an onerous licensing process under the auspices of the U.S. Treasury Department. The rules that restrict scientists — and Americans in general — from traveling to Cuba must be lifted. They are impeding the free flow of ideas that could benefit both countries in emergency management. No matter how much our government may decry the Cuban regime, it is a fact that they are very successful in orchestrating evacuations and meeting the public health and medical needs of their population during disasters.

Lack of disaster preparedness in the United States is responsible for thousands of deaths during hurricanes.

Van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, argues for the Center For Democracy in the Americas in **2009**. "Avenues of Potential Cooperation Between the U.S. and Cuba on Hurricane Preparedness and Disaster Management." Ivor van Heerden, writing Chapter 7 of 9 Ways For US to Talk To Cuba & For Cuba To Talk To Us." p. 72 Center for Democracy in the Americas, 2009. <http://democracyinamericas.org/9-ways-us-talk-cuba-and-cuba-talk-us-new-report> accessed 4/4/09. //WC

Although monetary costs from storms devastate and demoralize — human lives also hang in the balance. The saving of lives is of paramount importance in disaster management. Consider this astounding contrast: More than 1,600 Americans died during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the U.S. death toll from Hurricane Ike in 2008 could exceed one hundred. Cuba's death rate from storms over this same period was about three persons per year; its loss of life due to Ike was comparatively minimal compared to losses in the U.S. Only seven Cubans died from Ike. This difference in death rates between the so-called "third world country" and the United States is striking. Cuba has better evacuation plans, superior post disaster medical support, and more advanced citizen disaster preparedness education programs. Their strengths point to a host of potential pathways for future cooperation with the U.S. While there are distinct cultural differences between the U.S. and Cuba, with so much at stake, a free-flowing exchange of ideas could allow both sides to learn from each other.

1AC 1/ (2.0)**Observation 1: Inherency:**

While the government is planning to repeal family travel and remittance restrictions on Cuban-Americans, passage of the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act is unlikely.

The Economist Intelligence Unit argues on April 7, 2009. The Economist is the world's premier newsmagazine. "USA/Cuba Politics – Road to Havana."
http://viewswire.eiu.com/index.asp?layout=VWArticleVW3&article_id=1044420689®ion_id=440000444&refm=vwReg&page_title=Latest+regional+analysis&rf=0 accessed 4/7/09. //WC

The US government looks set to end family travel and remittances restrictions applied to Cuban-Americans, just ahead of President Barack Obama's planned trip to Trinidad and Tobago for the April 17th Summit of the Americas. If this is indeed announced, it will be the second loosening of restrictions related to Cuba in two months. However, the new administration is not yet talking about ending the 47-year-old trade and investment embargo, or of normalising diplomatic relations with the island nation. The impediments to these measures would be much greater. A first step toward a change in policy came with the Obama administration's appropriations budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, approved on March 10th. It contained provisions to relax modestly restrictions on trade with and travel to Cuba. Under one provision the government will grant a general license (which does not require individual approval in advance) for Americans who travel to Cuba for the purpose of selling agricultural and medical goods. Also, Cuba will no longer have to pay for such imported goods before they are loaded on ships in US ports, a requirement put in place in 2005 by the George Bush administration. The budget reversed this policy by removing funding for US enforcement of the requirement. The bill also ended funding for government enforcement of Bush-era restrictions on family travel to Cuba. These limited travel to only immediate family members and to just one visit every three years for a maximum 14-day period. Prior to this 2004 tightening, family members could visit once a year with no time limit. Removal of the funding means that Cuban-Americans would be able to travel more frequently without fear of punishment. Now the White House is poised to allow completely unrestricted family travel and remittances, according to reports citing unnamed administration officials, and could well announce the change in the days ahead. The lifting of a travel ban for all Americans is also on the table. This would be a much more significant reform, and perhaps a step towards revising the broader trade and investment embargo. A bipartisan group of US senators and non-governmental entities is supporting a bill, the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act, to end the ban. It was introduced at the end of March by Senators Byron Dorgan (D, North Dakota) and Michael Enzi (R, Wyoming), and is backed by 20 co-sponsors, as well as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the US Chamber of Commerce and Human Rights Watch. A similar bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Whether such a measure could be approved anytime soon is highly uncertain, as it is intimately linked to the controversial domestic debate about the embargo, whose reform would face significant obstacles. Indeed, any changes to the embargo or normalisation of relations with Havana would require concessions on Cuba's part, including addressing human-rights issues by releasing political prisoners, and other steps towards democratisation. Though Cuba's president, Raúl Castro, has expressed a willingness to talk with Washington, he would be loathe to submit to demands from the US government in exchange for improved relations. Furthermore, because the trade embargo is codified in a law, the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, it is beyond the president's authority and could only be

modified by Congress, where the influence of conservative politicians and Cuban-Americans opposed to the Castro regime still remains strong.

1AC 2/ (2.0)

Thus, the plan:

The USFG, through an act of Congress, should pass S.428, The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act. Agency, Funding and Enforcement are normal means. We reserve the right to clarify intent.

1AC 3/ (2.0)

Solvency:

1. The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act will make all regulations and prohibitions on travel to and from Cuba by United States citizens null and void.

The Text of S.428, as published on opencongress.org in **2009**. “Text of S. 428: Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2007.” 2/12/07. <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s428/text> accessed 4/6/09. //WC

On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, and subject to section 3-- (1) the President may not regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents, or any of the transactions incident to such travel that are set forth in subsection (b); and (2) any regulation in effect on such date of enactment that regulates or prohibits travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents or transactions incident to such travel shall cease to have any force or effect.

1AC 4/ (2.0)**2. Engaging with the Cuban people by lifting the travel ban is our best hope for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.**

Senator Chris **Dodd** of Connecticut argues in a press release on August 15, **2007**. Chris Dodd is a Senator from Connecticut. "Dodd on Cuba Policy." Matt Browner-Hamlin, August 15, 2007.

<http://havanajournal.com/politics/entry/chris-dodd-supports-s721-freedom-to-travel-to-cuba-act-of-2007/> accessed 11-12-08.
//WC

I want to see the peaceful transition to democracy occur on the Island of Cuba in my life time. That isn't going to happen if we continue the misguided policies of the last forty-six years. We must open the flood gates to contacts with the Cuban people. We must remove restrictions on the ability of Cuban Americans to provide financial assistance to their loved ones. Even small sums of money in the hands of ordinary Cuban families can serve as catalysts for private investment to gain a foothold in Cuba. I have long supported the freedom to travel to Cuba, which is why I have joined with twenty of my colleagues in a bi-partisan way to co-sponsor S.721 the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2007. It is simply un-American to bar American citizens from traveling to foreign countries. In fact, Americans are currently free to travel to both Iran and North Korea, two countries which pose far more serious threats to American national security than the government of Cuba. But more than that, the United States' most potent weapon against totalitarianism is the influence of ordinary American citizens. They are some of the best ambassadors we have, and the free exchange of ideas and the interaction between Americans and Cubans are important ways to encourage democracy in Cuba. For more than forty-six years, the United States has maintained an isolationist policy toward Cuba, which I believe has not achieved its intended objectives, namely to hasten a peaceful and democratic transition on the Island of Cuba. Rather, it has solidified the authoritarian control of Fidel Castro, and has adversely affected the already miserable living conditions of 11 million innocent men, women, and children on the Island. I have long opposed restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to the Cuban people. Frankly I believe it is immoral to deprive innocent people from access to American medical and farm products. Moreover, we hurt our American farm families with such an ill conceived policy. It is a commonsense policy to encourage Cuban authorities to purchase US food and medicine rather than other foreign purchases that may impact adversely on our nation's security. The Island of Cuba is in the throes of a transition to a post-Castro Cuba. A US policy of staying the course leaves us on the sides as the future of Cuba is being written. It is time to engage before it is too late to have a positive influence on the political landscape which is rapidly taking shape there. In a Dodd administration the United States will engage with the Cuban people in support of a peaceful transition to democracy.

1AC 5/ (2.0)**Advantage 1: Tourism****A. Uniqueness: The Cuban economy is currently in dire straits, having exhausted its savings.**

Jagger and Catan, Business Correspondents for The Times of London, argue in **2008**. Suzy Jagger and Thomas Catan. "Island outcast on the brink as its people clamour for a better life." The Times of London, March 1, 2008. Accessed on Lexis on 8-23-08. //WC

The Cuban people did not get any of that. Fifty years on, the grandchildren of the Cuban Revolution wait for another beginning. Since Fidel Castro, crippled by illness and age, handed power to Raul recently, Cubans - and the outside world - have been waiting to see whether the small island will liberalise its economy, open up to the outside world and feed its population of 11million. Milk, tobacco and toys are rationed. Cubans cannot access the internet freely and relatives who have defected to the United States - Florida is only 90 miles away - can visit only once every three years, so fraught are relations with Washington. Cubans are scared to speak their mind and waiters are discouraged from speaking to tourists. Last weekend Raul hinted at the unthinkable by suggesting that he might end rationing and implement agricultural reform, a move that he introduced in the 1990s but that his older brother rescinded. He also reiterated his admiration for the Chinese model of economic reform - a model that has allowed foreign companies to take minority stakes in state-owned businesses. His comments sparked speculation that Cuba was preparing to open the economy to foreign investment and global markets. One of the world's leading experts on Cuba, Jorge Castaneda, the former Mexican Foreign Minister, said: "Since what they have now doesn't work, they have to do something. But what the Chinese do isn't necessarily an option for Cuba. China is very big and has conducted its reforms over a long period. Raul has to widen the pool of countries allowed to invest in Cuba. He must extract funding from Europe and beyond, not just from Mexico, Brazil and Spain. Part of the problem is that Raul would like to implement the economic reforms of China without the political reforms." At present 97 per cent of the Cuban economy is controlled by the military, the head of which is Raul. It is the most centralised socialist state in the world. Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin was Cuba's biggest customer, buying 85 per cent of the island's exports, principally sugar, in return for cheap oil. In the 1990s, as glasnost foreshadowed the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Cuba's foreign market disappeared and Cubans starved. Although Venezuela and China took the place of the Soviet Union - Cuba pays for Venezuelan oil with doctors - and Canada and Spain were allowed to build hotel resorts along the Cuban coastlines, the foreign investment was too limited to offset Havana's sliding economy, principally oil, tourism and farming. It is not known exactly how the Cuban economy is faring, although it is believed to be struggling. Mauricio Font, of the City University of New York, said: "The Cuban economy has no choice. Raul has acknowledged this. Cuba has exhausted its savings, and investments have to come from somewhere. They are no longer able to generate sufficient savings on their own. They have to look to outside."

1AC 6/ (2.0)**B. Link: Lifting the travel ban would dramatically increase American tourism to Cuba.**

Will **Weissert**, journalist for the Associated Press, reports in **2007**. Will Weissert has written articles published in The Independent (Associated Press Writer), The Guardian, The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday. “Americans flout U.S. Travel Ban to see Cuba.” USA Today, 9/12/07.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2007-09-12-american-travel-to-cuba_N.htm accessed 8-23-08. //WC

The U.S. Treasury Department issued 40,308 licenses for family travel last year, almost all to Cuban Americans, and the Cuban government counts these travelers as Cubans, not Americans. Separately, Cuba said 20,100 Americans visited the country through June of this year, almost all presumably without U.S. permission. Other than family members, the U.S. government granted permission 491 times for people involved in religious, educational and humanitarian projects. Some other Americans — including journalists and politicians — can come without licenses, though few do. Cuba said about 37,000 Americans not of Cuban origin came in 2006 — down from the more than 84,500 it reported in 2003, before the latest restrictions. The American Society of Travel Agents recently estimated that nearly 1.8 million Americans would visit in the first three years following an end to the travel ban.

1AC 7/ (2.0)**C. Internal Link:****1. Tourism is key to economic recovery in Cuba.**

Marina **Sanchez** reports for The Peninsula on April 15, **2006**. Marina Fornieles Sanchez is a reporter for The Peninsula, Qatar's leading English newspaper. "The state of Cuban tourism with statistics" Originally published in the Peninsula on April 15, 2006. Last accessed September 10, 2008.

<http://havanajournal.com/travel/entry/the-state-of-cuban-tourism-with-statistics/> //RA

In Cuba, tourism achieved a great development during the 90s. Despite the prevailing difficulties, this sector was the only one that exhibited the annual growth rate of nearly 20 per cent. In the middle of a growing shortage of supplies, tourism became Cuba's salvation thanks to its rapid development. When talking about the benefits of tourism, we are obliged to acknowledge its dynamic contributions in hard currency, its role as a major source for employment and as the driving force behind the activities of another group of industries. Considered as the oil of 21st century, tourism has become the salvation for many countries' economies, including Cuba which has incorporated it in its strategy for the national recovery since last decade with successful results. This audacious step has been rewarded by a steady increase of profits in the 90s. Today, tourism has become the mainstay of Cuban economy. Cuba already has 10 international airports where 93 foreign and regular airlines operate – in 1990, only 18 airlines functioned – connecting the island with 40 cities and capitals around the world. US interventionist and extraterritorial policy has greatly affected socially and economically the island, a banned territory for any US citizen.

"It's true that so far Washington has ignored the United Nations' call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, but we will not despair," said Cuban Foreign Minister, Felipe Perez Roque who has talked on the progress Cuba would experience if the US stopped its aggressive policy. "For example, if Cuba received five million US tourists per year, that would represent extra income of more than (seven billion dollars,)" pointed out Perez Roque. Without the scourge of the US blockade, tourism in Cuba could take nearly \$576m during the first year. In addition, the island could take another extra \$70m per year from a half million tourists traveling by cruisers. Each seven days some 80 cruisers navigate around the Cuban archipelago. Tourism is vital for the revival of the island's economy, that's why US successive administrations since 1959 have implemented a number of measures and laws aimed to reduce Cuba's national income.

1AC 8/ (2.0)**2. Increased tourism would improve the lives of average Cubans, not just rich ones.**

Philip **Peters**, Vice-President of the Lexington Institute, argues on September 18, **2008**. Philip Peters is the Vice-President of the Lexington Institute. “Families Torn Apart: Human Rights And U.S. Restrictions on Cuban-American Travel.” Hearing before the subcommittee on international organizations, human rights, and oversight of the committee on foreign affairs. 110th Congress, Second Session, 9/18/2008. Serial No. 110-220. p. 55. accessed 11/29/08. //WC

An increase of American travelers would boost the incomes of average Cubans in the tourism industry and in private businesses, both legal and black market, improving their living standards and their independence. It would enable lots more Cubans to enter private business, such as the thousands that legally rent rooms to travelers from abroad.

D. Impact:**Economic growth solves for poverty, marginalization, powerlessness, coercion, and allows individuals to live fuller, happier lives.**

Johan **Norberg**, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, argues in **2003**. Johan Norberg (born 27 August 1973) is a Swedish writer devoted to promoting economic globalization and individual liberty. He is the author of the much celebrated In Defense of Global Capitalism. Since March 15, 2007 he is a Senior Fellow at Cato Institute. “In Defense of Global Capitalism.” Washington D.C.: The Cato Institute, 2003, p. 27. //WC

“But,” the skeptic asks, “what do people in the developing countries want consumption and growth for? Why must we force our way of life upon them?” The answer is that we must not force a particular way of life on anyone. Whatever their values, the great majority of people the world over desire better material conditions, for the simple reason that they will then have more options. As Indian economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has emphasized, poverty is not just a material problem. Poverty is something wider: it is about powerlessness, about being deprived of basic opportunities and freedom of choice. Small incomes are often symptomatic of the absence of these things, of people's marginalization or subjection to coercion. Human development means enjoying a reasonably healthy and secure existence, with a good standard of living and freedom to shape one's own life. It is important to investigate material development because it suggests how wealth can be produced and because it contributes to development in this broader sense. Material resources, individual and societal, enable people to feed and educate themselves, to obtain health care, and to be spared the pain of watching their children die. Those are pretty universal human desires, one finds, when people are allowed to choose for themselves.

1AC 9/ (2.0)**Advantage 2: Soft Power****A. Uniqueness****America's standing in Latin America has reached an all time low.**

Peter **McKenna**, reporter for the Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald, argues on August 10, **2008**. Peter McKenna is the Latin America beat reporter for the Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald. "Obama's Latin American strategies would repair damage of Bush years" Nova Scotia Chronicle Herald, 08/10/2008. Accessed on August 25, 2008. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotian/1072382.html> //RA

Long before Sen. Obama came on the political scene, and even before the Americas-focused Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the United States had been preoccupied with what was happening in its own hemispheric "backyard." But ever since Monroe's presidential proclamation, Washington has argued that it has vital interests in the region, of a political, economic and strategic nature, and it has not been shy about defending them. This, of course, has been a major source of conflict and contention with the 20 or so countries that comprise Latin America. Over the years, a great deal of mistrust, resentment and frustration has built up in the region against the hegemonic ways of the United States. But since President George W. Bush launched his "war on terror" in late 2001, Latin America and the Caribbean (with the exception of Venezuela and Cuba) have practically fallen off the political radar screen. The Bush administration has essentially discarded the nostrums of the Monroe Doctrine for a policy of implacable neglect and shortsightedness. Its relentless pursuit of the neo-liberal model and free market economics have also discredited the Bush White House throughout most of the region. And its unflinching support for Colombia, longstanding opposition to Cuba, and heavy-handed approach to Venezuela have all cast a dark cloud over its entire policy for the Americas. Not surprisingly, a deep-seated anger has erupted throughout the region — and the image, credibility and profile of Washington has sunk to an all-time low. This wrong-headed neglect has, in part, led to a flurry of left-leaning governments coming to power in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Argentina, to name a few. At the same time, this has created a situation in which core U.S. interests in its own neighbourhood have been cavalierly ignored and undermined. In a word, the influence of the U.S. in the region has waned considerably under Bush's watch. Other countries, such as China and Iran, have strengthened their profiles in the Americas and have sought to take advantage of the absence of any serious U.S. engagement in hemispheric affairs.

1AC 10/ (2.0)**B. Link****Lifting the travel ban will increase our soft power in Latin America.**

William **Reinsch**, President of the National Foreign Trade Council, argues on September 4, **2003**.
“USA*Engage Urges Congress to Prepare Now for Post-Castro Cuba “ 9/4/2003.

http://www.usaengage.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=151&Itemid=61 accessed 11/29/08. //WC

Second, because of its symbolic importance to the U.S., how we deal with Cuba as it approaches this transition will affect our standing in the region and beyond. The U.S. should be seen to be working constructively toward a peaceful transition to free market democracy in Cuba. By moving now to engage Cuba, the United States will be able to deploy its most powerful arsenal before we are overtaken by events. That arsenal is our "soft power," which goes beyond American affluence to include American values, institutions and traditions such as the rule of law, tolerance and freedom of expression and association. These factors have played a significant role in transitions in places as diverse as South Korea, Eastern Europe and South Africa. Now, having failed to influence events in Cuba through a policy of isolation, it is time to call Castro's bluff and start removing the crutches he uses to stay in power. Increasing contact between Americans and Cubans is one way to begin. To that end, we support enactment of S.950, which would repeal the prohibition on American citizens' freedom to travel to Cuba. Ending the travel ban does not reward Castro; it punishes him by building pressure that will lead to a free people and democratic government in Cuba. These travel restrictions are perhaps the most counterproductive of all the U.S. sanctions on Cuba. They hurt families on both sides of the Florida Straits and restrict the freedom of American citizens who are accustomed to traveling throughout the world without constraint.

1AC 11/ (2.0)**C. Impact****1. Soft power is key to preventing disease, terrorism, and the use of weapons of mass destruction.**

Joseph Nye, professor of International Relations, argues in **2004**. Joseph S. Nye Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor, is also the Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations and former Dean of the Kennedy School. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. "US military primacy is fact - so, now, work on 'soft power' of persuasion." Christian Science Monitor, 4/29/2004. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0429/p09s02-coop.html> accessed 8-23-08. //WC

Soft power co-opts people rather than coerces them. It rests on the ability to set the agenda or shape the preferences of others. It is a mistake to discount soft power as just a question of image, public relations, and ephemeral popularity. It is a form of power - a means of pursuing national interests. When America discounts the importance of its attractiveness to other countries, it pays a price. When US policies lose their legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of others, attitudes of distrust tend to fester and further reduce its leverage. The manner with which the US went into Iraq undercut American soft power. That did not prevent the success of the four-week military campaign, but it made others less willing to help in the reconstruction of Iraq and made the American occupation more costly in the hard-power resources of blood and treasure. Because of its leading edge in the information revolution and its past investment in military power, the US probably will remain the world's single most powerful country well into the 21st century. But not all the important types of power come from the barrel of a gun. Hard power is relevant to getting desired outcomes, but transnational issues such as climate change, infectious diseases, international crime, and terrorism cannot be resolved by military force alone. Soft power is particularly important in dealing with these issues, where military power alone simply cannot produce success, and can even be counterproductive. America's success in coping with the new transnational threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction will depend on a deeper understanding of the role of soft power and developing a better balance of hard and soft power in foreign policy.

1AC 12/ (2.0)

Advantage 3: Human Rights

A. Uniqueness

The Castro regime violates the human rights of its people in a myriad of ways.

Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization, argues on February 18, **2008**. “Cuba: Fidel Castro's Abusive Machinery Remains Intact.” Human Rights Watch, 2/18/08.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/02/18/cuba-fidel-castro-s-abusive-machinery-remains-intact> accessed 11/29/08. //WC

For almost five decades, Cuba has restricted nearly all avenues of political dissent. Cuban citizens have been systematically deprived of their fundamental rights to free expression, privacy, association, assembly, movement, and due process of law. Tactics for enforcing political conformity have included police warnings, surveillance, short-term detentions, house arrests, travel restrictions, criminal prosecutions, and politically motivated dismissals from employment. Cuba’s legal and institutional structures have been at the root of its rights violations. The rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly, movement, and the press are strictly limited under Cuban law. By criminalizing enemy propaganda, the spreading of “unauthorized news,” and insult to patriotic symbols, the government curbs freedom of speech under the guise of protecting state security. The courts are not independent; they undermine the right to fair trial by restricting the right to a defense, and frequently fail to observe the few due process rights available to defendants under domestic law. “Since Fidel Castro first turned power over to his brother, the Cuban government has occasionally indicated a willingness to reconsider its approach to human rights,” said Vivanco. “But so far it hasn’t taken any of the steps needed to end its abusive practices.”

1AC 13/ (2.0)

B. Link - Cross-apply the Dodd evidence from solvency - lifting the travel ban is the best hope for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, thus solving for the human rights abuses of the existing regime.

C. Impact:

Human Rights are the most important impact in the round, because they are a prerequisite to human action.

Alan **Gewirth**, Professor of Philosophy, argues in his book entitled Human Rights published in **1982**. Alan Gewirth, Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago, HUMAN RIGHTS, 1982. //WC (LCDC)

The primary thesis of the following essays is that human rights are of supreme importance, and are central to all other moral considerations, because they are rights of every human being to the necessary conditions of human action, i.e., those conditions that must be fulfilled if human action is to be possible either at all or with general chances of success in achieving the purposes for which humans act. Because they are such rights, they must be respected by every human being, in the primary justification of governance is that they serve to secure these rights. Thus the Subjects as well as the respondents of human rights are all human beings; the Objects of the rights are the aforesaid necessary conditions of human action and of successful action in general; and the justifying basis of the rights is the moral principle which establishes that all humans are equally entitled to have these necessary conditions, to fulfill the general needs of human agency.