

Pro

Chris and I affirm Resolved: The United States should lift its embargo against Cuba.

Contention 1 is improving Latin American Relations.

Currently, the embargo is damaging relations between the US and Latin America. Julia Sweig at the Council on Foreign Relations explains in 2013 that Latin American nations unanimously disapprove of the embargo, viewing it as an act of US imperialism, which impedes effective cooperation.

Ending the embargo restores cooperation for two reasons.

1. Improving US legitimacy. David Perez at the Yale Law School explains in 2010 that because Cuba has dominated the US agenda in Latin America for the last 50 years, lifting the embargo would improve legitimacy in the region, creating a reverberating effect throughout Latin America that would create greater incentives for cooperation.
2. Delegitimizing anti-US leaders. Former Senator Richard Lugar explains in 2009 that ending the embargo would undermine the political support of Latin American leaders who build their support by opposing the US because lifting the embargo shows that the US respects the opinion of Latin American people.

The impact is preventing drug crime. Carlos Pascual of the Brookings Institute explains in 2010 that cooperation between the US and Latin America is necessary to prevent drug crime because any weakness in the supply chain provides a safe-haven for criminals. Drug violence undermines political stability, as Professor of Political Science Miguel Carreras finds in 2013 that drug violence makes citizens believe the government can't protect them, ultimately undermining rule of law.

Contention 2 is stopping the Cuban collapse.

Cuba will collapse in the status quo. The Latin Times reports in 2014 that the embargo has cost the Cuban economy \$1.1 trillion. Because of this, Scott Clement of the Washington Post reports in 2015 that a majority of Cuban citizens dislike Raul Castro. These citizens will start a civil war if they perceive the regime as weak, as Andrea Ruggeri at the University of Essex empirically confirms in 2010 that the chance of civil war rises when rebels perceive an opportunity to take control of a politically unstable government.

Specifically, Cuba will become politically unstable and collapse in the status-quo for two reasons.

1. Venezuelan oil cutoff. Alexandra Ulmer at Reuters explains in July 2016 that due to the falling price of oil, Venezuela has decreased oil exports to Cuba by 40%. Unfortunately, Cuba is heavily dependent on Venezuela for trade, as Jon Greenberg at Politifact explains in 2014 that without Venezuelan oil, Cuba's GDP would decline by 7 to 10%. This will cause Cuba to collapse, as Lieutenant Colonel Sergio Dickerson explains in

2010 that increased economic pressure could cause Cuba's government to collapse by prompting Cuban citizens to revolt to try to secure a better economic future, resulting in a failed state.

2. Reform failure. The Chicago Tribune reports in 2016 that Raul Castro's economic reforms have failed to fix structural problems in Cuba's economy, with only 21% of them ever being implemented. Evan Katz at the University of Georgia furthers in 2016 that the reforms that have passed are directed at the wrong sectors of Cuba's economy, dooming them to fail. Because of this, Katz finds that Raul Castro's reforms are fundamentally unsustainable and will eventually have to be rolled back, prompting backlash from the Cuban people and ultimately resulting in a civil war.

The impact is massive regional instability. Tim Gorrell at the Strategic Research Project furthers in 2005 that a Cuban governmental collapse from a civil war would create a failed state that would provide a safe haven for terrorism, create a refugee crisis, and destabilize the region, disrupting the economies of Latin American nations and crushing budding democracies. Gorrell continues that a Cuban failed state could force the US military to intervene, fueling anti-Americanism and creating the conditions for a future civil war.

Fortunately, lifting the embargo would save Cuba's economy, preventing collapse, for three reasons.

1. Foreign investment. Ian Bremmer at TIME explains in 2015 that without embargo restrictions on US companies, foreign investment in Cuba would grow by 34 times, from 500 million to \$17 billion per year.
2. Trade. Timothy Ashby at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs explains in 2013 that by removing the embargo and allowing for normal bilateral trade, the US would stabilize the Cuban economy by helping them transition away from state owned businesses to a booming private sector.
3. Redirecting reforms. Evan Katz at the University of Georgia explains in 2016 that by lifting the embargo, the US would be able to provide technical assistance and market expertise to ensure that Castro's economic reforms are targeted in the right places.

Thus, we affirm.