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Chapter 1 : How did the US stop the spread of Communism? by Mykele Smith on Prezi

Get this from a library! Cuba cannot export revolution, nor can the United States prevent it: speech, Santiago de Cuba, January 1, [Fidel Castro].

Until Castro, the U. Smith , former American Ambassador to Cuba, during testimony to the U. Eisenhower officially recognized the new Cuban government after the Cuban Revolution which had overthrown the Batista government, but relations between the two governments deteriorated rapidly. Within days Earl E. Ambassador to Cuba, was replaced by Philip Bonsal. Between 15 and 26 April , Fidel Castro and a delegation of representatives visited the U. This visit was perceived by many as a charm offensive on the part of Castro and his recently initiated government, and his visit included laying a wreath at the Lincoln memorial. On 4 September , Ambassador Bonsal met with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to express "serious concern at the treatment being given to American private interests in Cuba both agriculture and utilities. The rebelling group of insurgents was a mix of former Batista soldiers, local farmers, and former allied guerrillas who had fought alongside Castro against Batista during the Cuban Revolution. As state intervention and take-over of privately owned businesses continued, trade restrictions on Cuba increased. In March , tensions increased when the freighter La Coubre exploded in Havana Harbor, killing over 75 people. Fidel Castro blamed the United States and compared the incident to the sinking of the Maine , though admitting he could provide no evidence for his accusation. Later that year, U. Sweet and William G. Friedman were arrested and expelled from the island having been charged with "encouraging terrorist acts, granting asylum, financing subversive publications and smuggling weapons". On 3 January the U. Presidential candidate John F. He criticized what he saw as use of the U. These activities were collectively known as the " Cuban Project " also known as Operation Mongoose. This was to be a coordinated program of political, psychological, and military sabotage, involving intelligence operations as well as assassination attempts on key political leaders. The Cuban project also proposed attacks on mainland U. Senate Select Intelligence Committee report later confirmed over eight attempted plots to kill Castro between and , as well as additional plans against other Cuban leaders. The purpose of the invasion was to overthrow a leader whose name, Ortsac, was Castro spelled backwards. The discovery led to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Trade relations also deteriorated in equal measure. In , President John F. Kennedy broadened the partial trade restrictions imposed after the revolution by Eisenhower to a ban on all trade with Cuba, except for non-subsidized sale of foods and medicines. A year later travel and financial transactions by U. The United States embargo against Cuba was to continue in varying forms. Relations began to thaw during President Lyndon B. In Fidel Castro sent a message to Johnson encouraging dialogue, he wrote: I seriously hope that Cuba and the United States can eventually respect and negotiate our differences. I believe that there are no areas of contention between us that cannot be discussed and settled within a climate of mutual understanding. But first, of course, it is necessary to discuss our differences. I now believe that this hostility between Cuba and the United States is both unnatural and unnecessary â€” and it can be eliminated. Three years later, during the Carter administration, the U. In , after 10, Cubans crammed into the Peruvian embassy seeking political asylum, Castro stated that any who wished to do so could leave Cuba, in what became known as the Mariel boatlift. Approximately , people left Cuba for the United States. Poster in Bay of Pigs In , Cuba and the United States signed a maritime boundary treaty in which the countries agreed on the location of their border in the Straits of Florida. The treaty was never sent to the United States Senate for ratification , but the agreement has been implemented by the U. The ban was later supplemented to include Cuban government officials or their representatives visiting the U. After the Cold War[edit] The Cold War ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the early s, leaving Cuba without its major international sponsor. The ensuing years were marked by economic difficulty in Cuba, a time known as the Special Period. However, the long standing U. The act prohibited foreign-based subsidiaries of U. As a result, multinational companies had to choose between Cuba and the U. The Cuban government claimed that the planes had entered into Cuban airspace.

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Members of Alpha 66 , an anti-Castro paramilitary organization, continue to practice their AK skills in a camp in South Florida. President Bill Clinton eased travel restrictions to Cuba in an effort to increase cultural exchanges between the two nations. While Castro said it was a gesture of "dignity and courtesy", the White House denied the encounter was of any significance. In , former U. President Jimmy Carter became the first former or sitting U. During his campaign Bush appealed for the support of Cuban-Americans by emphasizing his opposition to the government of Fidel Castro and supporting tighter embargo restrictions [44] Cuban Americans , who until tended to vote Republican, [45] expected effective policies and greater participation in the formation of policies regarding Cuba-U. The United States Department of the Treasury issued greater efforts to deter American citizens from illegally traveling to the island. On 15 June , the U. Supreme Court denied review of their case. Bolton , accused Cuba of maintaining a biological weapons program. Later, Bolton was criticized for pressuring subordinates who questioned the quality of the intelligence John Bolton had used as the basis for his assertion. Cuban propaganda poster in Havana featuring a Cuban soldier addressing a threatening Uncle Sam. Following a protest march organized by the Cuban government, the government erected a large number of poles, carrying black flags with single white stars, obscuring the messages. Congressional auditors accused the development agency USAID of failing properly to administer its program for promoting democracy in Cuba. They said USAID had channeled tens of millions of dollars through exile groups in Miami, which were sometimes wasteful or kept questionable accounts. The report said the organizations had sent items such as chocolate and cashmere jerseys to Cuba. Official Cuban news service Granma alleges that these transition plans were created at the behest of Cuban exile groups in Miami , and that McCarry was responsible for engineering the overthrow of the Aristide government in Haiti. The plan also feature a classified annex that Cuban officials mistakenly claimed could be a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro or a United States military invasion of Cuba. Cuban thaw Relations between Cuba and the United States remain tenuous, but since Fidel Castro stepped down from official leadership of the Cuban state and Barack Obama became president of the United States , they have improved. In April , Obama, who had received nearly half of the Cuban Americans vote in the presidential election , [45] began implementing a less strict policy towards Cuba. Obama stated that he was open to dialogue with Cuba, but that he would only lift the trade embargo if Cuba underwent political change. In March , Obama signed into law a congressional spending bill which eased some economic sanctions on Cuba and eased travel restrictions on Cuban-Americans defined as persons with a relative "who is no more than three generations removed from that person" [61] traveling to Cuba. The April executive decision further removed time limits on Cuban-American travel to the island. Another restriction loosened in April was in the realm of telecommunications , which would allow quicker and easier access to the internet for Cuba. President, I am Castro. Beginning in , Cuban and U. On 17 December , the framework of an agreement to normalize relations and eventually end the longstanding embargo was announced by Castro in Cuba and Obama in the United States. Cuba and the United States pledged to start official negotiations with the aim of reopening their respective embassies in Havana and Washington. For its part, the U. While the talks did not produce a significant breakthrough, both sides described them as "productive", and Cuban Foreign Ministry official Josefina Vidal said further talks would be scheduled. While a candidate for the presidency, Trump criticized aspects of the Cuban Thaw, suggesting he could suspend the normalization process unless he can negotiate "a good agreement". A new policy aims to impose new restrictions with regards to travel and funding, however traveling via airlines and cruise lines will not be prohibited completely. Moreover, diplomatic relations remain intact and embassies in Washington D. Health-related incidents at the United States Embassy in Havana In the summer of , reports surfaced that American and Canadian diplomats stationed in Havana had experienced unusual physical symptoms affecting the brainâ€”including hearing loss , dizziness, and nausea. American investigators have been unable to identify the cause of these symptoms. In September , the U. However, Article 4, titled "Non-retroactivity of the present Convention" of the same document states that Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties shall not be retroactively applied to any treaties made before itself. Please

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help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Beginning with opposition to the Castro led Independence Revolution in Cuba, the Spanish-American War, naval use of Guantanamo Bay Trade restrictions imposed by Nixon, and a trade embargo opened in the year Since the s, American public opinion of Cuba has overall become more favorable, and people became more supportive of ending the trade embargo as well as re-establishing diplomatic ties to Cuba. That question has a had a constant rise in favorability, while asking whether or not Cuba was a serious threat had a constant decrease. In a separate question by Gallup, "Do you favor or oppose re-establishing diplomatic relationships with Cuba?"

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Chapter 2 : Monthly Review | Why Cuba Still Matters

*Cuba Cannot Export Revolution, Nor Can The United States Prevent It: Speech, Santiago de Cuba, January 1, [Fidel Castro] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

International October 3, In an exclusive interview, Mr. As the interview focuses mainly on the international relations of Cuba, before going further, I want you to give our readers a better perspective on the regional characteristics of Latin America and the position of Cuba in the region. Latin America refers to the regions of America where Latin languages are spoken, specifically Spanish, French and Portuguese. The region comprises more than 21 million km² of surface area. It has a great geographical and biological diversity, practically all climates. It has some of the largest rivers in the world and important food, energy and mineral resources, including its oil, copper, lithium and silver deposits. Cuba is an archipelago of the Caribbean Sea. Due to its geographical position at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico, since colonial times it has been known as "The key of the Gulf". It is the largest island in the Greater Antilles. It has an area of almost thousand km² and Cuba maintains relations with countries and embassies in. It also has consular offices and Cuban Associations in 78 countries. In Cuba there are foreign Embassies. Meanwhile, the White House is relaxing some restrictions on exports to private Cuban businesses and embassies are still open, however vacant. What is behind this double standard approach? I do not think there is a double standard. There is only one, clearly defined by the US government 58 years ago, and it maintains an absolute validity, it seemed to be said five minutes ago, I quote: There is no effective political opposition. The only possible means to annihilate internal support [to the regime] is to provoke disappointment and discouragement through economic dissatisfaction and hardship. We must weaken economic life in Cuba. One measure that could have a very strong impact would be to deny all financing and deliveries to Cuba, which would reduce monetary income and real wages and provoke hunger, despair and the overthrow of the government" During the Obama administration the blockade was maintained with a strong rigor, even set records in fines to international financial institutions for their relations with publicly owned banks or Cuban companies, for a value of almost 14 thousand million USD, and continued to prevent to these the dollar use. It is true that almost the few economic reliefs related to Cuba adopted by Obama were directed to the private sector, but most of this did not escape, nor escapes, the effects of the Blockade. The Blockade affects all of us. It is the most unjust, severe and prolonged system of unilateral sanctions that has been applied against any country, and I can assure you that it is the main obstacle to the development of the Cuban economy and the full enjoyment of all the human rights of all the Cuban people. The adoption by President Trump of the "Presidential National Security Memorandum on Strengthening US Policy towards Cuba " June 16, , endorsed among its objectives the reinforcement of the blockade against the island and represented a serious setback to bilateral relations with Cuba. Subsequently, the regulations to which you refer November of the Treasury, State and Commerce Departments, imposed additional obstacles to the limited opportunities of the North American business sector in Cuba and restricted the right of its citizens to travel to the Island. These measures not only affect the Cuban state economy, but also the non-state sector of the country. With Trump, the permanent persecution of Cuban financial transactions and our banking and credit operations on a global scale has continued, causing serious damage to our economy, in particular, to the commercial activities of Cuban companies and banks in their links with international banking. In dozens of banks in all regions of the world decided to close their relations with Cuban or foreign companies, to eliminate any link of their activity with Cuba, even operations with Cuban citizens just because they have that nationality. The United States must end the blockade unilaterally and unconditionally. In favor of the lifting of the blockade and the normalization of relations between the two countries, the majority support on behalf of the American public has been expressed, of the international community and of Cuban emigration in the USA. The empire has ignored it. On October 31, , we will denounce the resurgence of this policy and we will present once again, before the General Assembly of the

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United Nations, the draft resolution entitled "Need to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States against Cuba ". We will not renounce our principles nor will we stop claiming the total elimination of the blockade. Some experts believe that by returning to the cold war policy, Trump lost the opportunity that brought a historic change in the leadership of Cuba. What is your opinion on this matter? We go by part and I will organize the answer in chronological order. Obama wrote a unique chapter in the history of Cuba - United States relations. The trips of US citizens to Cuba were authorized, although not to do tourism, within a people-to-people policy that seeks to influence Cubans but also transforms perceptions about Cuba into American society. In addition to the bilateral impact, there was an impact on US allies that decided then to rapprochement with Cuba. In April , Barack Obama visited Havana. His communication strategy insisted mainly on two objectives: Erase the idea of the United States as an adversary of the Cubans in other words, erase our history and emphasize internal causes as the source of the daily difficulties that Cubans face. Of all this he spoke without taking into account the blockade, much less the growing political, economic and military aggression of his administration against Venezuela, the country that had the largest trade with Cuba at that time, and declared it as an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to the national security of the US, increased the financial harassment economic war , and increased its open support for the opposition violence that sought to take the government of Nicolas Maduro. Obama elaborated on the changes his government wanted to see in Cuba, seeking to increase pressure from the bottom up. In spite of everything, with new and old challenges, Venezuela and Cuba are still standing, and will be. You talk about the change of the historical leadership of Cuba. I can tell you that if any feature distinguishes more the current President and Cuban government is continuity. Cuba "will not make concessions against its sovereignty and independence, will not negotiate principles, nor will it accept conditions. Our goal is to give continuity to the Revolution that began on January 1, I assume this responsibility with the conviction that every Cuban, from the position we occupy, will be faithful to the example of the historical leader of the Revolution, Fidel Castro, and his comrade Raul Castro. In times like these, Cuba expects us to be like the historical generation, who were able to fight all the battles". That is, the election of a new President and a new Council of Ministers did not give Trump any opportunity other than the one he already had and has. He has really wasted any opportunity, increasing the sanctions on Cuba, returning to a very aggressive, disrespectful, disqualifying rhetoric, with abundant falsehoods and a strong dose of ignorance. At the end of your question you mentioned human rights. It could be a topic for another interview. A few months ago it happened to me to speak with the ambassador of Nicaragua. We discussed a number of issues, including the current crisis in Nicaragua, the economic war against Venezuela and foreign fingerprints on all the turmoil in Latin America. It addresses in a broad, detailed, critical and above all very self-critical, the current situation in Latin America, US policy towards it, the complicity of the neoliberal oligarchies, the problems of the left, etc. Latin America and the Caribbean people live today, again, under the effects of a multifaceted counterrevolutionary offensive, the fruit of convergent interests and combined efforts between the world elites of transnational capitalism, the US government as its hegemonic nucleus, as well as the oligarchic fractions and the dependent bourgeoisies of our region, which suffer again the inequalities resulting from the restored neo-liberal policies. The political and social setbacks in some countries show this dramatically. Undoubtedly, the current US administration has increased its interventionism in Latin America. I speak of a very dangerous interventionism, with a presence of 76 military bases, support for military and judicial coups, as well as persecutions against presidents and former presidents, attempted assassination of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, sanctions and economic blockades, the use of the discredited OAS against progressive governments, the cultural war, support for ultraconservative, neoliberal and corrupt figures. Efforts are perceived to encourage division and submission among Latin American governments, create alliances against progressive governments, demobilize politically the social and popular sectors and movements, promote the supposed non-viability of socialism or the application of social justice policies from the States, the strengthening of non-governmental initiatives, anti-systemic campaigns, the cooperation of judicial powers with organizations controlled by Washington to

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wage a selective and brutal war against the left in the region. What is behind all this is to completely reverse the gains made by the popular governments and with anti-imperialist projections in the last decades, and to assure the imperial, domination, expansionist and predatory interests of the USA in our region. Despite the efforts of the United States to make the puppet states of Latin American countries, independent states such as Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua managed to survive. Even after a decade, we are witnessing the emergence of a leftist movement in Mexico. What are the reasons behind the popularity and, of course, the recent failure of some socialist governments? The counterrevolutionary, imperialist and oligarchic offensive has done a great deal of damage to the forces of the left, which have not considered, have not known or have not been able to identify and resolve their own mistakes and inadequacies. The divisions in the popular field are undeniable when facing the restored neoliberal agendas; the abstentionism and disdain for politics favor the plans of the right in important countries of the region, and the public strengthening of fascist figures and projects in several countries. There have been defeatist attitudes, sponsorship or tolerance of personalism and sectarianism, loss of confidence in the political capacity of our exploited peoples. This not only constitutes an affront to the heroes and martyrs of the struggles for the emancipation of our continent, but is a gratuitous and unnecessary concession to the US, its allies in the world and in the region. This reality explains in a fundamental degree the adverse change in the correlation of forces prevailing today. The cases of the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela, the Sandinista of Nicaragua and the Cuban socialist are the result of long processes of struggle, in which the people have been liberated and dignified, have received important benefits from social programs, have been winning political consciousness and unity. A political direction has been forged and consolidated, with an important popular root. Unity, consciousness, leaderships are very important keys. The recent visit of the Russian warship to the port of Havana, the oil trade of Rosneft to Cuba and the rumor that Russia is behind the "sonic attack" against US diplomats in Cuba. The relations between Cuba and Russia are excellent, and are based on traditional ties of friendship between the peoples of both countries. They register a growing positive trend in areas of common interest, among which the high-level political dialogue, the economic-commercial and scientific-technical relations, as well as the cultural and educational one stand out. It is known that we maintain a high level of agreement in the vision towards different topics of the international agenda, the defense of peace and the role of international organizations. Something similar happens in our relations with China. As for the alleged incidents with the American diplomatic personnel in Havana, I can assure you that Cuba has no responsibility in them and that the US lies deliberately about it. There is not the least evidence of the occurrence of the alleged incidents. Cuba rigorously fulfills its obligations regarding the protection of foreign diplomats, without exception. Anti-Cuban elements in the US have politically manipulated this issue with the purpose of reversing relations between the two countries. Its hasty, unfounded and unacceptable decisions have seriously affected the functioning of embassies and ties, including official dialogue, bilateral cooperation, exchanges, travel of Americans to Cuba and family visits. There is a media agenda to keep the public attentive to this issue. I do not know how far they want to go with this. They are experts in fabricating pretexts to start conflicts. First was the theory of sonic attacks, then viral, and now with microwaves. Tomorrow we do not know what it will be. Everything is false and absurd. There is no scientific evidence, nor seriousness in what they say. Against Russia have been many campaigns. Every day is in the news. They do not know what they are going to say or invent. The truth is that Russia is making a huge contribution to the global balance, to avoid a unipolar world and that bothers some sectors of power in the US. What is your reaction to the news? The use of force and assassination are desperate options, which have never been outside the agenda of US policy.

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Chapter 3 : The Problem of Cuba and its Revolutionary Policy

Cuba cannot export revolution, nor can the United States prevent it: speech Santiago de Cuba, January 1, by: Castro, Fidel Published: () The roots of the modern American empire. A study of the growth and shaping of social consciousness in a marketplace society.

January 6, 1959, The revolution led to a power vacuum that was quickly filled by the powerful and long-lived dictatorship of Fidel Castro. In 1959, Cuba was at the top among Latin American nations in terms of the number of newspapers, TV stations, TV sets, telephones, and automobiles per capita; today, it is at the bottom. Cuba is a developmental anomaly. It has some of the highest numbers in average years of schooling in the world as is typical in totalitarian states, but also has one of the lowest economic growth rates in the world. It is hard to find a comparable case: Many blame the U.S. But the embargo has always been offset by the massive subsidies that the Soviet Union provided during the Cold War and that the petro-state of Venezuela has provided since. This year, the government liberalized exit visas though it did not lower the cost of passports, leading to a 35 percent increase in departures relative to 1959. So far, only 45 percent of those who managed to "travel abroad" have decided to return. But Cuban doctors often take the order to go abroad happily: These are huge reforms. Today, a record number of Cubans, 1.2 million, to be exact, have obtained self-employment licenses, and a real estate market is burgeoning for the first time since the revolution. From a fiscal point of view, these economic reforms have been successful: Therefore, rather than boosting the private sector with further reforms, the government is holding fast to restrictive policies. Key areas of the economy remain closed to competition. Self-employment is still banned in most professions that require advanced skills, such as engineering, architecture, software development, and the medical sciences. Large-scale hiring is prohibited, so private enterprise is limited to micro firms and family businesses. Credit for the private sector is virtually non-existent. The self-employed continue to be overregulated; many are closing their businesses because they cannot afford taxes or find enough customers, since the bulk of the population is still employed by the state and receives meager wages. Consequently, the self-employed sector remains far below the goal of 10 percent. He has expanded the freedom of expression in a number of decrees that liberalize access to cell phones and the Internet, major steps in the expansion of speech opportunities. Earlier in 1959, he said this would be his last term, which means that he intends to leave office in 1960. And internationally, Cuba is fully cooperating with peace talks in Colombia, a process that is vital for U.S. Arbitrary detentions have increased from 2, in 1959, to more than 5, in 1960. The state arrested more than 100 human rights activists in October alone. Politically, therefore, Cuba is not moving forward, but backwards. Maintaining his old-line roots, the Cuban president also continues to privilege the military over any other sector. In fact, he is openly supportive of it. Just this year, the government launched the construction of three new "military cities," state-of-the-art housing development projects for members of the Armed Forces. In political science, we are not that surprised by duality. From Russia to China to the Arab World, new leaders often emerge who try to act simultaneously as reformers and old-liners, hoping to overhaul the status quo while maintaining the main elements of the existing regime. While political scientists expect one side to prevail, they are used to the idea of conflicted leaders. But in Washington, this duality only worsens the divide between those who favor rapprochement and those who oppose it. The result is a continued impasse in U.S. But he also said this: His duty as supreme leader of Cuba, he once affirmed, is to ensure the survival of the system. While it is common for leaders to want to be reformers and old-liners at the same time, they eventually select one approach over the other. Reforms have a tendency to be self-generating:

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Chapter 4 : Cuban Revolution (by L. Proyect)

Cuba And the United States have a trading relationship. Cuba and the United States restored diplomatic relations on 20 July , which had been severed in during the Cold War.

American Interests in the Cuban Revolution Source: It is difficult to perceive that any progress has thus far been made toward the pacification of the island or that the situation of affairs as depicted in my last annual message has in the least improved. If Spain still holds Havana and the seaports and all the considerable towns, the insurgents still roam at will over at least two-thirds of the inland country. If the determination of Spain to put down the insurrection seems but to strengthen with the lapse of time and is evinced by her unhesitating devotion of largely increased military and naval forces to the task, there is much reason to believe that the insurgents have gained in point of numbers and character and resources, and are none the less inflexible in their resolve not to succumb without practically securing the great objects for which they took up arms. If Spain has not yet reestablished her authority, neither have the insurgents yet made good their title to be regarded as an independent state. Indeed, as the contest has gone on, the pretense that civil government exists on the island, except so far as Spain is able to maintain it, has been practically abandoned. Spain does keep on foot such a government, more or less imperfectly, in the large towns and their immediate suburbs. But, that exception being made, the entire country is either given over to anarchy or is subject to the military occupation of one or the other party. It is reported, indeed, on reliable authority that, at the demand of the commander in chief of the insurgent army, the putative Cuban government has now given up all attempt to exercise its functions, leaving that government confessedly what there is the best reason for supposing it always to have been in fact a government merely on paper. Were the Spanish armies able to meet their antagonists in the open or in pitched battle, prompt and decisive results might be looked for and the immense superiority of the Spanish forces in numbers, discipline, and equipment could hardly fail to tell greatly to their advantage. But they are called upon to face a foe that shuns general engagements, that can choose and does choose its own ground, that, from the nature of the country, is visible or invisible at pleasure, and that fights only from ambush and when all the advantages of position and numbers are on its side. In a country where all that is indispensable to life in the way of food, clothing, and shelter is so easily obtainable, especially by those born and bred on the soil, it is obvious that there is hardly a limit to the time during which hostilities of this sort may be prolonged. Meanwhile, as in all cases of protracted civil strife, the passions of the combatants grow more and more inflamed, and excesses on both sides become more frequent and more deplorable. They are also participated in by bands of marauders, who, now in the name of one party and now in the name of the other, as may best suit the occasion, harry the country at will and plunder its wretched inhabitants for their own advantage. Such a condition of things would inevitably entail immense destruction of property, even if it were the policy of both parties to prevent it as far as practicable. But while such seemed to be the original policy of the Spanish government, it has now apparently abandoned it and is acting upon the same theory as the insurgents, namely, that the exigencies of the contest require the wholesale annihilation of property that it may not prove of use and advantage to the enemy. It is to the same end that, in pursuance of general orders, Spanish garrisons are now being withdrawn from plantations and the rural population required to concentrate itself in the towns. The sure result would seem to be that the industrial value of the island is fast diminishing, and that unless there is a speedy and radical change in existing conditions, it will soon disappear altogether. That value consists very largely, of course, in its capacity to produce sugar - a capacity already much reduced by the interruptions to tillage which have taken place during the last two years. It is reliably asserted that should these interruptions continue during the current year and practically extend, as is now threatened, to the entire sugar-producing territory of the island, so much time and so much money will be required to restore the land to its normal productiveness that it is extremely doubtful if capital can be induced to even make the attempt. The spectacle of the utter ruin of an adjoining country, by nature one of the most fertile and charming

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on the globe, would engage the serious attention of the government and people of the United States in any circumstances. In point of fact, they have a concern with it which is by no means of a wholly sentimental or philanthropic character. It lies so near to us as to be hardly separated from our territory. Our actual pecuniary interest in it is second only to that of the people and government of Spain. Besides this large pecuniary stake in the fortunes of Cuba, the United States finds itself inextricably involved in the present contest in other ways, both vexatious and costly. Many Cubans reside in this country and indirectly promote the insurrection through the press, by public meetings, by the purchase and shipment of arms, by the raising of funds, and by other means, which the spirit of our institutions and the tenor of our laws do not permit to be made the subject of criminal prosecutions. Some of them, though Cubans at heart and in all their feelings and interests, have taken out papers as naturalized citizens of the United States, a proceeding resorted to with a view to possible protection by this government and not unnaturally regarded with much indignation by the country of their origin. The insurgents are undoubtedly encouraged and supported by the widespread sympathy the people of this country always and instinctively feel for every struggle for better and freer government and which, in the case of the more adventurous and restless elements of our population, leads in only too many instances to active and personal participation in the contest. The result is that this government is constantly called upon to protect American citizens, to claim damages for injuries to persons and property, now estimated at many millions of dollars, and to ask explanations and apologies for the acts of Spanish officials, whose zeal for the repression of rebellion sometimes blinds them to the immunities belonging to the unoffending citizens of a friendly power. It follows from the same causes that the United States is compelled to actively police a long line of seacoast against unlawful expeditions, the escape of which the utmost vigilance will not always suffice to prevent. These inevitable entanglements of the United States with the rebellion in Cuba, the large American property interests affected, and considerations of philanthropy and humanity in general, have led to a vehement demand in various quarters for some sort of positive intervention on the part of the United States. It was at first proposed that belligerent rights should be accorded to the insurgents - a proposition no longer urged because untimely and in practical operation clearly perilous and injurious to our own interests. It has since been and is now sometimes contended that the independence of the insurgents should be recognized. But imperfect and restricted as the Spanish government of the island may be, no other exists there - unless the will of the military officer in temporary command of a particular district can be dignified as a species of government. It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the island - a suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidence of a desire or willingness on the part of Spain to entertain such a proposal. It is urged, finally, that, all other methods failing, the existing internecine strife in Cuba should be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of a war between the United States and Spain - a war which its advocates confidently prophesy could be neither large in its proportions nor doubtful in its issue. The correctness of this forecast need be neither affirmed nor denied. The United States has nevertheless a character to maintain as a nation, which plainly dictates that right and not might should be the rule of its conduct. Further, though the United States is not a nation to which peace is a necessity, it is in truth the most pacific of powers and desires nothing so much as to live in amity with all the world. Its own ample and diversified domains satisfy all possible longings for territory, preclude all dreams of conquest, and prevent any casting of covetous eyes upon neighboring regions, however attractive. That our conduct toward Spain and her dominions has constituted no exception to this national disposition is made manifest by the course of our government, not only thus far during the present insurrection but during the ten years that followed the rising at Yara in No other great power, it may safely be said, under circumstances of similar perplexity, would have manifested the same restraint and the same patient endurance. It may also be said that this persistent attitude of the United States toward Spain in connection with Cuba unquestionably evinces no slight respect and regard for Spain on the part of the American people. They in truth do not forget her connection with the discovery of the Western Hemisphere, nor do they underestimate the great qualities of the Spanish people, nor fail to fully recognize their splendid patriotism and their chivalrous devotion to the national honor. They view with

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wonder and admiration the cheerful resolution with which vast bodies of men are sent across thousands of miles of ocean, and an enormous debt accumulated, that the costly possession of the Gem of the Antilles may still hold its place in the Spanish Crown. And yet neither the government nor the people of the United States have shut their eyes to the course of events in Cuba or have failed to realize the existence of conceded grievances, which have led to the present revolt from the authority of Spain - grievances recognized by the queen regent and by the Cortes, voiced by the most patriotic and enlightened of Spanish statesmen, without regard to party, and demonstrated by reforms proposed by the executive and approved by the legislative branch of the Spanish government. It is in the assumed temper and disposition of the Spanish government to remedy these grievances, fortified by indications of influential public opinion in Spain, that this government has hoped to discover the most promising and effective means of composing the present strife, with honor and advantage to Spain and with the achievement of all the reasonable objects of the insurrection. It would seem that if Spain should offer to Cuba genuine autonomy - a measure of home rule which, while preserving the sovereignty of Spain, would satisfy all rational requirements of her Spanish subjects - there should be no just reason why the pacification of the island might not be effected on that basis. Such a result would appear to be in the true interest of all concerned. It would at once stop the conflict. It would keep intact the possessions of Spain without touching her honor, which will be consulted rather than impugned by the adequate redress of admitted grievances. It would put the prosperity of the island and the fortunes of its inhabitants within their own control without severing the natural and ancient ties which bind them to the mother country, and would yet enable them to test their capacity for self-government under the most favorable conditions. It has been objected, on the one side, that Spain should not promise autonomy until her insurgent subjects lay down their arms; on the other side, that promised autonomy, however liberal, is insufficient, because without assurance of the promise being fulfilled. But the reasonableness of a requirement by Spain of unconditional surrender on the part of the insurgent Cubans before their autonomy is conceded is not altogether apparent. Facing such circumstances, to withhold the proffer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at mercy by throwing down their arms has the appearance of neglecting the gravest of perils. Finally such circumstances, to withhold the proffer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at mercy by throwing down their arms has the appearance of neglecting the gravest of perils and inviting suspicion as to the sincerity of any professed willingness to grant reforms. The objection on behalf of the insurgents - that promised reforms cannot be relied upon - must of course be considered, though we have no right to assume, and no reason for assuming, that anything Spain undertakes to do for the relief of Cuba, will not be done according to both the spirit and the letter of the undertaking. Nevertheless, realizing that suspicions and precautions on the part of the weaker of two combatants are always natural and not always unjustifiable, being sincerely desirous in the interest of both as well as on its own account that the Cuban problem should be solved with the least possible delay, it was intimated by this government to the government of Spain some months ago that, if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents and would be accepted by them upon a guarantee of its execution, the United States would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guarantee. While no definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish government, it is believed to be not altogether unwelcome, while, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents. Neither party can fail to see the importance of early action, and both must realize that to prolong the present state of things for even a short period will add enormously to the time and labor and expenditure necessary to bring about the industrial recuperation of the island. It is therefore fervently hoped on all grounds that earnest efforts for healing the breach between Spain and the insurgent Cubans, upon the lines above indicated, may be at once inaugurated and pushed to an immediate and successful issue. Whatever circumstances may arise, our policy and our interests would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other power. It should be added that it cannot be reasonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United States will be indefinitely maintained. While we are anxious to accord all due respect to the

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sovereignty of Spain, we cannot view the pending conflict in all its features and properly apprehend our inevitably close relations to it and its possible results without considering that, by the course of events, we may be drawn into such an unusual and unprecedented condition as will fix a limit to our patient waiting for Spain to end the contest, either alone and in her own way or with our friendly cooperation. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its reestablishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge. Deferring the choice of ways and methods until the time for action arrives, we should make them depend upon the precise conditions then existing; and they should not be determined upon without giving careful heed to every consideration involving our honor and interest or the international duty we owe to Spain. Until we face the contingencies suggested, or the situation is by other incidents imperatively changed, we should continue in the line of conduct heretofore pursued, thus in all circumstances exhibiting our obedience to the requirements of public law and our regard for the duty enjoined upon us by the position we occupy in the family of nations. A contemplation of emergencies that may arise should plainly lead us to avoid their creation, either through a careless disregard of present duty or even an undue stimulation and ill-timed expression of feeling. But I have deemed it not amiss to remind the Congress that a time may arrive when a correct policy and care for our interests, as well as a regard for the interests of other nations and their citizens, joined by considerations of humanity and a desire to see a rich and fertile country, intimately related to us, saved from complete devastation, will constrain our government to such action as will subserve the interests thus involved and at the same time promise to Cuba and its inhabitants an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of peace.

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Chapter 5 : Will History Absolve Fidel Castro? – Foreign Policy

Some countries, including India and Japan, have been discussing the need for an alternative financial system so that they can do trade with countries that are sanctioned by the United States.

September 26, at the U. Brian Baggins Online Version: Castro Internet Archive marxists. Fidel Castro at the U. General Assembly, September Issued by the Embassy of Cuba, Colombo. President, Fellow Delegates Although it has been said of us that we speak at great length, you may rest assured that we shall endeavor to be brief and to put before you what we consider it our duty to say. We shall also speak slowly in order to co-operate with the interpreters. Some people may think that we are very annoyed and upset by the treatment the Cuban delegation has received. This is not the case. We understand full well the reasons behind it. That is why we are not irritated. Nor should anybody worry that Cuba will not continue to the effort of achieving a worldwide understanding. That being so, we shall speak openly. It is extremely expensive to send a delegation to the United Nations. We, the underdeveloped countries, do not have many resources to spend, unless it is to speak openly at this meeting of representatives of almost every country in the world. The speakers who have preceded me on this rostrum have expressed their concern about problems the whole world is concerned about. We too are concerned about those problems and yet, in the case of Cuba, there is a very special circumstance, and it is that, at this moment, Cuba itself must be a concern for the world, because, as several delegates have rightly said here, among the many current problems of the world, there is the problem of Cuba. In addition to the problems facing the world today, Cuba has problems of her own, problems which worry her people. Much has been said of the universal desire for peace, which is the desire of all peoples and, therefore, the desire of our people too, but the peace which the world wishes to preserve is the peace that we Cuban have been missing for quite some time. The dangers that other peoples of the world can regard as more or less remote are dangers and preoccupations that for us are very close. It has not been easy to come to this Assembly to state the problems of Cuba. It has not been easy for us to come here. I do not know whether we are privileged in this respect. Are we, the Cuban delegates, the representatives of the worst type of Government in the world? Do we, the representatives of the Cuban delegation, deserve the maltreatment we have received? And why our delegation? Cuba has sent many delegations to the United Nations, and yet it was we who were singled out for such exceptional measures: Perhaps not one among you, fellow delegates, you, who are not the individual representatives of anybody, but the representatives of your respective countries and, for that reason, whatever happens to each of you must concern you because of what you represent, perhaps not one among you, upon your arrival in this city of New York, has had to under go such personally and physically humiliating treatment as that which the President of Cuban delegation has received. I am not trying to agitate in this Assembly. I am merely telling the truth. It is about time we had an opportunity to speak. Much has been said about us for many days now, the newspapers have referred to us, but we have remained silent. We cannot defend ourselves from such attacks in this country. Our day to state the truth has come, and we will not fail to state it. As I have said, we had to undergo degrading and humiliating treatment, including eviction from the hotel in which we were living and efforts at extortion. When we went to another hotel, we did all in our power to avoid difficulties. We refrained from leaving our hotel rooms and went nowhere except to this assembly hall of the United Nations, on the few occasions when we have come to General Assembly. We also accepted an invitation to a reception at the Soviet Embassy, yet this was not enough for them to leave us in peace. There has been considerable Cuban emigration to this country. There are more than one hundred thousand Cubans who have come to this country during the last twenty years. They have come to this country from their own land, where they would have liked to remain for ever, and where they wish to return, as is always the case with those who, for social or economic reasons, are forced to abandon their homeland. These Cubans were wholly devoted to their work; they respected and respect the laws of this country, but they naturally harbored a feeling of love for their native country and its Revolution. They never had any problems, but one day another type of

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visitor began to arrive in this country, individuals who in some cases had murdered hundreds of our compatriots. Soon they were encouraged by publicity here. The authorities received them warmly and soon encouraged them, and, naturally, that encouragement is reflected in their conduct. They provoke frequent incidents with the Cuban population which has worked honestly in this country for many years. One of such incidents, provoked by those who feel supported by the systematic campaigns against Cuba and by the authorities, caused the death of a child. That was a lamentable event, and we should all regret such an event. The guilty ones were not the Cubans who lived here. The guilty ones were, even less, we, the members of the Cuban delegation, and yet undoubtedly, you have all seen the headlines of the newspapers, which stated that "pro-Castro groups" had killed a ten-year old girl. With the characteristic hypocrisy of those who have a say in the relations between Cuba and this country, a spokesman for the White House immediately made declarations to the world pointing out the deed, in fact, almost fixing the guilt on the Cuban delegation. But that was not all. When we were forced to leave one of the hotels in this city, and came to the United National Headquarters while efforts were being made to find accommodation for us, a hotel, a humble hotel of this city, a Negro hotel in Harlem, offered to rent us rooms [where Castro met Malcolm X]. The reply came when we were speaking to the Secretary General. Nevertheless, an official of the State Department did all in his power to prevent our staying at that hotel. At that moment, as though by magic, hotels began appearing all over New York. Hotels which had previously refused lodgings to the Cuban delegation offered us rooms, even free of charge. Out of simple reciprocity we accepted the Harlem hotel. We felt then that we had earned the right to be left in peace. But peace was not accorded us. Once in Harlem, since it was impossible to prevent us from living there, the slander and defamation campaigns began. They began spreading the news all over the world that the Cuban delegation had lodged in a brothel. For some humble hotel in Harlem, a hotel inhabited by Negroes of the United States, must obviously be a brothel. Furthermore, they have tried to heap infamy upon the Cuban delegation, without even respecting the female members who work with us and are a part of the Cuban delegation. If we were the kind of men they try to depict at all costs, imperialism would not have lost all hope, as it did long ago, of somehow buying or seducing us. But, since they lost that hope a long time ago "though they never had reasons to sustain it" after having stated that the Cuban delegation lodged in a brothel, they should at least realize that imperialist financial capital is a prostitute that cannot seduce us and not precisely the "respectful" type of prostitute described by Jean Paul Sarte. Now, to the problem of Cuba. Perhaps some of you are well aware of the facts, perhaps others are not. It all depends on the sources of information, but, undoubtedly, the problem of Cuba, born within the last two years, is a new problem for the world. The world had not had many reasons to know that Cuba existed. For many, Cuba was something of an appendix of the United States. Even for many citizens of this country, Cuba was a colony of the United States. As far as the map was concerned, this we not the case: But in reality Cuba was a colony of the United States. How did our country became a colony of the United States? It was not because of its origins; the same men did not colonize the United States and Cuba. Cuba has a very different ethnical and cultural origin, and the difference was widened over the centuries. Cuba was the last country in America to free itself from Spanish colonial rule, to cast off, with due respect to the representative of Spain, the Spanish colonial yoke; and because it was the last, it also had to fight more fiercely. Spain had only one small possession left in America and it defended it with tooth and nail. Our people, small in numbers, scarcely a million inhabitants at that time, had to face alone, for almost thirty years, an army considered one of the strongest in Europe. Against our small national population the Spanish Government mobilized an army as big as the total forces that had fought against South American independence. Half a million Spanish soldiers fought against the historic and unbreakable will of our people to be free. For thirty years the Cubans fought alone for their independence; thirty years of struggle that strengthened our love for freedom and independence. But Cuba was a fruit "according to the opinion of a President of the United States at the beginning of the past century, John Adams", it was an apple hanging from the Spanish tree, destined to fall, as soon as it was ripe enough, into the hands of the United States. Spanish power had worn itself out in our country. Spain had neither the men nor

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the economic resources to continue the war in Cuba; Spain had been defeated. Apparently the apple was ripe, and the United States Government held out its open hands. Not one but several apples fell in to the hands of the United States. Puerto Rico fell — heroic Puerto Rico, which had begun its struggle for independence at the same time as Cuba. The Philippine Islands fell, and several other possessions. However, the method of dominating our country could not be the same. Our country had struggled fiercely, and thus had gained the favor of world public opinion. Therefore the method of taking our country had to be different. The Cubans who fought for our independence and at that very moment were giving their blood and their lives believed in good faith in the joint resolution of the Congress of the United States of April 20, , which declared that "Cuba is, and by right ought to be, free and independent. That joint declaration was a law adopted by the Congress of the United States through which war was declared on Spain. But that illusion was followed by a rude awakening. After two years of military occupation of our country, the unexpected happened: Our legislators were clearly told that if they did not accept the amendment, the occupation forces would not be withdrawn.

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Chapter 6 : Healthcare in Cuba - Wikipedia

In a speech to the National Assembly last July, Castro blasted Trump's posture, saying, "Cuba and the United States can cooperate and live side by side, respecting their differences.

This was comparable to the levels in many European countries and allegedly the highest in Latin America. That year the United States had physicians and 54 dentists per , population; the Central American isthmus had physicians and 30 dentists per , The rate is still among the highest in Latin America. In the mids, when little was known about the virus, Cuba compulsorily tested thousands of its citizens for HIV. Those who tested positive were taken to Los Cocos and were not allowed to leave. The policy drew criticism from the United Nations and was discontinued in the s. Since Cuba began the production of generic anti-retroviral drugs reducing the costs to well below that of developing countries. This has been made possible through the substantial government subsidies to treatment. All pregnant women are tested for HIV, and those testing positive receive antiretroviral drugs. In Cuba, the medical university is not a separate entity from health services, but it exists within the system. Medical and nursing students mentor and intern within the national system from the first years of their training, [51] specifically within primary care facilities rather than hospitals. This creates a community-based teaching method rather than a typical hospital-based teaching method. Here, students are exposed to medicine and the social, economical, and political factors that influence health. Students graduate capable of resolving health issues and knowing when to report to a person higher in the healthcare pyramid. Students graduate with a commitment to providing and preserving quality and equity within healthcare for their communities. Cuban medical internationalism Cuba provides more medical personnel to the developing world than all the G8 countries combined. Since , this collaboration has played a very important role in that Cuba, in addition to obtaining the benefits of being a member country, has strengthened its relations with institutions of excellence and has been able to disseminate some of its own advances and technologies [55] Cuban doctors have been part of a large-scale plan by the Cuban state to provide free medical aid and services to the international community especially third world countries following natural disasters. Medical teams have worked in crisis such as the South Asian tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake. Cuba has been serving health tourists from around the world for more than 20 years. The country operates a special division of hospitals specifically for the treatment of foreigners and diplomats. Most patients are from Latin America, Europe and Canada, and a growing number of Americans also are coming. By , according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cuban health sector had risen to occupy around 2 percent of total tourism. Some of these revenues are in turn transferred to health care for ordinary Cubans, although the size and importance of these transfers is both unknown and controversial. MEDICC Review is an English language journal which works to bring Cuban medical and public health policy, research, programs, and outcomes to the attention of the global health community. The Center of molecular immunology CIM developed nimotuzumab , a monoclonal antibody used to treat cancer. Nimotuzumab is an inhibitor of epidermal growth factor receptor EGFR , which is over-expressed in many cancers. Nimotuzumab is now being developed with international partners. This is important because countries with high incidence of polio are now using live oral poliovirus vaccine. When polio is eliminated in a country, they must stop using the live vaccine, because it has a slight risk of reverting to the dangerous form of polio. The collaborative group found that when polio is eliminated in a population, they could safely switch to killed vaccine and be protected from recurrent epidemics. Cuba has been free of polio since , but continues with mass immunization campaigns. The Cuban vaccine is used throughout Latin America. After outbreaks of meningitis B in the United States, the U. Treasury Department granted a license in to an American subsidiary of the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham to enter into a deal to develop the vaccine for use in the U. The report noted that "Thanks chiefly to the American economic blockade, but partly also to the web of strange rules and regulations that constrict Cuban life, the economy is in a terrible mess: Its doctor-to-patient

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ratios stand comparison to any country in Western Europe. Butler , who was president of the International Longevity Center in New York and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author on aging, traveled to Cuba to see firsthand how doctors were trained. He said a principal reason that some health standards in Cuba approach the high American level is that the Cuban system emphasizes early intervention. Clinic visits are free, and the focus is on preventing disease rather than treating it. The overall conclusion was that many of the features identified would not have occurred had there not been an obvious commitment to health provision demonstrated by the protection and proportion of the budget given the health care. The study concluded the following. By far the biggest difference was the ratio of doctors per person. In Cuba it was one doctor per people, in the UK the figure was one doctor per people. Extensive involvement of "patient" and the public in decision making at all levels. Team-work that works is much more evident both in the community and the hospital sector and the mental-health and care of the elderly sites visited were very well staffed and supported. Low pay of doctors. Poor facilities—buildings in poor state of repair and mostly outdated. Poor provision of equipment. Frequent absence of essential drugs. Concern regarding freedom of choice both for patient and doctor. According to Hirschfeld, "public criticism of the government is a crime in Cuba", which means that "formally eliciting critical narratives about health care would be viewed as a criminal act both for me as a researcher, and for people who spoke openly with me". The most guarded is infant mortality rate. To illustrate this, Hirschfeld describes a case where a doctor said that if the ultrasound examination revealed "some fetal abnormalities", the woman "would have an abortion", to avoid an increase in the infant mortality rate. But, according to Hirshfeld, "the true extent of these practices was virtually unknown in the West", where "social scientists frequently cited favorable health statistics supplied by [these regimes], without critically looking at the ways these were created and maintained by state power". Molina says that following the economic collapse known in Cuba as the Special Period , the Cuban Government established mechanisms designed to turn the medical system into a profit-making enterprise. This creates an enormous disparity in the quality of healthcare services between foreigners and Cubans leading to a form of tourist apartheid. In she said that foreign patients were routinely inadequately or falsely informed about their medical conditions to increase their medical bills or to hide the fact that Cuba often advertises medical services it is unable to provide. Surgeons lack basic supplies and must re-use latex gloves. Patients must buy their own sutures on the black market and provide bedsheets and food for extended hospital stays. It is also suggested that in some cases the local non-dollar stocks have been shipped abroad. State Department has argued that during the economic depression "the Cuban government made a deliberate decision to continue to spend money to maintain its military and internal security apparatus at the expense of other priorities — including healthcare. Budgetary support for peso-denominated spending — i. Attempts to blame medical shortages in Cuba on resource misallocation are thus misguided, or at least wrongly nuanced. In that film, Moore took a number of Americans to a hospital in Havana where they bought affordable drugs, and were given treatments for free that they could not afford in America. The report highlights the dilapidated conditions of some hospitals that are accessible to regular Cubans by pointing to the bleak conditions of hospital rooms and the filthy conditions of the facilities. The report also addressed the quality of care available to Cubans by arguing that patient neglect was a common phenomenon. In the mean monthly salary was pesos, 1. Therefore, some prefer to work in different occupations, for example in the lucrative tourist industry where earnings can be much higher. They are sometimes monitored by the local government in case of defecting. According to former leading Cuban neurosurgeon and dissident Dr Hilda Molina , "The doctors in the hospitals are charging patients under the table for better or quicker service. The harsh economic downturn known as the " Special Period " in the s aggravated these payments. The advent of the "dollar economy", a legalization of the dollar which led some Cubans to receive dollars from their relatives outside of Cuba, meant that a class of Cubans were able to obtain medications and health services that would not be available to them otherwise.

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Chapter 7 : As if they care | World View |calendrierdelascience.com

In a speech for the 50th anniversary of the Revolution, Castro claims the European Union is a Trojan Horse for the United States and Cuba does not need EU aid. Cuba accuses the US of running a "concentration camp" at its Guantanamo Base.

A total of member-nations said Cuba did not deserve this embargo, which began in and has continued unabated to this day. Only two countries – the United States and Israel – voted against the motion. The Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement – both important groupings of the Global South – as well as regional groupings from Africa to Latin America backed the resolution. Last year, the United States strengthened the embargo with an attack on the tourism sector 83 hotels were placed on the banned list. Threats by the United States did not convert the vote of otherwise reliable US allies. Each year since a resolution of this kind has come before the UN General Assembly. Each year the world has overwhelmingly voted against the US embargo. This year was no different. But it is useful. In most countries, neither Trump nor the United States come off well. Seventy percent of the populations in these countries have no confidence in Trump. The same proportion of people believe that the United States does not take the interests of other countries into consideration when moving policies forward. This is evident with the US embargo on Cuba. Neither the people of Canada nor Mexico – the closest neighbors of the United States – have a favorable view of either Trump or the United States. Beyond the Pew poll, it is evident from the atmosphere in the United Nations that the countries of the world – even close US allies – fear US policy on a number of issues. Cuba is a canary in the coal mine. But even clearer is the US policy of ramping up sanctions against Iran. This deal was sanctified by a Security Council resolution. For us, they are steps aimed at unbalancing the world. Even countries with close ties to the United States, such as India and Japan, are against the sanctions. It was clear that China was never going to honor the new US sanctions on Iran. No wonder the United States gave these countries waivers to the sanctions. Some countries, including India and Japan, have been discussing the need for an alternative financial system so that they can do trade with countries that are sanctioned by the United States. Pressure to build alternatives no longer comes from the margins; it comes from Tokyo and New Delhi, from Frankfurt and Seoul. One major casualty of the US sanctions on Iran will be Afghanistan, already ripped apart by almost two decades of war. Of the three, the US was only able to go to war against Iraq, in Pressure for regime change in North Korea was held back by its nuclear-weapons program, while pressure for regime change in Iran continues. He spoke of the right-wing turn in Latin America and the isolation – as far as he was concerned – of socialist governments. Duque has taken Colombia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a sign that the Colombian military will now answer more to Washington than to the Colombian people. In his speech, Bolton threatened the governments in Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Such actions against these countries are not new. The United States invaded Cuba in and held it as a virtual colony until the Cuban Revolution of Pressure on the Cuban Revolution intensified by , with the US forcing an embargo on the island, attempting an invasion of the country and attempting to assassinate the leadership of the revolution. US marines entered Nicaragua in and occupied the country until Sandino was assassinated, and a US-backed dictatorship by the Somoza family ruled the country until That year, the Sandinistas – named after Sandino – overthrew the dictatorship. In response, the US funded the Contras short form for counter-revolutionary forces , who prosecuted a bloody war against the small country. A failed coup in was followed up by various forms of intimidation and sanctions. It is this policy that Trump has since continued. Itchy fingers in the Trump administration are eager to start a shooting war somewhere in Latin America – either Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela. The appetite for this is not there in the United Nations. Nor is it shared in Latin America. But that has never stopped the United States. Disregard for world opinion as well as the opinion of the US citizenry defines the US government. Thirty-six million people around the world, half a million of them in New York City, protested on February 15, , in an attempt to prevent the US war on Iraq. George W

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Bush did not pay attention to them. Each of them said no. Not sure if their opinions count. He is the Executive Director of Tricontinental:

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Chapter 8 : GROVER CLEVELAND: American Interests in the Cuban Revolution

Ultimately, it is undeniable that so long as the United States is actively committed to the overthrow of the revolution, the full and free expression of socialist democracy will be impossible in Cuba; but given the way in which bourgeois elites manipulate liberal polyarchy to prevent any serious challenge to the capitalist system, it is.

Toggle display of website navigation Argument: Will History Absolve Fidel Castro? November 26, , It does not matter. By his own account, he made a revolution in pursuit of two goals: Somewhere in his intellectual development – his own accounts of when varied over the years – he decided that the only road leading to these goals was socialism. He kept that insight to himself as he led a nationalist, anti-authoritarian revolution to triumph over the Batista regime in 1959. He purged Cuba of U.S. Assassination, invasion, and covert war all proved unequal to the task of dislodging him, to the chagrin of Washington policymakers, who could neither understand nor tolerate such defiance in their own backyard. Beginning with radically redistributive economic reforms and culminating in the nationalization of the entire economy, right down to the mom and pop stores on the corner, Castro transformed Cuba into the most egalitarian society in Latin America. Healthcare, education, and social security were declared human rights and provided free to everyone. Income disparities shrank as wage differentials narrowed and basic consumer goods were provided to all through rationing at prices heavily subsidized by the government. But all this came at a cost. Once the direction of the revolution became clear, the upper and middle classes began an historic migration north into exile. In just the first decade of revolutionary government, more than 1 million Cubans fled their homeland. Over the ensuing decades, nearly a million more would follow. A charismatic leader par excellence, he harbored a deep distrust of institutions, believing he was a better judge of the desires and aspirations of the Cuban people than any formal structure. When he decided on a policy, the rest of the leadership dutifully fell into line. Political power, then, was directly correlated with proximity to Fidel. Their meteoric ascendance afforded them no institutional base of support, denied them the political savvy only experience can provide, and imbued them with the hubris of Icarus. None lasted more than a few years. Strengthening institutions has been a constant theme in his public addresses. He dealt ruthlessly with opponents – from Comandante Huber Matos, sentenced to 20 years for treason in 1961 for his anti-communism, to 75 dissidents imprisoned for subversion in 1962 for accepting aid from the United States. Maintaining tight political control allowed Fidel to survive dozens of assassination attempts and half a century of U.S. But the very real threat from the United States became the rationale for a perpetual national security state that suppressed traditional civil and political liberties, and rewarded conformity. The absence of an independent press, political parties, and civil society associations left the state without the self-correcting mechanisms of a pluralist democratic society. A series of policy disasters followed. Predictably, many people simply stopped coming to work; productivity plummeted. In the following decade, that policy was replaced by a model of centralized socialist planning imported from the Soviet Union, based on material incentives. With it came all the distortions typical of that model, including a surge in corruption. Although the experience of the 1960s forced Castro to acknowledge that Cubans were not ready to act like selfless citizens in a Marxist utopia, he could never reconcile himself to relying on markets. The inevitable social inequalities that markets produce, even in a state-owned economy, were simply anathema to his vision of social justice. And once again, the economy stagnated as a result. The resulting shortages of raw materials like fuel and fertilizer caused huge production losses in both manufacturing and agriculture, triggering a downward economic spiral. Between 1960 and 1970, gross domestic product fell 35 percent, and real wages fell by even more. Consumer goods of all types disappeared from store shelves, and people went hungry. The government eased restrictions on direct foreign investment to attract the capital needed to modernize the tourist industry, and legalized the possession of dollars, encouraging Cuban Americans to send remittances. But Fidel was never comfortable with these reforms, regarding them as strictly temporary. As the economy gradually recovered in the late 1970s, he scaled back the market-oriented reforms. Although it had been growing since the 1960s, the gains

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were concentrated in tourism and the export of medical services. The actual production of goods on the island still lagged below levels, and many state enterprises operated at a loss. Never five, much less six or seven as we have sometimes pretended. The price of freeing Cuba from U. Bush at the end of the Cold War. Beyond the Western hemisphere, Castro supported anti-colonial struggles in Africa and Asia. Cuban arms and military advisers bolstered independence movements against colonialism and white minority rule in southern Africa, and when South Africa invaded Angola in to install a puppet regime, Cuba sent 30, troops to drive the South Africans back across the border. It was sometimes a difficult balancing act. In , when Jimmy Carter goaded Castro about the number of Cubans wanting to emigrate, Fidel threw open the port of Mariel, unleashing a flood of some , refugees. In , the George W. Bush administration tried to goad Cuba into closing the U. Interests Section in Havana by directing the chief of mission to publicly embrace Cuban dissidents. Instead, Castro struck not at the diplomats, but at the dissidents they supported, arresting them by the dozens. In the s, the CIA sought to accelerate that process through assassination. By the turn of the century, George W. Instead, he fell ill and was forced to hand the reins of authority to his brother. The transfer of power could not have been smoother; there were no protests, no riots, no rush to the exits. But the goals for which Castro made the revolution face real challenges in the years ahead. Without the embargo, trade with the United States will quickly grow to dwarf trade with every other partner, tourists from the United States will dwarf the numbers from Canada and Western Europe, and investment from U. The gravitational pull of the U. His successors have pledged to maintain the collective welfare system of which the revolution is most proud free health care, free education, and social security. But other state subsidies for consumers are being phased out as too costly. Markets inevitably produce winners and losers. Already, Cubans who are well-educated, live in cities where economic development is more dynamic, and have access to hard currency, are thriving in a freer economic environment. Those who are low-skilled or elderly, live in rural areas, have no relatives abroad to send remittances, and suffer from racial discrimination are at risk. To them falls the task of forging an efficient, productive economy, a more open, democratic polity, and a normal relationship with the United States. The answer will determine whether history will absolve him.

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Chapter 9 : The Cuban Paradox – Foreign Policy

The United Nations was instrumental in reducing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. 2. The level of tension between the United States and the Soviet Union varied.

Rather, I tried to indicate key moments that had an impact on the contemporary or future relations between the two nations. I also tried to identify international events that would also affect the relations. For more information and detail, please see the list of sources. For my essay on Cuban-American relations, click here. Some of the French landowners fled to Cuba, creating more plantations with subsequent increased demand for slaves. To meet this demand, Spain allows foreign vessels to transport slaves to the island. Most of the slave transports are American-owned. A slave revolt in Cuba horrifies American slave owners because whites and Negroes joined together and demanded equality between black and white. Over the next seven years, Cuban ports would be opened and closed to trade several times. In response, the Spanish authorities use prison, exile, torture and death to quell insurrections. The King of Spain issues a royal decree declaring free trade in Cuba. Spain allows Cuban ports to open for international trade. Some Cuban landowners, fearful that independence would mean the end of slavery as in Haiti, become annexationists allied with US slave owners who also want Cuba to remain as a slave state. Governments in recently independent countries of Mexico and Venezuela plan a military expedition to support Cuban independence. The US also feared an independent Cuba would lead to the end of slavery that could have repercussions in the Southern states. The US starts a war with Mexico and as victor, takes half the country as spoils. Spanish general Narciso Lopez gathers a mercenary force of and leaves from New Orleans in an attempt to conquer Cuba on behalf of Americans who wanted to annex the island. Lopez failed and fled. He returned a few months later to try again, but he was caught and executed. Starting in New Orleans, they soon have 50 chapters in eight Southern states with an estimated membership of 15, to 20, Spain discovers the conspiracy and executes Frias, while some of the conspirators escape to the US. Spain appoints Marquis Juan de la Pezuela as Captain General of Cuba in - a vocal and active opponent enemy of slavery who suppressed the slave trade in Cuba. He planned to declare a republic then accept annexation from the USA, and promises to protect the slave trade on the island. Quitman spent the money on himself instead of invading. Robertson and urged him to persuade US President Pierce to send American troops to Cuba to prevent slave emancipation. Instead, Cuban landowners and businessmen import, Chinese labourers as well as many Mexican Indians to work the fields. Although the African slave trade to Cuba ends, slavery itself continues on the island. Fish tells the Cuban revolutionary representative the US will "observe perfect good faith to Spain. US President Ulysses S. Grant rejects a proposal that offers Cuban independence and the abolition of slavery. Despite official sanctions, American civilians profit by selling guns to the rebels. Late in, Spanish officials boarded an American vessel, the *Virginus*, and arrested several Americans for running guns to the Cuban rebels. In November, twelve of them are executed. Grant rejects the plan. Following the death of their charismatic leader, Cespedes, Cuban rebels try to get support from US President Grant for their fight for independence. Grant declines and in, the rebels reluctantly sign a peace agreement with Spain. Blaine writes of Cuba, "that rich island, the key to the Gulf of Mexico, and the field for our most extended trade in the Western Hemisphere, is, though in the hands of Spain, a part of the American commercial system." If ever ceasing to be Spanish, Cuba must necessarily become American and not fall under any other European domination. Slavery officially becomes illegal in Cuba. US newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst seeds his newspapers with phony stories about atrocities in Cuba to incite America to intervene in Cuba. The *Detroit Free Press* writes in an editorial, May There is a strong party growing up in the island in favor of reciprocity with and annexation to the United States. We should act at once and make this possible. Fewer than 20 percent of sugar mill owners in Cuba are Cubans, while more than 95 percent of Cuban sugar exports are sold to the US. On the eve of another Cuban war of independence, the US government detains three Cuban ships laden with arms and supplies for the rebels. On his first day in battle, Cuban patriot Jose Marti is killed. The US and

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Spain discuss granting Cuba autonomy, but not independence. US Undersecretary of War, J. We must impose a harsh blockade so that hunger and its constant companion, disease, undermine the peaceful population and decimate the Cuban army—we must create conflicts for the independent government. These difficulties must coincide with the unrest and violence among the aforementioned elements, to whom we must give our backing—our policy must always be to support the weaker against the stronger, until we have obtained the extermination of them both, in order to annex the Pearl of the Antilles. The captain and most of the officers conveniently left the ship once anchored, and the Maine subsequently exploded, killing American sailors. Spain conceded to every US demand except Cuban independence to avoid war, but McKinley wants to fight. Shortly after, President McKinley declared a blockade of the northern coast of Cuba and the port of Santiago. Spain said this was an act of war according to international law and declared war on the USA. They will be American soil from the moment the Stars and Stripes float over them. Annexation of all three is the natural outcome" The US attacks and sinks several Spanish ships attempting to break the blockade, and captures 1, soldiers. In July, an editorial in the Cleveland Leader favours annexing Cuba: Cuba was not represented at the negotiations. In December, the US-administered Cuban Educational Association declares that only certain Cubans are considered fit to be "Americanized," and that darker skinned Cubans "could not gain admission" to many American universities and colleges. Although the treaty officially grants Cuba independence, the US flag, not the Cuban flag, is raised over Havana. Americans would not allow it to be flown over Cuba until Cuban representatives are not allowed at the signing. Cuban dreams of independence are frustrated by American control. The first military governor is General John R. The American empire expands into the Pacific and Caribbean in the former Spanish colonies. US Major Cartwright warns striking workers in Matanzas that anyone who tries to interfere with his strikebreakers will be shot. In many respects, they are like children. When delegates to the constitutional convention tried to modify the Platt Amendment before adding it to the Cuban Constitution, Wood refused to allow modifications. He threatened that U. Wood created the Rural Guard, permitted creation of new political parties, and planned the constitutional convention in November Estrada was a proponent of US annexation of Cuba, saying he saw, "little advantage and no future for an independent Cuba. In July a treaty is signed to allow the US to create coaling and naval bases in Cuba. That same day, the USA also signed a treaty with Cuba agreeing to relinquish all claim to the Isle of Pines, but the US Senate refused to ratify the treaty within the stipulated seven months, and would not relinquish control for another 20 years. President Roosevelt stated that since the United States did not allow European nations to intervene in Latin America the Monroe Doctrine, then the USA alone was responsible for preserving order and protecting life and property in those countries. Taft declares himself Acting Governor until replaced by a civilian, Charles Magoon. Taft later US president removed representatives elected in and declared new elections would be held when "tranquility and public confidence are fully restored. Magoon established a commission to organize and compile Cuban law, previously a morass of Spanish codes, military orders, and public decrees, into a single canon. He also created of the Cuban Armed Forces, which would later become involved in Cuban politics. US President Taft and Secretary of State Philander Knox feared that Americans would not support a third intervention, so they opted for a "preventive" interpretation of the Platt Amendment to allow US diplomatic intervention to avoid military intervention. That "diplomatic" intervention meant more troops sent in the protect American citizens and property. A US inquiry into the explosion on the Maine determines the cause was likely an accidental fire inside a coal bunker that spread to a nearby powder magazine. However, as members of these organizations, they were unable to participate in politics. US military forces take control of the Cuban government in order to "protect American interests. The US ordered that new elections be held, saying it would not tolerate revolt. Menocal won after more votes were cast than there were voters. He allowed US Marines to train on the island - some of whom remained there until The US negotiated a new sugar policy for American and British refiners at 4. They bought the entire export crop. Sugar prices rose to 22 cents per pound. The post-war boom was known as "The dance of the millions. Many Cuban plantations went bankrupt and US investors bought up property at bargain rates. Crowder used the

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financial crisis in Cuba as leverage to force Cuban domestic affairs to change more favorably to US business interests and exerted control in exchange for loans. Crowder picked the Cabinet for Zayas. He made many other decisions and improved the government. Morgan, and is rewarded by being named permanent ambassador to Cuba. Zayas dismissed the Crowder Cabinet and appointed his own. In August the Communist Party of Cuba is formed. In May, General Gerardo Machado Morales is elected on a platform of nationalism, but is soon exposed as a friend of American business interests. US interests controlled over one-half of the sugar produced in Cuba. By , Crowder wanted to get rid of President Alfredo Zayas who was not cooperative enough.