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## Venezuela Aff

### Venezuela 1AC

#### Observation One: The Status Quo

#### A. The status quo will not result in engagement or better relations

Bill Rodgers, Staff Writer, March 07, 2013, “Venezuela-US Relations Unlikely to Change After Chavez,” Voice of America News, <http://www.voanews.com/content/venezuela-us-relations-unlikely-to-change-after-chavez/1616806.html>, accessed 4-23-2013

The death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is raising questions about what happens next in Venezuela, both internally and with its relations to other nations, including the United States.  Analysts do not expect the tense relationship between Washington and Caracas to change soon. The death of President Chavez is being mourned by his supporters, while many inside and outside Venezuela wonder what the future holds.  A commanding and charismatic figure in life, Chavez played an outsized role on the world stage - largely by challenging the United States and what he saw as Washington's economic and political dominance of Latin America.

#### B. Despite low relations, there is high potential for successful engagement

[Howard LaFranchi](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Staff/Howard-LaFranchi), Staff Writer, March 5, 2013, “Hugo Chavez era ends: Will US-Venezuela relations improve?,” Christian Science Monitor, [http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0305/ Hugo-Chavez-era-ends-Will-US-Venezuela-relations-improve](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0305/%20Hugo-Chavez-era-ends-Will-US-Venezuela-relations-improve), accessed 4-23-2013

Some are more optimistic. “I think Venezuela does care about [its relations with the US],” says [Miguel Tinker Salas](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Miguel%2BTinker-Salas), a professor of Latin American studies and Venezuela specialist at [Pomona College](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Pomona%2BCollege) in Claremont, [Calif.](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/California) “Even under Chávez there was talk of hoping to see a rapprochement, and I think most Venezuelans feel there is nothing to be gained from maintaining a contentious relationship.” In fact, the [Obama administration](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Barack%2BObama) established more-intense lines of contact with the Venezuelan government in December, when it became clear Chávez would not return quickly from medical treatment in [Cuba](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Cuba). The contacts suggested the administration held out hope of better relations with Venezuela, but administration officials were also clear that the US was not aiming to tip an eventual political transition a certain way.

#### C. The U.S. must be active in the future of Venezuela through engagement

Roger F. Noriega, former assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, March 7, 2013, “Igniting the post-Chávez explosion,” Washington Times, <http://www.aei.org/article/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/latin-america/igniting-the-post-chavez-explosion/>, accessed 4-24-2013

Hugo Chavez’s death could very well result in an uncertain and unstable succession battle that will define Venezuela’s future for better or worse. With that country one of the world’s largest exporters of crude oil and the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil and petroleum products to the United States, the Obama administration needs to get active in helping to shape events in a positive direction. It will not be easy, given the levels of acrimony and polarization that Mr. Chavez leaves in his wake. Still, it presents an extraordinary opportunity to pull Venezuela back into the peaceful community of regional nations, after more than a decade of Mr. Chavez’s troublemaking that has set back regional prospects for stability and economic development.

#### Plan: The United States federal government will substantially increase economic engagement with the government of Venezuela by offering economic aid.

### Venezuela 1AC

#### Advantage One: Latin America

#### A. The U.S. is falling behind on economic engagement in Latin America

Roger Runningen and Kate Andersen Brower, Staff Writers, April 13, 2012, Business Week, <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-04-13/obama-keeps-eye-on-u-dot-s-dot-politics-at-latin-america-summit>, accessed 5-2-2013

“The U.S. economy benefits substantially from our trade in the Americas, and over 40 percent of our exports currently go to the Americas,” Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, told reporters in an April 11 briefing. “Those exports are growing faster than our trade with the rest of the world.” Latin America managed to largely escape the financial crisis of 2008-2009. Brazil (BZGDYOY%) is the world’s sixth largest economy, and the ranks of the middle class have swelled. The World Bank classifies most countries in the region as middle- income or higher. As countries in the region have grown more prosperous, they are less reliant on the U.S., the world’s biggest economy. That growth also comes as the Obama administration has made a deliberate pivot to focus more on Asia.

#### B. Economic engagement is the lynchpin of improving U.S.-Venezuelan relations

Shannon O'Neil, Senior Fellow of Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, March 16, 2013, “Viewpoint: New era for US-Venezuela relations?,” BBC News, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/ world-us-canada-21680885](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/%20world-us-canada-21680885), accessed 4-23-2013

But in the longer term, trade, commercial relations and personal ties could shift US-Venezuelan relations for the better. First and foremost are the economic ties between the two nations. Despite the rhetorical animosity of the last decade, trade continued. The US remains the largest recipient of Venezuelan oil - some 40% percent of Venezuelan oil exports (and oil makes up over 90% of the country's total exports). In turn, the US has continued to send machinery and cars, and even increased exports of natural gas and petroleum products to the South American nation.

#### C. Engaging Latin America is essential to reduce drugs, poverty, and pandemics

Zach Silberman, Global Security Studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Advanced Governmental Studies, February 4, 2013, “Opportunity Knocks in Latin America,” U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, <http://www.usglc.org/2013/02/04/opportunity-knocks-in-latin-america/>, accessed 5-2-2013

In his second term, President Obama will face significant opportunities to expand America’s engagement abroad, and Latin America is one area of increasing strategic importance. This is a region where the United States has many allies, but where significant threats such as drug trafficking, chronic poverty, and pandemics persist and where natural disasters and the resulting humanitarian crises are likely. These are challenges that represent opportunities for U.S. diplomatic engagement and development initiatives.

#### D. Drug resistant diseases threaten human extinction

Corey Powell, Staff Writer, October **2000,** “Twenty Ways the World Could End,” Discover Magazine, <http://discovermagazine.com/2000/oct/featworld>, accessed 5-2-2013

If Earth doesn't do us in, our fellow organisms might be up to the task. Germs and people have always coexisted, but occasionally the balance gets out of whack. The Black Plague killed one European in four during the 14th century; influenza took at least 20 million lives between 1918 and 1919; the AIDS epidemic has produced a similar death toll and is still going strong. From 1980 to 1992, reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mortality from infectious disease in the United States rose 58 percent. Old diseases such as cholera and measles have developed new resistance to antibiotics. Intensive agriculture and land development is bringing humans closer to animal pathogens. International travel means diseases can spread faster than ever.

### Venezuela 1AC

#### Advantage Two: Iran

#### A. Current U.S. disengagement with Venezuela allows Iran to expand influence across the region**Newsmax,** Staff Writer, 5-8-**2012**, “Boehner: Urges Deeper Engagement in Latin America,” accessed

4-27-2013, <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/boehner-latin-america-gop/2012/05/08/id/438420>,

Boehner said Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visits to Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Ecuador this year "underscored the designs Iran has for expanding its influence in Latin America, and its eagerness to forge bonds with governments in the Western Hemisphere that have demonstrated a lesser interest in freedom and democracy." Iran's attempt to gain influence was one of three "major threats" facing Latin America, Boehner said, along with the violence caused by drug trafficking and the possibility of the United States losing interest in the region."The threat of U.S. disengagement is the most serious of the three threats I have identified because if it occurs, the other two threats will multiply exponentially," he said.

#### B. Latin America is looking to the U.S. to lead to displace Iranian influence

[Hai Luong](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/author/hai-luong/), Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “Post-Chavez Venezuela and the Chance for Change,” [Epoch Times](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/about-us.html/), <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/4167-post-chavez-venezuela-and-the-chance-for-change/>, accessed 4-26-13

Roger Noriega, former U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs (Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean) and a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, says now is the time for the United States to motivate change in the region. “The Obama administration is … averse to taking a leadership role in these kind of issues, and probably their instincts are that we have some sort of baggage in Latin America—that’s not true,” Noriega says in a video posted on the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) website the day after Chavez’s death. He says Latin American countries will expect the United States to take a leading role and that other Western nations would support an American campaign to demand “narco kingpins” and Iranian and Hezbollah networks be ousted.

#### C. U.S. economic engagement in Latin America checks Iranian influence

Newsmax, Staff Writer, 5-8-2012, “Boehner: Urges Deeper Engagement in Latin America,”

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/boehner-latin-america-gop/2012/05/08/id/438420>, accessed

4-27-2013

The U.S. Congress' top Republican called on Tuesday for deeper economic engagement with Latin America as a bulwark against Iran's attempt to gain influence in the region and the destabilizing effects of international drug cartels. "The best defense against an expansion of Iranian influence in Latin America - and against the destructive aspirations of international criminals in the region - is for the United States to double down on a policy of direct engagement," U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said at the State Department. "We must be clear that we will be there, with our friends and partners in the region, committed to fighting and winning the war for a free, stable, and prosperous hemisphere," Boehner said in a speech to the Council of Americas, which represents companies that do business in Latin America.

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#### D. Growing Iranian influence in Venezuela and Latin America helps their nuclear program and risks terrorism from the South

[Sara Miller Llana](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Staff/Sara-Miller-Llana), Staff Writer, January 7, 2013, “Is Iran's presence in Latin America a threat?,” Christian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2013/0107/Is-Iran-s-presence-in-Latin-America-a-threat-The-White-House-says-yes>, accessed 5-2-2013

Iran is increasingly isolated as it forges ahead with a nuclear program that has raised alarm across the globe. Iran says its nuclear development is for civilian purposes, like energy, while many international observers believe it is working toward creating a nuclear weapon. In the same time period, Iran’s growing influence in Latin America, especially within [Venezuela](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Venezuela), [Bolivia](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Bolivia), and [Ecuador](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Ecuador), has generated suspicion among those who worry that, at worst, [Lebanon](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Lebanon)-based [Hezbollah](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Hezbollah) and supporters in Iran seek to attack the US from south of the American border. Many have called on the US to prioritize this new international threat.

#### E. Iranian nuclearization causes a proliferation domino effect

Jennifer Caylas, Staff Writer, March 25, 2013, “The Threat of Nuclear Proliferation: A response to ‘Thou Shalt Not Fear a Nuclear Iran’,” International Affairs Review, <http://www.iar-gwu.org/node/477>, accessed 5-2-2013

A nuclear arsenal grants a state a stronger image of sovereignty in the eyes of the international community, not due to a new capacity to defend itself, but to the security threat any new nuclear power poses as a potential proliferator. Ironically, what is most threatening about a nuclear Iran is not the military threat it would pose to its neighbors, nor a domino effect it might have on other Middle Eastern states’ nuclear efforts. A nuclear Iran presents expanded potential for proliferation – overt, covert, and unintentional. First, while latent and “second-tier” nuclear proliferation is already a problem without Iran’s contribution, its participation in the nuclear black market thus far indicates it would most likely follow Pakistan’s example, should it become a primary source. Second, a proliferation threat posed by the emergence of any new nuclear power is the possibility that such a state could follow a path similar to that of the Soviet Union – that being the fall of the regime and the destabilization of its internal security and infrastructure. After the fall of the Soviet Union, its former territory became a haven for black market activity, including the illicit sale and trafficking of nuclear materials, to unknown and unaccountable recipients. The economic and political chaos of the 1990s particularly impacted Russia’s “nuclear cities,” which thrived on the nuclear facilities around which they were built. In other words, the potential threat posed by a new nuclear power is not so much the mere possession of its arsenal, but the stability (or lack thereof) of its regime and security infrastructure, and to what extent it can remain accountable for its nuclear technology.

#### F. Iranian nuclear weapons leads to adventurism and accidental nuclear wars

Colin H. Kahl, associate professor in the Security Studies Program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, September-October 2012, “Iran and the bomb: would a nuclear Iran make the Middle East more secure?,” [Foreign Affairs](http://go.galegroup.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/ps/aboutJournal.do?pubDate=120120901&actionString=DO_DISPLAY_ABOUT_PAGE&inPS=true&prodId=AONE&userGroupName=ksu&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&docId=GALE%7C1104), p. 157

If deterrence operates the way Waltz expects it to, a nuclear-armed Iran might reduce the risk of a major conventional war among Middle Eastern states. But history suggests that Tehran's development of nuclear weapons would encourage Iranian adventurism, leading to more frequent and intense crises in the Middle East. Such crises would entail some inherent risk of a nuclear exchange resulting from a miscalculation, an accident, or an unauthorized use--a risk that currently does not exist at all.

### Venezuela 1AC

#### Observation 2: The plan solves

#### A. The U.S. should increase foreign aid to Venezuela. This boosts relations throughout the region

Kevin Sullivan, March 6, 2013, “[Death of Hugo Chavez Impacts American Aid](http://borgenproject.org/death-of-hugo-chavez-impacts-american-aid/),” Borgen Project, <http://borgenproject.org/death-of-hugo-chavez-impacts-american-aid/>, accessed 4-24-2013

The first time that Chavez met President Obama, he gave him a copy Eduardo Galeano’s book “Las Venas Abiertas de America Latina”, a history of colonial rule over the Americas that focuses on how the United States became the colonizing power of modern age in Latin America, especially in Central America where American corporations and military interventions created the infamously titled “banana republics.” That first meeting is the perfect anecdote to represent the relationship between the two countries over the last five years. Chavez had always been extraordinarily outspoken against the United States and, because of that tense relationship, the U.S. has given very little to Venezuela with the exception of small amounts of disaster relief assistance. It is important to note that Venezuela, the founding member of OPEC, is one of the wealthiest countries in the Americas, yet nearly 32% of the country’s population lives below the poverty line. In order to begin building a more amicable relationship, the U.S. may begin giving more to causes that aren’t related to politics and focus more on job creation and training. Providing this type of aid would not only benefit Venezuela, it may help build a much less tense relationship with a resource-rich country that has significant pull in international oil markets and price control. A well-executed increase in aid could end up to be very beneficial for both parties as Venezuela changes leadership.

#### B. The U.S. should increase economic engagement with Venezuela. This improves the U.S. image and promotes better relations

John A. Griffin, a Crimson editorial writer, 4-3-2013, “Engage with Venezuela,” Harvard Crimson,

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/4/3/Harvard-Venezuela-Chavez-death/>, accessed 4-27-2013

Engagement with Venezuela would also lead to stronger economic cooperation with the entirety of Latin America. It was mostly through Venezuela’s [efforts](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/06/international/americas/06prexy.html?_r=0) that the United States was unable to create a “Free Trade Area of the Americas,” an endeavor that would have eliminated most trade barriers among participant nations, thereby leading to more lucrative trade. In a world where the United States and Venezuela were to enjoy normalized relations, all nations involved would benefit from such agreements. For both diplomatic and economic reasons, then, positive engagement is the best course of action for the United States.  As it stands, the negative relationship between the countries has created an atmosphere of animosity in the hemisphere, hindering dialogue and making economic cooperation nearly impossible. While there is [much](http://www.hrw.org/americas/venezuela) for which the Venezuelan government can rightly be criticized—authoritarian rule, abuse of human rights, lack of market-friendly policies—nothing that the United States is doing to counter those drawbacks is having any effect. The United States should stop playing “tough guy” with Venezuela, bite the bullet, and work toward stability and prosperity for the entire hemisphere. We aren’t catching any flies with our vinegar—it’s high time we started trying to catch them with honey.

#### C. Maduro will soften his stance against the U.S.

Shannon O’Neil, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, March 6, 2013, “[New Era for U.S.-Venezuela Relations?](http://shannononeil.com/blog/new-era-for-u-s-venezuela-relations/),” Latintelligence, <http://shannononeil.com/blog/new-era-for-u-s-venezuela-relations/>, accessed 4-26-13

Today Venezuela faces significant political uncertainty, as Mr Maduro works to unite the many factions within Chavez’s party. He does so without Chavez’s charisma nor the deep-seated loyalty he inspired. The next administration also will confront growing economic and fiscal problems, making governing all the harder in the months to come. Still, in most of Latin America anti-U.S. rhetoric is fading, which suggests it can in Venezuela too.

### No Engagement Now – Venezuela

#### Current U.S. Venezuelan relations are terrible

Bill Rodgers, Staff Writer, March 07, 2013, “Venezuela-US Relations Unlikely to Change After Chavez,” Voice of America News, <http://www.voanews.com/content/venezuela-us-relations-unlikely-to-change-after-chavez/1616806.html>, accessed 4-23-2013

This antagonism is unlikely to change soon.  At a meeting convened the day Chavez died, Vice President Nicolas Maduro accused Washington of plotting to undermine Venezuela and announced the expulsion of two American diplomats.  That does not bode well for future relations, says Carl Meacham of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It is sort of sticking to the playbook that Chavismo has used in the past: always blame the United States or blame some foreign entity to distract them from problems that they have going on in Venezuela," he said.

#### Relations can improve but it will take a big gesture

[Howard LaFranchi](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Staff/Howard-LaFranchi), Staff Writer, March 5, 2013, “Hugo Chavez era ends: Will US-Venezuela relations improve?,” Christian Science Monitor, [http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0305/ Hugo-Chavez-era-ends-Will-US-Venezuela-relations-improve](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0305/%20Hugo-Chavez-era-ends-Will-US-Venezuela-relations-improve), accessed 4-23-2013

The passing of [Hugo Chávez](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Hugo%2BChavez) removes one of the prickliest thorns in US relations within its own hemisphere and could portend brighter days for US-[Venezuela](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Venezuela) relations – eventually. But any warming in ties won't happen overnight, especially after the Venezuelan government accused the [United States](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/United%2BStates), on the same day Mr. Chávez died, of having a hand in causing his demise.

#### U.S. should increase economic engagement to boost relations

Eduardo J. Gómez, assistant professor of public policy at Rutgers University at Camden, March 13, 2013, “Ahmadinejad's hug and the future of Chavez's alliance,” CNN Wire, [http://www.cnn.com/2013/ 03/13/opinion/gmez-chavez-ahmadinejad-america](http://www.cnn.com/2013/%2003/13/opinion/gmez-chavez-ahmadinejad-america), accessed 5-5-2013

Chávez's passing should motivate the United States to seek a new partnership with Venezuela. First, Secretary of State John Kerry should reopen the U.S. embassy in Caracas, which has been closed since 2010, while assigning diplomats who are committed to engaging in peaceful dialogue and political and economic cooperation. Second, Kerry should take this opportunity to strengthen cooperation over issues that can provide mutual benefits in the areas of national security and the economy, such as counternarcotics, counterterrorism, as well as sustaining oil trade: the United States currently imports just under 1 million barrels a day from Venezuela. But the United States should also see this situation as an opportunity to strengthen its ties with other nations, such as Cuba. With the likely decline in economic assistance to Cuba from Venezuela, Cuban President Raul Castro may consider stepping up negotiations with the Obama administration over the U.S. embargo, human rights and the release ofAmerican prisoners, such as Alan Gross. Chávez is gone, but the United States' commitment to peaceful democratic relations persists. Going forward, the United States should explore ways of strengthening its ties with Venezuela and other Latin American nations.

### No Engagement Now – Latin America

#### Obama is currently not engaging in Latin America

The Foreign Policy Initiative, April 13, 2012, “A Latin America Security Agenda for President Obama,” FPI Analysis, <http://www.foreignpolicyi.org/content/fpi-analysis-latin-america-security-agenda-president-obama-0>, 5-2-2013

Until now, however, the Obama administration has taken little notice.  The President’s 2012 [strategic defense guideline](http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf) mentions Latin America only once, stating that the Pentagon will seek to “develop innovative, low-cost, and small-footprint approaches to achieve our security objectives, relying on exercises, rotational presence, and advisory capabilities” in Africa and Latin America.  With regards to Central America and Mexico, President Obama has done nothing more than continued the policies implemented by President Bush.  The administration has given little thought to the next phase of a security partnership with Colombia.

#### Except for Mexico, Obama is ignoring Latin America

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83
The United States' enhanced image should not be dismissed as a mere public relations victory; rather, it is indispensable to restoring Washington's influence in Latin America, since it makes it easier for willing governments to cooperate with Washington on shared priorities without appearing to be subservient to the old hegemon. Obama's approach to the region can be seen as a more concerted continuation of the one Bush adopted in his second term, emphasizing responsibility as a prerequisite for cooperation and leadership -- an implicit call for Latin America to solve its own problems. Other than focusing on Mexico's drug violence, the Obama administration has not made Latin America a priority. This may not be so bad: a little breathing room is appropriate, given the region's current stability.

#### Latin America is leaving the U.S. behind to assert their own leadership

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83
At the same time as U.S. influence has diminished, Latin America's own capabilities have grown. The region has entered into an era of unprecedented economic, political, and diplomatic success. Most visibly, Brazil has emerged as an economic powerhouse, attracting foreign investment with an economy that grew 7.5 percent last year. (Regionwide, average GDP growth last year was 5.6 percent.) Regular free elections and vibrant civil societies are now commonplace in Latin America, and the region's diplomats are more visible and confident in global forums than ever before. After decades on the receiving end of lectures from Washington and Brussels, Latin American leaders are eager to advertise their recent gains. Santos has been known to tell visiting foreign counterparts that this will be "Latin America's century."

### US Should Increase Engagement With Venezuela

#### The U.S. should increase economic engagement with Venezuela

Roger F. Noriega, former assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, March 11, 2013, “On Venezuela, Latin America’s democrats must come out of hiding,” American Enterprise Institute, accessed 4-24-2013,

<http://www.aei.org/article/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/latin-america/on-venezuela-latin-americas-democrats-must-come-out-of-hiding/>

In the days and weeks ahead in a post- Hugo Chávez Venezuela, there may be political turmoil and perhaps even violent unrest. However, rather than being consumed by a mafia-style power struggle within chavismo, Venezuelans of good will should begin the hard work of building a national consensus to restore their country’s values, social fabric, political institutions and economic wellbeing. After years spent avoiding confrontations with Chávez, the Obama administration should step up boldly now to help a sister nation recover from a man-made disaster.

#### The U.S. should step up with economic engagement with Venezuela

James M. Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom & Growth in the Center for International Trade & Economics and Sergio Daga, Visiting Senior Policy Analyst for Economic Freedom in Latin America at The Heritage Foundation, April 15, 2013, “Venezuela: U.S. Should Push President Maduro Toward Economic Freedom,” Issue Brief #3911, [http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/04/ venezuela-us-should-push-president-maduro-toward-economic-freedom](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/04/%20venezuela-us-should-push-president-maduro-toward-economic-freedom), accessed 4-27-2013

The foundations of economic freedom in Venezuela were severely weakened during the 14-year misrule by Chavez. Although Chavez’s death may aggravate instability and further polarize Venezuela, it need not be that way. Venezuela is in need of immediate and sweeping reforms, but these changes will take time, effort, determination, and, above all, dedicated reformers in Venezuela. The Obama Administration should step into the breach with active and forward-looking policies to bring Venezuela back into the globalized economic system.

#### Engagement will build on a strong base on which to cultivate relations

Patrick Duddy, former U.S. Ambassador to serve in Venezuela and a visiting senior lecturer at Duke University’s Center for International Studies, March 06, 2013, “Venezuela-U.S. Relations Could Thaw After Chavez,” National Public Radio, <http://www.npr.org/2013/03/06/173650836/venezuela-u-s-relations-could-thaw-after-chavez>, accessed 4-23-13

Well, it's at least worth noting that when the two sides are ready to sit down, we will not be starting from scratch. You know, despite his antipathy toward the United States, Chavez never stopped selling us oil, and despite our difficulties, we never stopped buying. Tens of thousands of Venezuelans continue to visit the United States every year. Baseball is a shared passion. And while these areas of confluence don't necessarily directly inform diplomatic discussions, they do establish a base over which the two governments may eventually be able to hold conversations.

### US Should Use Leverage For Engagement With Venezuela

#### The U.S. should use its leverage to engage Venezuela toward economic freedom

James M. Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom & Growth in the Center for International Trade & Economics and Sergio Daga, Visiting Senior Policy Analyst for Economic Freedom in Latin America at The Heritage Foundation, April 15, 2013, “Venezuela: U.S. Should Push President Maduro Toward Economic Freedom,” Issue Brief #3911, [http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/04/ venezuela-us-should-push-president-maduro-toward-economic-freedom](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/04/%20venezuela-us-should-push-president-maduro-toward-economic-freedom), accessed 4-27-2013

Hugo Chavez’s hand-picked successor, former trade union boss Nicolás Maduro, appears to have defeated Governor Henrique Capriles by a narrow margin in a contentious and hard-fought special election on April 14. Venezuela is in such shambles after 14 years of seat-of-the-pants mismanagement that Maduro—assuming his victory is confirmed—may ultimately be forced to pursue more moderate policies and seek help from the U.S. to restore stability. The Obama Administration and Congress should exploit this opening by using U.S. leverage to push Venezuela to turn from Chavez’s failed experiment in oil-cursed “21st-century socialism” toward economic freedom.

#### Maduro will be a deal maker and will say yes to engagement

Paul Richter and Chris Kraul, Staff Writers, [March 06, 2013](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/06), “U.S.-Venezuela ties may warm post-Chavez,” Los Angeles Times, <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/06/world/la-fg-us-venezuela-20130306>, accessed 4-26-13

Though Maduro, as foreign minister, worked to separate Venezuela further from the United States, building stronger ties with Cuba, Russia and China, he doesn't have Chavez's forceful personality, analysts say. He echoes Chavez's hard-line views about U.S. influence worldwide as well as other key points of Venezuela's foreign policy, but U.S. officials see him as a deal maker rather than an antagonist, and some have even praised his affability. Apparently with Chavez's blessing, Maduro recently showed signs of wanting to explore what might be gained by better relations with the United States: In November, he began talks with Roberta Jacobson, assistant secretary of State for Latin America. That contact, which has continued between lower-level officials, reinforces analysts' view that Chavez's battle with cancer left Maduro and others in the elite trying to assess whether they would be better off neutralizing what they perceive as a threat from the United States.

#### Trade means U.S. still has leverage in Venezuela

[Hai Luong](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/author/hai-luong/), Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “Post-Chavez Venezuela and the Chance for Change,” [Epoch Times](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/about-us.html/), <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/4167-post-chavez-venezuela-and-the-chance-for-change/>, accessed 4-26-13

The United States maintains some leverage in Venezuela. U.S.–Venezuela trade relations have been through some rocky episodes—Chavez nationalized the holdings of U.S.-based oil giant Exxon and others, and Washington imposed sanctions on Venezuela’s state oil company after it supplied oil to Iran in 201In spite of these bumps, and Chavez’s anti-American views, “[Chavez] was smart enough never to cut trade with Washington, Venezuela’s most important trading partner,” says Daniel Greenberg, founder of the Institute of Latin American Service and Studies at Pace University in New York in a statement released Wednesday. Venezuela remains one of the largest suppliers of oil to the United States, and the two countries cooperate in areas of mutual interest, such as counternarcotics, counterterrorism, commerce, and energy. As pro-Chavez forces work against the opposition, the opposition may be looking for friends.

### US Should Increase Economic Engagement With Latin America

#### The U.S. should increase engagement across Latin America

James M. Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom and Growth in the Center for International Trade and Economics and Ray Walser, PhD, Senior Policy Analyst for Latin America in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, January 7, 2013, “Latin America and the Caribbean: A Wish List for 2013,” The Heritage Foundation, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/01/us-foreign-policy-wish-list-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-2013>, accessed 5-2-2013

Too often Latin America and the Caribbean fall off political radar screens in Washington. Nonetheless, geography, robust trade and investment ties, strong demographic links, and shared democratic and economic values connect Americans deeply with the region. In 2013 and beyond, the second Obama Administration and Washington policymakers of all stripes should work to fashion a Western Hemisphere policy that advances U.S. national interests, promotes democratic and free-market values, and actively combats criminal and terrorist organizations.

#### The U.S. needs to exert leadership through engagement in Latin America

The Foreign Policy Initiative, April 13, 2012, “A Latin America Security Agenda for President Obama,” FPI Analysis, <http://www.foreignpolicyi.org/content/fpi-analysis-latin-america-security-agenda-president-obama-0>, 5-2-2013

If the nations across Latin America are to prevail against ruthless criminal gangs and well financed drug cartels, they will need assistance from the United States.  Yet to date, the administration has largely ignored this important region.  The United States faces a number of important challenges at home and abroad, but the threats of the Western Hemisphere cannot be ignored.  When it comes to Latin America, it is high time for President Obama to lead.

#### The U.S. should expand economic engagement programs in Latin America

Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico Co-chair and Thomas R. Pickering, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, Co-chairs Partnership for the Americas Commission, November 2008, “Rethinking U.S.–Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Turbulent World,” The Brookings Institution, accessed 5-2-2013, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2008/11/ [24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124\_latin\_america\_partnership.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/%20media/research/files/reports/2008/11/24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124_latin_america_partnership.pdf)

Funding for trade facilitation efforts should be increased to help all countries take full advantage of trade and to link marginalized regions and populations to regional and global markets. The U.S. government should work bilaterally and through the Inter-American Development Bank to increase funding for hemispheric transportation infrastructure and technology. Existing aid-for-trade programs should be expanded, and foreign assistance should pay special attention to helping countries craft better trade adjustment assistance programs. Transitional strategies for dealing with trade-related worker dislocation should become an integral part of trade negotiations in the hemisphere. This does not mean that the United States should phase out other kinds of economic assistance to LAC countries. On the contrary, Washington should renew its commitment to assist governments in the region in improving the lives of the poorest people through programs that allow more sectors to reap the benefits of trade. It should also help mobilize U.S. private giving to the region.

### US Should Increase Cooperation With Venezuela

#### Manduro will accept engagement. The U.S. should reach out to boost ties

Eduardo J. Gómez, assistant professor of public policy at Rutgers University at Camden, March 13, 2013, “Ahmadinejad's hug and the future of Chavez's alliance,” CNN Wire, [http://www.cnn.com/2013/ 03/13/opinion/gmez-chavez-ahmadinejad-america](http://www.cnn.com/2013/%2003/13/opinion/gmez-chavez-ahmadinejad-america), accessed 5-5-2013

In recent years, Chávez was also interested in improving relations with the United States. He saw President Obama's re-election victory as an opportunity to strengthen diplomatic ties. Chávez once commented: "I wish we could begin a new period of normal relations." Chávez was so committed to this endeavor that even from his hospital in Cuba, he authorized his second in command, Vice President Nicolas Maduro, to start negotiating with the U.S. State Department. While it may seem that Maduro may have a difficult time working with the United States, considering his accusations that the United States has historically plotted against Venezuela and the recent removal of U.S. diplomats from Caracas, it appears that this was mainly done to gain the trust of Chávez political supporters in order to secure Maduro's position as the next president. U.S. diplomatic officials view Maduro as a pragmatist and the fact that he was supportive of initiating closer ties with the United States last year suggests that this could continue, especially in light of Venezuela's economic troubles and the need to increase revenues through trade.

#### If the U.S. doesn’t increase engagement, Latin America will leave us behind

Roger F. Noriega, former assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, March 18, 2011, “Obama in Latin America: Flipping the ‘On’ Switch,” The American, <http://www.american.com/archive/2011/march/obama-in-latin-america-flipping-the-on-switch>, accessed 5-2-2013

Latin America is moving ahead without the United States. Never intertwined with the “sophisticated” banking practices that proved so perilous in the 2008-2009 financial meltdown, economies in the region have ridden out the global crisis and are logging substantial growth rates. With the exception of several countries trapped in a populist whirlwind, most of the region is pushing forward on a market-oriented reform agenda that should help them sustain growth and pull millions out of poverty. It is never too late for Washington to get off the bench to advance U.S. economic and security interests.

#### Washington should engage Venezuela to expand trade cooperation

Patricio Navia, Staff Writer, March 12, 2013, “The US and Latin America after Chávez,” Buenos Aires Herald, <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/126143/the-us-and-latin-america-after-ch%C3%A1vez>, accessed 5-2-2013

Hugo Chávez’s death has put Latin America back on the news in the US. Since they have not paid a lot of attention to Latin America in recent years, US citizens will learn that the region has developed economically, poverty has decreased and democracy has strengthened — with a few exceptions. Opportunities abound to expand and deepen trade and develop other cooperation initiatives that can bring benefits to both sides of the Mexican-US border. As the US economy gathers steam and defence spending cuts force the US to reassess its foreign affairs priorities, Washington should take a new look at post-Chávez Latin America.

### Now Key US Engagement

#### Now is a unique time to open communication with Venezuela

[Diana Villiers Negroponte](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/negroponted?view=bio), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Duke University, March 5, 2013, “Hugo Chavez's Death an Opportunity for More Pragmatic Relationship with U.S.,” Brookings Institute, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/03/05-chavez-venezuela-negroponte>, accessed 5-3-2013

The death of Hugo Chavez presents an opportunity for the new Venezuelan leadership to tone down the rhetoric of anti-Americanism and put our bilateral relations on a pragmatic basis. The U.S. remains the principal purchaser of Venezuelan oil which is refined in Gulf Coast refineries for later export to China and other markets. Food and pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, spare parts and electrical equipment are bought from the U.S. although payment for these goods is delayed and consumers must wait 4 to 5 months for the new inventory to arrive at Venezuelan ports. Venezuela is in the midst of an economic crisis with shortages of U.S. dollars, a devaluation of 32 percent and the prospect of searing inflation. Furthermore, Venezuela needs foreign direct investment, technical expertise and spare parts from the U.S. Rather than demonizing Washington, an opportunity exists for Caracas to reframe the relationship to a realistic mode.

#### The death of Chavez makes it a perfect time to increase U.S. engagement

Patricio Navia, Staff Writer, March 12, 2013, “The US and Latin America after Chávez,” Buenos Aires Herald, <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/126143/the-us-and-latin-america-after-ch%C3%A1vez>, accessed 5-2-2013

The death of Hugo Chávez creates new opportunities to strengthen US-Latin American relations. Although current priorities in Washington and Latin America make it unlikely that such opportunities will materialize, policy-makers in the US and Latin America should seize the opportunity to build stronger and healthier relations. As he enthusiastically rallied against Washington, Hugo Chávez always had the US at the top of his concerns. With his departure, the US loses a foe, but it also loses an unlikely ally. No other Latin American leader has shown as much interest in the US in recent years as Hugo Chávez. His departure will reduce the opportunities for Latin America and the US to engage in discussions and debates over issues of mutual concern, but it will also generate opportunities for positive interactions (and will allow both sides to put past mistakes behind them).

#### Now is a key time to advance U.S. leadership in Latin America

Stephen Keppel, Staff Writer, March 6, 2013, “What Chávez's Death Means for Cuba, Venezuela and the U.S.,” ABC News, <http://abcnews.go.com/ABC_Univision/chavezs-death-means-cuba-venezuela-us/story?id=18669003#.UYP897Xz2m4>, accessed 5-3-2013

So in the end, where does this leave the United States? The death of Chávez marks the beginning of the end to harsh anti-U.S. leadership in Latin America. You have the Castros, but they don't have many years left. There is Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in Argentina, Rafael Correa in Ecuador and Daniel Ortega Nicaragua, but none has the global or regional clout that Chávez had.

### AT: Anti-Americanism Kills Engagement

#### Post-Chavez is a unique time for the U.S engagement. Anti-Americanism will be short term

[Hai Luong](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/author/hai-luong/), Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “Post-Chavez Venezuela and the Chance for Change,” [Epoch Times](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/about-us.html/), <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/4167-post-chavez-venezuela-and-the-chance-for-change/>, accessed 4-26-13

The death of longtime Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, cracks open a window of opportunity for the oil-rich South American nation to shift global alliances—something Washington should encourage, according to some observers. Venezuela’s Constitution stipulates that an election take place within 30 days after Chavez’s death to choose his successor.  Vice President Nicolas Maduro, a like-minded socialist and Chavez’s handpicked successor, is already the interim leader. If he carries on as leader, it is likely he’ll continue his late boss’s campaign against American and Western “imperialism” in Latin America, and remain cozy with countries such as China, Cuba, Russia, and Iran.

#### Anti-American rhetoric is meaningless. We should engage Venezuela

Jennifer McCoy, Georgia State University, April 2013, “What to expect as Venezuela moves on after Hugo Chavez,” Scholars Strategy Network, [http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/ ssn\_key\_findings\_mccoy\_on\_post-chavez\_venezuela.pdf](http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/%20ssn_key_findings_mccoy_on_post-chavez_venezuela.pdf), accessed 4-25-2013

What about Venezuela’s often stormy relationship with the United States? Chavez’s successors have waved the anti-imperialist flag to gin up nationalist feelings, and have even insinuated that America may have helped cause their leader’s death from cancer. But U.S. foreign policymakers and members of Congress should not overreact. After all, during the fourteen years of Chavez’s rule, commerce and oil imports were never interrupted, and Venezuelan oil provides ten percent of U.S. imports. Even as Chavez’s health deteriorated during the fall of 2012, discussions started with the United States about new areas of cooperation and renewed exchanges of ambassadors.

#### Despite spats of anti-Americanism, Maduro will accept engagement

Jim Lobe, Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “U.S.: Hoping for some rapprochment after Chavez,” IPS - Inter Press Service, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/u-s-hopes-for-some-rapprochement-after-chavez/>, accessed 5-3-2013

Still, most observers believe that Maduro will be more willing to engage Washington on a number of issues than Chávez, who had initially welcomed [Obama's election](http://www.lexisnexis.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T17324898296&returnToId=20_T17324907139&csi=8001&A=0.7042399210289656&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE0009TJP%23&searchTerm=Obama's%20election%20&indexType=P)in 2008 but quickly grew disillusioned with the new president and declared Washington's ambassador in Caracas persona non grata in 2010.

For instance, in late November, Maduro reportedly conducted a cordial telephone conversation about possible ways to improve bilateral ties with Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemispheric Affairs Roberta Jacobson. "If Maduro were to be elected and lead a government with a broad consensus, it is likely that relations with the U.S. would improve," noted Smilde. "On the one hand, Maduro is a negotiator and was significant in a breakthrough in diplomatic relations with Colombia. One can imagine a similar improvement with the U.S.," he noted. "On the other hand, the conceptual anchor of Maduro's ideology is an anti-imperialism in which the U.S. is the more important symbolic foil.

### Venezuela Says Yes To Engagement

#### The death of Chavez paves the way for measures to increase relations

Patricio Navia, Staff Writer, March 12, 2013, “The US and Latin America after Chávez,” Buenos Aires Herald, <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/126143/the-us-and-latin-america-after-ch%C3%A1vez>, accessed 5-2-2013

After a funeral that brought together most of the presidents from the region, Latin America is ready to move forward and engage with the US in mutually-beneficial relations. Without Chávez, there will be less confrontational rhetoric between the US and Latin America. If that leads to less engagement and weaker interactions, the window of opportunity will be lost. Yet, if Latin America and the US seize the opportunity and benefit from the friendlier political mood, the next few years can become a period of stronger trade integration and fruitful cooperation initiatives.

#### Maduro has no choice but to accept U.S. economic engagement

Juan Forero, Staff Writer, January 10, 2013, “In Chavez's absence, U.S. sees opening,” Washington Post, p. A1
But two former Chavez loyalists who now oppose the government - former congressman Jose Albornoz and Vladimir Villegas, a former deputy foreign minister - said Maduro's experience as a diplomat and union negotiator would make him a more promising negotiator for the Americans than Cabello. Albornoz said that although Maduro has a radical edge, he is pragmatic and has a "geopolitical vision." The former congressman also said that Venezuela's dire problems require cooperation with the United States and an imaginative approach by diplomats.

#### Maduro is a negotiator. He’ll be open to engagement

Jim Lobe, Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “U.S.: Hoping for some rapprochment after Chavez,” IPS - Inter Press Service, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/u-s-hopes-for-some-rapprochement-after-chavez/>, accessed 5-3-2013

"Maduro will obviously have to govern in a very different way from Chávez. He doesn't have the same charisma or appetite for control and power," Shifter told IPS. "He's a union leader with a lot of experience in negotiations, so we'll see a different style that could offer some opportunity for the United States - not to have a warm and close relationship with Venezuela but at least to open up channels of communication and have ambassadors in both capitals. That would be a step forward from what we have now."

#### Venezuela will seek stronger bilateral relations with the U.S.

Jim Lobe, Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “U.S.: Hoping for some rapprochment after Chavez,” IPS - Inter Press Service, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/u-s-hopes-for-some-rapprochement-after-chavez/>, accessed 5-3-2013

Indeed, despite Chávez's hostility toward the U.S., which reached its zenith after the George W. Bush administration endorsed a failed coup attempt against him in 2002, strong trade relations never suffered during his 14-year tenure. As noted by Shannon O'Neil, a senior fellow for Latin American studies at the influential Council on Foreign Relations, in an op-ed for BBC Wednesday, the U.S. buys more oil from Venezuela than any other country, while Caracas has been a major consumer of U.S. manufactured exports, particularly automobiles. "(A)s subsequent Venezuelan governments look to adjust their economic policies in the coming months and years, the experience of their (South American) neighbours provide incentives to forge a more amicable bilateral relationship," wrote O'Neil.

### Engagement Good – Regional Stability

#### Venezuelan stability depends on economic engagement with the U.S.

Tampa Bay Times (editorial), March 7, 2013, “A chance for the U.S. to engage Venezuela,” p. 12A

The United States has too much at stake to stand idly by. Venezuela is the fourth-largest supplier of oil to America, and it has banked favors across the hemisphere for its leadership in creating a new sense of independence from Washington. Regional stability depends on the ability of a post-Chavez government to address inequality and basic domestic needs, rebuild a middle class and attract foreign investment. Florida has a special stake; more Venezuelan expatriates live in Miami-Dade County than anywhere else in the country. For Venezuela to make a fresh start, it needs to attract the talent and money that fled to Florida and elsewhere in recent years. The leadership change could also affect the pace of democratic reform in Cuba if the new Venezuelan government decides to divert those subsidies back home. The transition looks uncertain, and the United States lacks leverage. But this is a moment to lend an open ear and an open hand.

#### The U.S. must increase engagement in Latin America for stability

Jesse Jackson, Founder of Rainbow/PUSH, April 13, 2013, “Time to restart U.S.-Venezuela relations,” Chicago Sun-Times, <http://www.suntimes.com/news/jackson/18781426-452/time-to-restart-us-venezuela-relations.html>, accessed 4-26-13

A year ago, at the April Summit of the Americas, President Obama listened patiently to many provocative comments and called for a new start. “I am not somebody who brings to the table here a lot of baggage from the past,” he said, “and I want to look at all these problems in a new and fresh way.”

Surely it is time now to move on that promise. America should engage its neighbors, not isolate itself trying to isolate them. We should end our failed embargo of Cuba. We do far better trying to talk through our disagreements than trying to punish our neighbors. Across the hemisphere, peoples are struggling to find a way to make economies work for working people. This nation is no exception. We would be wise to join in that search, rather than to split apart.

#### Economic growth is making Latin America less stable

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83
Latin America's economic growth and political stability are driving an unprecedented power shift within the region. Countries are reassessing their interests and alliances, and the more confident among them are flexing their muscles. Instead of looking to Washington for guidance, Latin American countries are increasingly working among themselves to conduct diplomacy, pursue shared objectives, and, at times, even spark new rivalries.

### Engagement Good – Laundry List

#### Strong U.S. engagement in Latin America check proliferation and climate change

Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico Co-chair and Thomas R. Pickering, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, Co-chairs Partnership for the Americas Commission, November 2008, “Rethinking U.S.–Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Turbulent World,” The Brookings Institution, accessed 5-2-2013, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2008/11/ [24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124\_latin\_america\_partnership.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/%20media/research/files/reports/2008/11/24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124_latin_america_partnership.pdf)

Developments in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have a very significant impact on the daily lives of those who live in the United States. Yet because of a lack of trust, an inability to undertake stable commitments by some countries, and different U.S. priorities, the United States and Latin America have rarely developed a genuine and sustained partnership to address regional—let alone global—challenges. If a hemispheric partnership remains elusive, the costs to the United States and its neighbors will be high, in terms of both growing risks and missed opportunities. Without a partnership, the risk that criminal networks pose to the region’s people and institutions will continue to grow. Peaceful nuclear technology may be adopted more widely, but without proper regional safeguards, the risks of nuclear proliferation will increase. Adaptation to climate change will take place through isolated, improvised measures by individual countries, rather than through more effective efforts based on mutual learning and coordination. Illegal immigration to the United States will continue unabated and unregulated, adding to an ever-larger underclass that lives and works at the margins of the law. Finally, the countries around the hemisphere, including the United States, will lose valuable opportunities to tap new markets, make new investments, and access valuable resources.

#### Post-Chavez Venezuela still poses major security risks for the U.S.

Ray Walser, PhD, Senior Policy Analyst for Latin America and Jessica Zuckerman, a Research Associate in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation, March 6, 2013, “Venezuela After Chavez: U.S. Should Rally to Democracy,” [http://www.heritage.org/ research/reports/2013/03/venezuela-after-death-of-chavez-us-should-rally-to-democracy](http://www.heritage.org/%20research/reports/2013/03/venezuela-after-death-of-chavez-us-should-rally-to-democracy), accessed 5-2-2013

Chavez’s obsessive anti-Americanism compelled him to associate with U.S. competitors such as China (loans and technology for oil) and Russia (oil and arms) and with anti-democratic rogue leaders and insurgent and terrorist organizations (such as Hezbollah). He opposed NATO intervention in Libya and rendered support for the despotic Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. The full range of Venezuela’s ties with Iran—Chavez’s “axis of unity”—is hidden from public scrutiny, but include undetermined degrees of military and security cooperation. In the age of globalized criminal and terrorist networks, the absence of accountability and transparency in the regime, coupled with anti-American belligerency, still poses a threat to U.S. security.

#### U.S. engagement can open the way for more cooperation

Jennifer McCoy, Georgia State University, April 2013, “What to expect as Venezuela moves on after Hugo Chavez,” Scholars Strategy Network, [http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/ ssn\_key\_findings\_mccoy\_on\_post-chavez\_venezuela.pdf](http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/%20ssn_key_findings_mccoy_on_post-chavez_venezuela.pdf), accessed 4-25-2013

For the immediate future, rhetorical saber-rattling may continue as newly-elected Venezuelan leaders endeavor to knit together a governing coalition and confront serious domestic problems. U.S. authorities should keep lines of communication open until Venezuelans are ready for more cooperation – to optimize commerce, promote human rights, and counter narcotics trafficking and other security threats. That time will come.

### Engagement Good – US Security

#### Latin American democracy is inevitable, but engagement secures U.S. leadership

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83
Nonetheless, Latin America's emerging democratic consensus seems inevitable, and as its strategic posture finally matures, the region will be more directly responsible for its own successes and failures. Long Latin America's master, the United States must adapt to the new realities of this post-hegemonic era, lest it see its influence diminish even further. It must demonstrate an ability to quietly engage and lead when appropriate -- an approach that will allow Washington to remain actively involved in the region's affairs without acting as though it is trying to maintain its legacy of hegemony. Given how accustomed the United States is to dominating the region, this project will be harder than it sounds.

#### Influence in Latin America is crucial to U.S. security

Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator from Florida, April 25, 2012, “U.S. foreign policy, close to home,” LA Times, <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/apr/25/opinion/la-oe-rubio-latin-america-20120425>

The United States cannot afford to keep putting Latin America on the back burner as it focuses the bulk of its attention on Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The Western Hemisphere holds significant strategic interest for the U.S. — as well as enormous promise. Efforts should be focused in four key areas: building a democratic movement, enhancing trade and economic ties, cooperating on energy issues and building and strengthening security alliances.

#### Lack of U.S. engagement is shutting down all U.S. influence

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83

Across the region in recent years, the United States has seen its influence decline. Latin

American countries are increasingly looking for solutions among themselves, forming their own regional organizations that exclude the United States and seeking friends and opportunities outside of Washington's orbit. Some U.S. allies are even reconsidering their belief in the primacy of relations with the United States. Much of this has to do with the end of the Cold War, a conflict that turned Latin America into a battleground between U.S. and Soviet proxies. Washington has also made a series of mistakes in the years since then, arrogantly issuing ultimatums that made it even harder to get what it wanted in Latin America.

### Engagement Good – Economy

#### Relations with Latin America are crucial to U.S. prosperity

Zach Silberman, Global Security Studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Advanced Governmental Studies, February 4, 2013, “Opportunity Knocks in Latin America,” U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, <http://www.usglc.org/2013/02/04/opportunity-knocks-in-latin-america/>, accessed 5-2-2013

Sitting in America’s backyard, Latin America presents an opportunity for additional regional engagement.  According to [Secretary of State Hillary Clinton](http://csis.org/files/attachments/110318_clinton_transcript.pdf), “There is no part of the world that is more closely linked with who we are as Americans and what kind of future we want for our children than this hemisphere, and in particular, in Latin America.” We have a history of establishing partnerships with Latin America on innovative development projects like Plan Colombia, which go across the spectrum of national security, economic prosperity, and humanitarian issues.

#### Latin America is crucial to the U.S. economy

Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico Co-chair and Thomas R. Pickering, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, Co-chairs Partnership for the Americas Commission, November 2008, “Rethinking U.S.–Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Turbulent World,” The Brookings Institution, accessed 5-2-2013, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2008/11/ [24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124\_latin\_america\_partnership.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/%20media/research/files/reports/2008/11/24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124_latin_america_partnership.pdf)

As the crisis unfolds, Latin America remains important to the United States in at least two respects. If the LAC region grows at rates of more than 3 percent a year—as the International Monetary Fund currently projects—even in a weak global economy, its countries will play a valuable role as buyers of U.S. goods and services, helping the U.S. economy export its way out of the crisis. Conversely, if the region’s economy deteriorates further, the problems associated with poverty, crime, inequality, and migration may worsen and could potentially spill across borders. For the United States, coping with the hemispheric impact of the financial crisis will be a major policy challenge with economic as well as political and security implications.

#### Increasing economic engagement in Latin America boosts U.S. economic growth

James M. Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom and Growth in the Center for International Trade and Economics and Ray Walser, PhD, Senior Policy Analyst for Latin America in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, January 7, 2013, “Latin America and the Caribbean: A Wish List for 2013,” The Heritage Foundation, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/01/us-foreign-policy-wish-list-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-2013>, accessed 5-2-2013

Trade liberalization has opened markets around the world to U.S. goods and services and has created a level of competition that leads to innovation, better and less expensive products, higher-paying jobs for Americans, and the investment needed for long-term economic recovery, growth, and continued prosperity. Foot-dragging throughout most of the first Obama Administration and failure to push hard for congressional approval of free trade agreements (FTAs) with Colombia and Panama stalled the momentum generated by previous U.S. Administrations for more trade liberalization. If President Obama wants to increase economic growth and job creation for Americans in his second term, he should reassert U.S. leadership of hemispheric trade policy.

### Engagement Good – Competitiveness

#### Trade with Latin America is key to competitiveness

Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico Co-chair and Thomas R. Pickering, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, Co-chairs Partnership for the Americas Commission, November 2008, “Rethinking U.S.–Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Turbulent World,” The Brookings Institution, accessed 5-2-2013, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2008/11/ [24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124\_latin\_america\_partnership.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/%20media/research/files/reports/2008/11/24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124_latin_america_partnership.pdf)

Trade with the LAC countries benefits the United States. It gives U.S. companies access to a $3.5 trillion market of 600 million people and access to low-cost suppliers, which increases their competitiveness in world markets. The LAC countries buy goods produced by skilled workers in the United States, and these workers benefit from greater demand for their labor and receive higher wages. Meanwhile, shareholders in U.S. companies benefit from more competitive and profitable firms, and American consumers enjoy access to lower-priced goods of greater quality and variety.

#### The U.S. is failing to take economic advantage of Latin America engagement

Patrick Duddy, former U.S. Ambassador to serve in Venezuela and a visiting senior lecturer at Duke University’s Center for International Studies and Frank O. Mora, incoming director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University, May 1, 2013, “Latin America: Is U.S. influence waning?,” Miami Herald, <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/05/01/3375160/latin-america-is-us-influence.html>, accessed 5-1-2013

Is U.S. influence in Latin America on the wane? It depends how you look at it. As President Obama travels to Mexico and Costa Rica, it’s likely the pundits will once again underscore what some perceive to be the eroding influence of the United States in the Western Hemisphere. Some will point to the decline in foreign aid or the absence of an overarching policy with an inspiring moniker like “Alliance for Progress” or “Enterprise Area of the Americas” as evidence that the United States is failing to embrace the opportunities of a region that is more important to this country than ever.

#### Mobilizing engagement is essential to energy security

Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico Co-chair and Thomas R. Pickering, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, Co-chairs Partnership for the Americas Commission, November 2008, “Rethinking U.S.–Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Turbulent World,” The Brookings Institution, accessed 5-2-2013, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2008/11/ [24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124\_latin\_america\_partnership.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/%20media/research/files/reports/2008/11/24%20latin%20america%20partnership/1124_latin_america_partnership.pdf)

Addressing the challenge of energy security will require making energy consumption more efficient and developing new energy sources, whereas addressing the challenge of climate change will require finding ways to control carbon emissions, helping the world shift away from carbon-intensive energy generation, and adapting to some aspects of changing ecosystems. Potential solutions to these problems exist in the Americas, but mobilizing them will require a sustained hemispheric partnership.

### Engagement Good – Democracy

#### U.S. engagement in Latin America spreads democracy

Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator from Florida, April 25, 2012, “U.S. foreign policy, close to home,” LA Times, <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/apr/25/opinion/la-oe-rubio-latin-america-20120425>

We also need to assist Latin America's many fledgling democracies. Free elections are crucial, but they aren't enough to secure a democracy. As we've seen in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Bolivia, elected leaders can use democratically obtained power to abuse their people, attack fundamental freedoms and weaken civil society. Sadly, too many Latin American nations seem to have forgotten their own struggles against authoritarian regimes and are standing by quietly while freedom is denied in Cuba and democracy attacked in neighboring countries. We must urge all our fellow democracies in the Western Hemisphere to be defenders of freedom across the region.

#### Only U.S. engagement can foster democracy and stability

Russell Crandall, Associate Professor of International Politics at [Davidson College](http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12.xml?debug=2), May - June 2011, “The Post-American Hemisphere Subtitle: Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America,” Foreign Affairs, p. 83
Ironically, moreover, Latin America's entry into a "post-hegemonic" era, a product of its own advancements, could undermine its past progress. As the balance of power in the region is redistributed, unexpected alliances and enmities could arise. Many observers have assumed that less U.S. involvement would be an inherently positive development, but that may be too optimistic. No one should underestimate the capacity of the Venezuela-led bloc of quasi-authoritarian leftist governments to stop the regional trend toward greater openness and democracy -- values that the bloc sees as representing a capitulation to the U.S.-controlled global system.

#### Obama has a history of subverting Latin American democracy

Stephen Lendman, Staff Writer, June 25, 2012, “Obama’s War on Democracy in Latin America,” Global Research, <http://www.globalresearch.ca/obama-s-war-on-democracy-in-latin-america/31587>, accessed 5-3-2013

In June 2009, Obama orchestrated Honduran President Manuel Zelaya’s ouster. A US supported fascist despot replaced him. For good reason, Honduras is called the murder capital of the world. Independent journalists are killed. So are protesters for democratic change. After its calamitous January 2010 earthquake, Obama militarized Haiti, plundered it freely, opposed Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s return, orchestrated the nation’s rigged elections, and prohibited the emergence of democracy. On September 30, 2010, his attempt to oust Ecuador’s Rafael Correa failed. Coup plotters shut down airports, blocked highways, burned tires, and roughed up the president. They also took over an airbase, parliament, and Quito streets. They acted on the pretext of a law restructuring police benefits. Ignored was that Correa doubled their wages. Obama’s fingerprints were all over the scheme to oust a business-friendly leader who fell short of a neoliberal perfection.

### Yes Iran-Venezuela Ties

#### Iran has deep economic engagement with Venezuela

Jennifer Aron, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric, April 3, 2013, “[Revisiting Iran’s Relations with Venezuela and Argentina](http://www.coha.org/revisiting-irans-relations-with-venezuela-and-argentina/),” <http://www.coha.org/revisiting-irans-relations-with-venezuela-and-argentina/>, accessed 4-26-13

According to Fars New Agency, which professes to be an independent Iranian news agency, “the Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC) …will soon sign a contract to build an offshore oil installation construction yard in Venezuela.” If this report proves reliable, then Tehran and Caracas will be solidifying their relationship in a post-Chávez world through oil deals. Venezuela is currently selling weapons to Iran, which is not in compliance with the weapons sanctions placed on Iran. Caracas claims that based on its definition of state sovereignty, Venezuela should be able to sell goods to anyone that it desires.  In 2009, the word was that Caracas was willing to sell uranium to Tehran, which caused uproar in the global community, but this so called claim lacked even a semblance of truth.

#### Iran’s bilateral economic cooperation with Venezuela benefits its nuclear program

Yael Marciano, a fellow at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Matias A. Sueldo, a joint-degree candidate at Yale Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, April 10, 2012, “Squeezing Iran Out of Latin America,” Huffington Post, accessed 5-2-2013, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yael-marciano/squeezing-iran-out-of-lat_b_1413486.html>

Over all other countries, however, the Iranian regime's relations have been strongest with the Hugo Chávez government in Venezuela. Strong bilateral cooperation exists in the political, economic, scientific, and cultural spheres. Chávez and Ahmadinejad have visited each other's capitals and jointly lambasted the U.S. A direct commercial flight now exists from Caracas to Tehran. Most worryingly, in a 2009 cable to Washington published by Wikileaks, the then U.S. ambassador in Caracas discussed claims and denials from high-level Venezuelan officials that the country was using Iran's help to exploit Venezuela's uranium reserves. The 2009 cable ultimately concluded that "there does not appear to be a project underway to develop this resource." And yet today, rumors swirl of airliners departing Caracas half-full to Tehran, purportedly to protect passengers from radiation. The Israeli government has also claimed that Caracas is selling uranium to Tehran.

#### Iran has close economic ties with Venezuela

Jennifer Aron, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric, April 3, 2013, “[Revisiting Iran’s Relations with Venezuela and Argentina](http://www.coha.org/revisiting-irans-relations-with-venezuela-and-argentina/),” <http://www.coha.org/revisiting-irans-relations-with-venezuela-and-argentina/>, accessed 4-26-13

Iran and Venezuela in recent years have increased the scope of their economic ties.  As CNN reported,  “Over the years, the two nations have signed more than 270 accords, including trade deals and agreements on construction projects, car and tractor factories, energy initiatives, and banking programs.” Iran and Venezuela have numerous economic pacts, aid, and credit agreements. Unfortunately, they ultimately often turn out as little more than hot air.

### US Engagement Solves Iranian Influence

#### U.S. engagement is essential to check Iranian alliance

Juan Forero, Staff Writer, January 10, 2013, “In Chavez's absence, U.S. sees opening,” The Washington Post, p. A1.

The effort to break through a years-old deep freeze with one of the world's top oil suppliers comes as Venezuela plunged deeper into an institutional crisis Wednesday over Chavez's long absence since undergoing surgery Dec. 11 in Cuba. But American officials have been preparing for a post-Chavez scenario, one in which they can engage Caracas on a variety of concerns the State Department has had about the Venezuelan government's policies. They include the close alliance Venezuela has built with Iran, extensive narco- trafficking through Venezuelan territory and prickly economic issues important to U.S. companies, such as their inability to repatriate earnings from here because of currency controls.

#### Engagement with Venezuela drives out Iranian influence and boost coopertion

[Barnini Chakraborty](http://www.foxnews.com/archive/author/barnini-chakraborty/index.html), Staff Writer, March 06, 2013, “US faces tightrope walk in post-Chavez Venezuela,” FoxNews.com, <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/03/06/us-faces-tightrope-walk-in-post-chavez-venezuela/>, accessed 4-23-13

Experts believe Chavez’s death, though, could change the dynamic in the region – something U.S. officials hope to jump on. One reason is Iran. Iran and Venezuela have had close ties for years, and weakening the country’s grip on Venezuela could be helpful in the future. Last year, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad traveled to Venezuela and both leaders vowed to work together. In the past, the two nations have signed more than 270 trade deals as well as construction projects, energy initiatives and banking deals. Restoring relations could involve striking common ground beneficial to both on counterterrorism, counternarcotics and energy, one State Department official said.

#### Now is a key time for the U.S. to engage Venezuela

Tampa Bay Times (editorial), March 7, 2013, “A chance for the U.S. to engage Venezuela,” p. 12A

President [Hugo Chavez](http://www.lexisnexis.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T17277630351&returnToId=20_T17277631224&csi=11063&A=0.7550980214182567&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE0009UJ6%23&searchTerm=Hugo%20Chavez%20&indexType=P)used Venezuela's vast oil wealth to buy friends, bully adversaries and sustain a power base that was built on dividing the population and paralyzing them under a cult of personality. His death Tuesday at 58 after a long struggle with cancer leaves a vacuum and an opportunity for Venezuela to come to terms with the ruin Chavez brought to one of the most important players in the Western Hemisphere. The United States should engage Venezuela during this transition and seek to rebalance America's influence on a regional scale.

### US Engagement Solves Iran Nuclearization

#### The U.S. must step up engagement to cut off Iran’s nuclear lifeline in Latin America

Yael Marciano, a fellow at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Matias A. Sueldo, a joint-degree candidate at Yale Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, April 10, 2012, “Squeezing Iran Out of Latin America,” Huffington Post, accessed 5-2-2013, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yael-marciano/squeezing-iran-out-of-lat_b_1413486.html>

President Obama was in Seoul last week mobilizing the international community to counter nuclear weapons proliferation. He met with the Russians and Chinese on the sidelines and asked them to support the international community's diplomatic and economic stranglehold of Iran. And yet, even as an Iranian nuclear weapon looms, the U.S. is moving too slowly to cut the Iranian regime's growing lifeline in Latin America. Since 2005, the regime's Latin American lifeline has grown through six new embassies and 17 cultural centers. In tandem, Iran has dramatically increased the size of its diplomatic missions across the region.

#### Iran is looking for uranium in Venezuela

Leadership Action Network, January 22, 2013, “Iran’s Nuclear Duplicity Continues,”

<http://www.leadershipactionnetwork.org/alerts/iran%E2%80%99s-nuclear-duplicity-continues>, accessed 5-2-2013

It has been widely reported that Iran has been actively mining for uranium in Venezuela’s Roraima Basin. [Testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations](http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Ilan_Berman_Testimony1.pdf) by Ilan Berman in February 2012, corroborates a 2009 report from the [Wall Street Journal](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704869304574595652815802722.html) on Iranian mining in the Basin. According to the Wall Street Journal Report, the basis for the Iran-Venezuela mining initiative is a 2008 signed agreement in which Iran and Venezuela “agreed to cooperate in the fields of nuclear technology.”  In Bolivia, there are reports of Iran mining for uranium.  Iran is also believed to have provided funds and Revolutionary Guard trainers for a regional defense school of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA).

#### Engagement is essential to check Iran. They can have nukes in a month

Yael Marciano, a fellow at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Matias A. Sueldo, a joint-degree candidate at Yale Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, April 10, 2012, “Squeezing Iran Out of Latin America,” Huffington Post, accessed 5-2-2013, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yael-marciano/squeezing-iran-out-of-lat_b_1413486.html>

More tangible security benefits have also inured from the regime's diplomatic offensive, given that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force stations operatives in overseas embassies, charities, and religious and cultural institutions. Some analysts believe that the Quds Force may be building a network of local operatives, Hezbollah cells, and other sympathetic anti-U.S. organizations in order to strike back at U.S. and Israeli targets should there be a military attack against Iran's nuclear facilities.

On March 7, the "[Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr3783)" was finally referred by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to the full House for consideration. The bill is still awaiting passage by the House and the Senate. Even if passed, the bill gives the Secretary of State six months to produce a strategy to address Iranian activity in the Western Hemisphere, and only until one year after that does it require the Secretary of State to provide a progress report on the strategy's implementation. Given estimates that Iran could be within months of obtaining a nuclear weapon, this timeline is simply unacceptable. The Obama administration must and can mobilize the hemisphere to action against Iran. No congressional bill is necessary.

### Iran Nuclearization Bad

#### Iranian nuclear weapons would shatter the NPT and spur new proliferation

Andrea ó Súilleabháin, Visiting Fellow at the International Peace Institute, April 29, 2013, “[Coercive Sanctions and Military Threats Push Iran Closer to the Nuclear Threshold](http://theglobalobservatory.org/interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html),” accessed 5-5-2013, http://theglobalobservatory.org/ interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html

“For us to be pursuing this unwise and counterproductive policy toward Iran is very dangerous and ultimately will be contrary to our own security interests,” said Mr. Cortright, emphasizing additional grave concerns for regional security with armed conflict already raging at a horrific rate in Syria. If Iran moves toward building nuclear weapons, other countries in the region may follow suit, causing a serious blow to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and marking a grave setback to international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

#### Nukes in Iran would shatter global nonproliferation efforts

Stephanie Nebehay, Staff Writer, April 22, 2013, “Iran is biggest threat to nuclear pact's credibility: U.S.,” Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/22/us-nuclear-npt-idUSBRE93L0US20130422>, accessed 5-2-2013

Iran's nuclear program poses the greatest threat to the credibility of the global pact aimed at halting the spread of atomic weapons, a senior U.S. arms control official said on Monday. The Islamic Republic has a "long history" of deceiving the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its nuclear enrichment program far exceeds that needed for civilian use, said Thomas Countryman, Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation. Two-week talks that opened in Geneva on Monday to review progress in implementing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) were taking place in a difficult environment, he said. [North Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/north-korea), which is not attending the global talks having announced its withdrawal from the treaty a decade ago, presents a "dangerous challenge to regional peace", he said. North Korea conducted its third test of a nuclear weapon in February. "The actions of [Iran](http://www.reuters.com/places/iran) and [North Korea](http://www.reuters.com/places/north-korea?lc=int_mb_1001) should concern every member of this conference," Countryman told a news briefing. "It is clear that if [Iran](http://www.reuters.com/places/iran?lc=int_mb_1001) succeeds in the project of constructing nuclear weapons, then it is not only the Helsinki meeting that becomes irrelevant, but it is in fact the entire credibility of this treaty." Countryman was referring to a decision last November to put off talks on banning atomic bombs in the Middle East that were due to have taken place in Helsinki in December. Iran blamed the United States at the time for a "serious setback" to the NPT. "The possession of such weapons by Iran constitutes a threat to the entire region and an impetus for greater proliferation, lateral proliferation of weapons, than we have ever seen." Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapon would be a "genuine tipping point and would cause more damage to the treaty than anything else that has occurred in its history", he added.

#### Even if deterrence would evolve, the short-term risks are quick nuclear escalation

Colin H. Kahl, associate professor in the Security Studies Program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, September-October 2012, “Iran and the bomb: would a nuclear Iran make the Middle East more secure?,” [Foreign Affairs](http://go.galegroup.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/ps/aboutJournal.do?pubDate=120120901&actionString=DO_DISPLAY_ABOUT_PAGE&inPS=true&prodId=AONE&userGroupName=ksu&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&docId=GALE%7C1104), p. 157

The threat would be particularly high in the initial period after Iran joined the nuclear club. Once the superpowers reached rough nuclear parity during the Cold War, for example, the number of direct crises decreased, and the associated risks of nuclear escalation abated. But during the early years of the Cold War, the superpowers were involved in several crises, and on at least one occasion--the 1962 Cuban missile crisis--they came perilously close to nuclear war. Similarly, a stable deterrent relationship between Iran, on the one hand, and the United States and Israel, on the other, would likely emerge over time, but the initial crisis-prone years would be hair-raising. Although all sides would have a profound interest in not allowing events to spiral out of control, the residual risk of inadvertent escalation stemming from decades of distrust and hostility, the absence of direct lines of communication, and organizational mistakes would be nontrivial--and the consequences of even a low-probability outcome could be devastating.

### Iran Nuclearization Close

#### Iran is moving closer to developing nuclear weapons

Dana Hughes, staff writer, March 5, 2013, “John Kerry Concedes Iran Is Moving Closer to Possessing Nuclear Weapon,” ABC News, <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Politics/john-kerry-concedes-iran-moving-closer-possessing-nuclear/story?id=18655927#.UYhEA7Xz2m4>, accessed 5-5-2013

At the end of his first overseas trip as Secretary of State, John Kerry acknowledged that despite the continued diplomacy and tough [sanctions being leveled against Iran](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iran-assails-western-criticism-defends-nuke-talks-18654204), the regime continues to get closer to possessing a nuclear weapon. "Lines have been drawn before and they've been passed," Kerry said. "That's why the president has been so definitive this time. This is a very challenging moment with great risks and stakes for everybody because the region will be far less stable and far more threatened if [Iran were to have a nuclear weapon](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Politics/john-kerry-concedes-iran-moving-closer-possessing-nuclear/Politics/wireStory/biden-iran-threat-obama-bluffing-18648459)."

#### Iran could buy nuclear weapons from North Korea

Edward Jay Epstein, staff writer, March 27, 2013, “How Iran Could Get the Bomb Overnight,” Wall St. Journal, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323419104578378434011235810.html>, accessed 5-5-2013

But what if Iran buys one or two nuclear warheads from North Korea? The government in Pyongyang has already conducted three nuclear tests and claims that it has nuclear warheads that fit on its No Dong medium-range ballistic missiles. If that claim is true, then mounting the warheads on Iran's Shahab missiles, which are copies of the North Korean ones, would present little problem. After all, Iran has collaborated with North Korea on missile design for more than a decade. These off-the-shelf weapons would leave virtually no window of opportunity for a pre-emptive attack by the West and its allies. The warheads could arrive in Iran on a plane in the middle of the night and be immediately fitted onto Iranian missiles. Iran would not have to actually use these missiles to have a deterrent. It could renounce the Non-Proliferation Treaty and flaunt its nukes, as North Korea has done for seven years without suffering a military attack by the U.S. Indeed, such a fait accompli would give Iran the same potential for nuclear retaliation as North Korea.

#### A nuclear Iran would set off a domino of proliferation

David Cortright, Director of Policy Studies at the [Kroc Institute](http://kroc.nd.edu/) for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, April 29, 2013, “[Coercive Sanctions and Military Threats Push Iran Closer to the Nuclear Threshold](http://theglobalobservatory.org/interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html),” accessed 5-5-2013, http://theglobalobservatory.org/ interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html

If they were to move toward actually building a bomb, then it’s a whole different story. Saudi Arabia has given signals that it might well move beyond its current civilian program to require nuclear weapons capability. If that were to occur, maybe other states in the region would do so as well. It’s a real danger, and we need to do everything possible to prevent Iran from going toward actual nuclear weapons capability. If Iran were to go in that direction, and if Saudi Arabia and some other countries followed suit, it would be a very serious blow to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to the NPT regime generally, and would be a grave setback to the generally positive efforts that have been made internationally to try to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

### AT: China DA – No Link

#### Venezuela will accept U.S. rapproachment as a hedge against Chinese economic influence

Zachary Fillingham, Analyst for the Geopolitical Monitor, March 18, 2013, “Post-Chavez US-Venezuelan Relations: Headed for a Thaw?,” [http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-library/Articles/Detail/ ?lng=en&id=161436](http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-library/Articles/Detail/%20?lng=en&id=161436), accessed 4-26-13

In this context, a limited rapprochement makes sense from a Venezuelan point of view, as it would balance against a preponderance of Chinese economic influence. Now that the “Bolivarian Revolution” is all but discredited, and countries like Brazil have proven that it’s possible to alleviate poverty through trade and keep US influence at arm’s length, a US-Venezuelan thaw is theoretically possible. However, authorities in Washington will likely have to endure another round of vitriol and wait until the dust settles in [Venezuelan domestic politics](http://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/venezuela-violence-and-politics-4490/) before their window of opportunity presents itself.

#### China is not trying to undermine the U.S. in Latin America. Their argument is pure threat construction

Gabriel Marcella, PhD, Strategic Studies Institute, Winter 2012, “China's Military Activity in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, <http://www.ciaonet.org.er.lib.k-state.edu/journals/aq/aq1054/04.html>, accessed 5-1-2013

One headline in the Asia Times Online proclaimed: "China on the March in Latin America." Another, in Military Review, warned of China's threat to the United States: "In Uncle Sam's Backyard: China's Military Influence in Latin America." Such language underlines fears about China becoming a military rival to the U.S. -or worse, undermining U.S. security in a region defined in the past by the Monroe Doctrine. The truth, though, doesn't look anything like the headlines. Although military diplomacy and arms sales and transfers to some countries of the region have increased in the past decade, the quantity and type of equipment involved hardly represents the strategic threat suggested by the headline writers. Moreover, much of the equipment is logistical in nature; little of it is for combat or power projection. There is, to be sure, a heightened Chinese interest in building alliances and extending contacts with governments and institutional players (such as militaries) in the region-going beyond just trade and investment. But the notion that the Chinese are seeking to establish a strategic beachhead is far-fetched, irresponsible and counterproductive to establishing a useful relationship with China as its global influence rises. Contrary to the headlines, China does not want to challenge the U.S. in the hemisphere.

#### China doesn’t want deeper economic engagement with Venezuela

Zachary Fillingham, Analyst for the Geopolitical Monitor, March 18, 2013, “Post-Chavez US-Venezuelan Relations: Headed for a Thaw?,” [http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/ ?lng=en&id=161436](http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/%20?lng=en&id=161436), accessed 4-26-13

Given its precarious economic situation, Venezuela will need outside assistance in the near future. And while some would say that China is best suited to step up and bail out Caracas, there are a few reasons to question whether this will actually come to pass. First of all, The Chinese Development Bank has already provided a huge amount of money to the Chavez government, about $40 billion between 2008 and 2012 alone. Thus, if Venezuela were to be faced with a default, it would be Chinese investors with their money on the line. Any debt renegotiations would surely include provisions that didn’t sit well with the Venezuelan public. After all, [there have already been agreements reached](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/02/china-maps-out-venezuelas-valuable-mining-resources/) between Venezuela and the Chinese state-owned company Citic Group that have raised populist alarm bells regarding the signing of mineral rights over to foreign companies

### AT: China DA – No Impact

#### China in Latin America is no threat to U.S. security

Gabriel Marcella, PhD, Strategic Studies Institute, Winter 2012, “China's Military Activity in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, <http://www.ciaonet.org.er.lib.k-state.edu/journals/aq/aq1054/04.html>, accessed 5-1-2013

U.S. officials are not publicly concerned about China's military activities. Frank Mora, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs, stated in 2009 that while the U.S. stands for transparency, China's arms and technology transfers are standard in the international community, and that some of the equipment can help Latin American governments improve security and counter drug trafficking. Henry Kissinger, in his latest book, On China, calls for the new U.S. relationship with China to be built on strategic trust. The same advice applies to thinking about the evolving ties between China and Latin America.

#### China already has extensive arms sales to Latin America

Loro Horta, Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Security Studies (CSIS) at Sydney University in Australia, September/October 2008, “In Uncle Sam’s Backyard: China's Military Influence in Latin America,” [Military Review](http://search.proquest.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/Military%2BReview/%24N/40805/DocView/225306723/fulltext/%24B/1?accountid=11789), p. 47

When analyzing China’s relations with Latin America, most observers tend to give marginal attention to the military and defense dimensions of the relationship and focus primarily on economic matters. A survey of official and academic publications on China's involvement with Latin America shows the minimal attention given to the military aspect of the phenomenon. Many have pointed to China's limited arms sales to Latin America as a clear indicator of China's insignificant military position in the region. But weapons trade is not the only avenue available for establishing military influence abroad. Military and defense education, official visits by military officers and defense officials at various levels, participation in joint exercises, UN missions, air shows, and the provision of both non-military and military services are ways the Chinese are increasingly building a presence in Latin America. China's defense ties with Latin America have until recently been sporadic, involving little more than a few widely spaced official visits and even fewer hardware sales. However, since 2000, China has engaged in a patient, comprehensive diplomacy strategy toward Latin America. The PLA's new charm offensive is slowly but steadily winning a foothold. Initiatives beyond arms sales are incrementally allowing the PLA to create a foundation for long-term military cooperation in the not so distant future.

#### China won’t use Latin America influence to challenge U.S. hegemony

[Isabel Hilton](http://www.peacebuilding.no/eng/About-NOREF/Authors/Isabel-Hilton), staff writer, February 20, 2013, “China in Latin America: hegemonic challenge?,” <http://www.peacebuilding.no/Regions/Asia/Publications/China-in-Latin-America-hegemonic-challenge>, accessed 5-5-2013

The United States is Latin America’s traditional hegemonic power, but China’s influence in the region is large and growing. How far does China’s presence in the U.S. backyard represent a hegemonic challenge? China is important in the region as a buyer of Latin American resources, primarily from four countries, an important investor and an exporter of manufactured goods. The impact of China’s activities varies in degree from country to country. In several countries local manufacturing has suffered from cheaper Chinese imports; several countries have benefited from Chinese demand for resources, others from large investments, and China is having an important impact on the region’s infrastructure. The risks to the region include resource curse, distorted development and environmental degradation due to a lowering of environmental and social standards. Despite its significant economic presence, China has been careful to keep a low political and diplomatic profile to avoid antagonising the U.S. and to maintain a benign environment for its economic activities. Chinese support, however, has been important for partners, such as Cuba and Venezuela, that do not enjoy good relations with the U.S. So far the two powers have sought cooperation rather than confrontation, but rising tensions with U.S. allies Japan and Vietnam could have repercussions in Latin America if China feels the U.S. is becoming too assertive in its own East Asian backyard.

## Russia DA Answers

### Non Unique – Magnitsky/Adoption

#### Relations low – Magnitsky sanctions and retaliation

Bernard Gwertzman, Consulting Editor at the Council on Foreign Relations, 4/18/13, "Repairing U.S.-Russia Relations," Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/russian-fed/repairing-us-russia-relations/p30484, accessed 5/24/13

Diplomatic relations between Washington and Moscow have chilled markedly over the past year, beset most recently by U.S. legislation known as the Magnitsky Act, which imposed sanctions on a list of alleged human rights abusers in Russia. Moscow, in turn, retaliated with a series of measures that, among other things, ban U.S. citizens from adopting Russians. Despite these tensions, Jack F. Matlock, Jr., a former envoy to Moscow, says the two powers have many shared interests that require cooperation. "On issues that are extremely important to the United States, like dealing with North Korea, dealing with Afghanistan, and dealing with Iran, our policies are very close and tend to be mutually supportive," he notes. Presidents Obama and Putin are scheduled to meet twice over the next several months, and Matlock holds hope the pair can reengage on these important topics and others, including the conflict in Syria and arms control.

#### The reset has failed – relations are unraveling

Washington Post, 1/13/13, "Sour U.S.-Russia relations threaten Obama’s foreign policy agenda," articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-13/world/36323155\_1\_putin-and-obama-missile-defense-russian-president-vladimir-putin, Accessed 5/20/13

A poisonous unraveling of U.S. relations with Russia in recent months represents more than the failure of President Obama’s first-term attempt to “reset” badly frayed bilateral relations. It threatens pillars of Obama’s second-term foreign policy agenda as well. From Syria and Iran to North Korea and Afghanistan, Russian President Vladimir Putin holds cards that he can use to help or hurt Obama administration objectives. Obama badly needs Russian help to get U.S. troops and gear out of landlocked Afghanistan. He also wants Russian cooperation — or at least a quiet agreement not to interfere — on other international fronts. Putin, however, appears to see little reason to help. Since his election last year to a third term as president, his political stock has risen among many Russians as he has confronted the West, and the United States in particular. The pro-democracy street demonstrations of a year ago have evaporated, leaving the former KGB officer in clear control. In December, both countries passed punitive laws that capped a year of deteriorating relations. A U.S. law targeting Russia’s human rights record and a tit-for-tat law banning American adoption of Russian children reflected domestic politics and national chauvinism, and they reinforced many of the worst suspicions that each nation holds about the other.

#### Relations with Russia have reached rock bottom

NPR, 4/3/13, "Ex-Diplomats: U.S.-Russian Relations Not As Dire As They Seem," www.npr.org/2013/04/03/176153411/ex-diplomats-u-s-russian-relations-not-as-dire-as-they-seem, accessed 5/22/13

Relations between the United States and Russia are testier than they have been in years. The two nations are at odds over human rights, the civil war in Syria and even the adoption of Russian orphans by American families.

### Non Unique –Syria

#### US/Russia relations deteriorating over Syria

Los Angeles Times, 3/19/13, "U.S., Russia split on disputed chemical weapons strike in Syria," articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/19/world/la-fg-wn-syria-chemical-dispute-20130319, accessed 5/21/13

The United States and Russia stood behind their respective allies Tuesday as each side in the Syrian conflict accused the other of launching a devastating chemical attack outside the northern city of Aleppo. Washington has backed the ouster of Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Moscow has long resisted opposition efforts to topple Assad, its longtime ally. The chasm between the two world powers was again readily apparent after conflicting accounts emerged about the alleged deployment of chemical weapons

#### US sanctions on Syria provoking a Russian backlash

Turkish Weekly, 5/24/13, "Russian top foreign official blasts US over unilateral Syria sanctions," www.turkishweekly.net/news/150782/russian-top-foreign-official-blasts-us-over-unilateral-syria-sanctions.html, accessed 5/24/13

Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov has lashed out at anti-Assad sanctions slapped on the Syrian regime by Washington. He stressed that unilateral sanctions banning oil and arms imports to Syria violated international rules and were profoundly illegal. Speaking in an interview to Russian media on the nature of US-Russian ties, Mr. Ryabkov stressed that sanctions imposed unilaterally by a third country in violation of UN conventions were not going to fix the Syrian crisis. He also pointed out that the US-initiated arms and oil embargo was in fact targeting Russian and Iranian exporters. This is equally illegal, Ryabkov told the Interfax news agency, since Russian weapon shipments adhere to existing legal agreements between Moscow and Damascus and are fulfilled in accordance with international norms.

#### US and Russian opposition hardening over Syria

Boston Globe, 5/18/13, "US, Russia may have found common ground in Syria," www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2013/05/17/russia-may-have-found-common-ground-syria/gRYLO15upAve8ymot6zhrI/story.html, accessed 5/24/13

When Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei V. Lavrov, clashed over Syria last year with Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the secretary of state, he called her hysterical, the sort of impolitic remark that showed just how sour their relationship had become. The hardened positions of Russia and the United States over Syria and other issues have not changed significantly since then, but with John Kerry replacing Clinton, the tone at least has.

### Non Unique – Missile Defense

#### Missile defense disputes undermine cooperation

Press TV, 5/24/13, "Russia's top brass blast US security policies," www.presstv.ir/usdetail/305158.html

Senior Russian officials have taken a swipe at the United States defense and security policies at a time Russia’s security chief was visiting Washington. “Lack of trust remains a holdover of the Cold War… the missile defense is an acute problem (and) the unilateral buildup of missile capabilities create serious obstacles for implementation of undivided European security,” Russia’s Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said opening an international security conference in Moscow on Thursday.

#### US sparking Russian opposition on missile defense

Turkish Weekly, 5/24/13, "Russian top foreign official blasts US over unilateral Syria sanctions," www.turkishweekly.net/news/150782/russian-top-foreign-official-blasts-us-over-unilateral-syria-sanctions.html, accessed 5/24/13

Russia and the US do not see eye to eye on a whole range of issues concerning the controversial missile defense shield Washington is building in Europe. A statement to this effect was made today by President Putin’s aide, Yuri Ushakov, who spoke on the contents of president’s letter to his American counterpart, Barack Obama. In it, Putin gave his own assessment of many points that Russia and the US can't agree on, Mr. Ushakov said. He refused to talk specifically about the problems that still remain unresolved, but said they were abundant.

#### Russia doesn’t perceive any concessions on missile defense

RT, 3/18/13, "Russia attacks US missile defense plans, says no concessions possible," rt.com/politics/russia-blasts-us-missile-defense-plans-says-no-concessions-possible-426/, accessed 5/24/13

The latest American steps to wrap up the missile defense project in Poland and to deploy additional interceptors in Alaska will not change Russia’s position on the European AMD system, leading Russian officials have said. “This is not a concession to Russia and we do not perceive it as such,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said commenting on the news that the United States had canceled the fourth stage of the deployment of the anti-missile system in Eastern Europe.

### AT: Boston Bombing Increased Relations

#### Counterterrorism can’t provide a foundation for increased relations

Cory Welt, Adjunct Fellow at the Center for American Progress, 4/22/13, "The Boston Marathon Attack, the North Caucasus, and U.S.-Russian Relations," www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2013/04/22/61146/the-boston-marathon-attack-the-north-caucasus-and-u-s-russian-relations/, accessed 5/12/13

At the same time, the history of post-9/11 relations suggests that a stable and constructive U.S.-Russian relationship cannot be built mainly on a counterterrorism foundation. One element of the Russian response to the Boston attack has been the narrative that the United States is selective in its dealing with terrorists worldwide and that this attack should convince Washington to adopt a stricter line against all forms of Islamist extremism, such as, for instance, extremist elements in the Syrian resistance. While we should welcome greater U.S.-Russian counterterrorism cooperation, we should also temper expectations that the United States and Russia will develop entirely convergent policies of counterterrorism and counterextremism—or that such cooperation will be sufficient to overcome the still-substantial challenges in U.S.-Russian relations.

#### Boston won’t affect US/Russia Relations

Asia Times, 4/22/13, "Boston blasts won't revive US-Russia reset," www.atimes.com/atimes/World/WOR-02-220413.html, accessed 5/20/13

It is an effusive account, but then, Putin did offer help in investigations within hours of the Boston tragedy. The Russian security briefly detained Tsarnaev's father (who lives in Russia) and interrogated him before releasing him. The US-Russia security cooperation has taken a beating in the recent year or two even as the "reset" in the relations ended and a period of cold-war style distrust and acrimony developed between Moscow and Washington. However, it is too big a surmise to make at this point that a resetting of the moribund US-Russia "reset" is under way as a result of the Obama-Putin phone conversation. The point is, many issues of core interest to both sides in the overall testy relationship are intractable in a short term. Big powers do not overnight reset their compass. In fact, on Friday, the US State Department issued yet another annual human rights report, which alleged that fraudulent methods were applied by the Russian government in the last presidential election, which Putin won.

#### Too many conflicts for post-Boston cooperation to cement

Fyodor Lukyanov, Chairman of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy and editor of the journal Russia in Global Affairs, 4/25/13, "Russia, The US and Syria after the Boston bombing, www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/04/boston-russia-bombing-chechnya-911.html, accessed 5/20/13

Russia and the United States can now show that they are capable of working together in the war against terrorism in particular occasions, Putin also said. This will improve the atmosphere in the relationship, but it will not change it radically. Regarding the unending conflict in Syria, Moscow now has a new argument in its favor, not a decisive argument, but an additional one: misunderstanding the essential nature of an insurgency can come back like a boomerang. But in general, it is becoming ever clearer now that the terrorist threat lies primarily within a society, and that while external factors can catalyze it, they do not create it. And to blame its own misjudgments on external forces is a mistake for any government, whether American, Russian or Syrian.

### No Venezuela Link

#### Russian/Venezuelan ties will fall apart post-Chavez

Kommersant, 3/11/13, "WILL RUSSIA'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA DIE WITH CHAVEZ?," worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/will-russia-039-s-cozy-relationship-with-venezuela-die-with-chavez-/venezuela-chavez-russia-oil-military-trade-weapons/c1s11149/, accessed 5/22/13

Vladimir Semago, the vice-head of the Russian-Venezuelan Commerce Council is even more emphatic. “Now that Hugo Chavez is gone, all of this pretense of friendship with Venezuela will go, too,” he told Kommersant. “There was never any real partnership between our countries, there were only attempts to convince Russians that Moscow was colonizing Latin America, like it did in Africa during Soviet times.” According to Semago, one of the most ambitious projects – the creation of an oil consortium that is a partnership between the Russian national companies and the Venezuelan oil company – is a “total myth.” “The consortium was never allowed to do anything and never accomplished anything. There were only ever two Russian companies that were interested, anyway,” Semago explained. There are even more questions about the future of Russian-Venezuelan military partnerships, because those deals were always intimately connected to Chavez himself. When Chavez visited Moscow in 2004, he signed the first two major military contracts, for over $550 million worth of military equipment. “The work was hard, but as soon as Chavez got involved, it was like there was suddenly understanding on both sides,” said a source familiar with the negotiations. “And in all of the subsequent weapons negotiations he took a very direct role.”

#### Venezuela engagement with US inevitable

Kommersant, 3/11/13, "WILL RUSSIA'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA DIE WITH CHAVEZ?," worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/will-russia-039-s-cozy-relationship-with-venezuela-die-with-chavez-/venezuela-chavez-russia-oil-military-trade-weapons/c1s11149/, accessed 5/22/13

Now Venezuela is preparing to elect a new president. No matter who wins, whether it is Chavez’s designated successor or the opposition candidate, experts say that there will likely be serious changes. “No new government is going to continue the sharp anti-Americanism that Chavez governed with," explained Fedor Lukyanov, a representative of the Russian Council on Foreign Relations. "If Maduro wins, the relationship between Caracas and Washington will improve. If the opposition wins, then the country will totally reorient itself towards the United States.”

#### Venezuela pulling away from Russia now

Ruslan Pukhov, Director of the Centre for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, 3/18/13, "Russian-Venezuelan military cooperation after Chavez," Valdai, valdaiclub.com/latin\_america/56300.html, accessed 5/25/13

Therefore, Russian-Venezuelan military technical cooperation is bound to wither away gradually following Chavez’s death under any political scenario. Venezuela has contracted more weapons than it needs and its market is close to saturation. It will most likely honor its contracts with Russia as long as the supporters of Chavez remain in power, but new contracts are unlikely. But if the opposition comes to power, even existing contracts may be terminated.

### No Cuba Link

#### US/Cuba engagement is inevitable

William LeoGrande, Professor of Government at American, 4/2/13, "The Danger of Dependence: Cuba's Foreign Policy After Chavez," World Politics Review, www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/12840/the-danger-of-dependence-cubas-foreign-policy-after-chavez, accecssed 5/20/13

In his first public statement after assuming Cuba's presidency in 2006, Raúl Castro held out an olive branch to Washington, declaring his readiness to sit down and negotiate the differences between the two countries. Obama came to office in 2009 declaring that U.S. policy toward Cuba amounted to 50 years of failure and that it was "time to try something new." The stage appeared set for a tectonic shift in U.S.-Cuban relations, long locked in a state of perpetual hostility. Obama took some early steps that augured well. In April 2009, he ended restrictions on Cuban-American remittances and family travel and subsequently eased regulations limiting cultural and academic exchange. At Washington's initiative, the United States and Cuba resumed bilateral talks on migration, suspended by President George W. Bush in 2004. The two governments also began discussions on other issues of mutual interest, such as Coast Guard cooperation and drug interdiction. But the momentum in Washington soon dissipated in the face of more pressing foreign policy priorities, opposition from Congress, even among some Democrats, and resistance from an inertial State Department bureaucracy more comfortable with the familiar policy of the past -- its failure notwithstanding -- than the risk of trying something new. As a former senior State Department official explained, high-visibility foreign policy changes of this magnitude only happen if the president demands that they happen, and Obama's attention was focused elsewhere. In December 2009, Cuba's arrest of Alan Gross, a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development's "democracy promotion" programs, brought all progress to a halt. At the end of Obama's first term, relations with Cuba were not much better than at the start. Obama is known to be frustrated by the impasse and willing to make another effort to break through it in his second term. With no need for the president to worry about re-election, and the Cuban American community embracing more-moderate policies, domestic politics pose less of an obstacle than at any time since the end of the Cold War. Senior members of Obama's foreign policy team, including John Kerry at the State Department and Chuck Hagel at the Defense Department, are on record favoring better relations.

#### Cuba isn’t an important Russian ally

William LeoGrande, Professor of Government at American, 4/2/13, "The Danger of Dependence: Cuba's Foreign Policy After Chavez," World Politics Review, www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/12840/the-danger-of-dependence-cubas-foreign-policy-after-chavez, accecssed 5/20/13

Cuba's relations with Western Europe started returning to normal in the late-1970s, when Western banks, flush with petrodollars, were eager to loan money to Cuba to boost trade. Although the European Union's "Common Position," adopted in 1996, defines the EU's objective in Cuba as "transition to a pluralist democracy," it has not been a significant obstacle to normal diplomatic or economic relations in recent years. Europe, excluding the Russian Federation, constitutes 19 percent of Cuban trade. Russia and Cuba were estranged during Boris Yeltsin's presidency, but relations improved significantly under Vladimir Putin. Still, trade with the Russian Federation is less than 2 percent of Cuban trade.

#### Russia views its sphere of influence in a limited and pragmatic way

Dmitri Trenin, Director of the Moscow Center at Carnegie, October 2009, “Russia’s Spheres of Interest, not Influence,” The Washington Quarterly, 32:4, pp. 3-22

The current policy of Russia’s spheres of interest dates back from the mindset of the mid-2000s. Compared to the Soviet Union’s, the Russian Federation’s sphere is not only much smaller, but also much ‘‘lighter’’\_ ‘‘interests’’ after all are not as compelling as ‘‘influence.’’ In Russia, and throughout the former Soviet Union, ideology has been replaced by pervasive pragmatism. There is no hint of political control by Moscow either. Minsk, its closest political ally, is a case in point. Not only has Moscow no power to install or topple leaders in Belarus, but before the advent of color revolutions, it had vowed not to challenge the sitting rulers by maintaining contacts with their domestic opposition. At present, it has decided to boycott only one leader: Saakashvili. Moscow’s attempts to mobilize ethnic Russians in support of its policies have been few and half-hearted at best. Much of the opposition to the government of Estonia’s 2007 decision to replace the Soviet war memorial and the Soviet war graves in Tallinn came from the local Russian population, with the Kremlin piggybacking on it. In Crimea, it is local Russians’ resistance to cultural ‘‘Ukrainization’’ and their alienation from the policies of Kyiv that drives the protests against U.S. naval port visits and NATO military exercises. The Kremlin can exploit the situation, but it neither invents nor initiates it. Russia’s military presence in the CIS has become reduced to the Black Sea Fleet’s main base in Sevastopol, Crimea, two army bases in Armenia and Tajikistan, a peacekeeping-cum-storage guards unit in Transnistria, a small air base in Kyrgyzstan, and a sprinkling of military installations in Belarus and Kazakhstan. Not a single country is militarily ‘‘occupied’’ by Russia, or feels that way. The closest Moscow has come to the Soviet model of massive military presence is in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the two tiny republics that broke away from Georgia in the early 1990s and were recognized by Moscow as sovereign states in the wake of the 2008 Georgia war. Unlike ‘‘influence’’ which tends to be both all-inclusive and exclusive, ‘‘interests’’ are more specific and identifiable. Rather than whole countries, they include these various politico-military, economic and financial, and cultural areas within them.

### Relations Decline Inevitable

#### Low relations are inevitable

Alexander Motyl, Professor of political science at Rutgers, 6/11/09, “Why Obama Can’t Reset Relations with Putin's Russia,” Atlantic Council, <http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist/why-obama-can%E2%80%99t-reset-relations-putins-russia>, accessed 5/20/13

Were the worsening of U.S.-Russian relations due only to Bush’s policies, President Obama could easily fix things. But if U.S. relations with Russia worsened because of Putin’s transformation of Russia into an aggressively fascistoid state, then Obama can improve relations only at the margins—unless, of course, he’s willing to appease Moscow by sanctifying Russia’s neo-imperial hegemony over its non-Russian neighbors. Inasmuch as such a move would destabilize Russia and its neighbors—and, thus, Europe—by encouraging a hyperventilating Russian regime to engage in imperial overreach, no American President would willingly reset relations to the point of mutually assured debilitation. Putin’s Russia will have to experience its own Orange Revolution for a fundamental shift in relations to be possible.

#### Previous missteps make future progress impossible

David Speedie, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council, 4/9/08, “U.S.-Russia Relations: Under Stress, and in Need of Care”, <http://www.cceia.org/resources/articles_papers_reports/0005.html>, accessesd 5/20/13

But the roots of what has been called a "cold peace" between Russia and the United States go back virtually to the very first days of the post-Soviet era, which saw a series of missteps and missed opportunities on the part of the United States and the West. Instead of a strategic plan for dealing with the new Russia, President Bill Clinton's one-dimensional policy approach was based on the personal relationship with Boris Yeltsin who, cloaked in the garb of democratic reformer, presided over a catastrophic kleptocracy of annexation of state assets and capital flight.   Those policy initiatives that were enacted only served to stoke the fires of Russia's sense of humiliation and sidelining: NATO expansion eastward [now with the proposed further extension to Ukraine and Georgia]; unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; the bombing of Belgrade. The question of whether these policies were justified or not is not the point here; the point is that Russia felt either lied to—as in the case of NATO expansion—or marginalized. Indeed, it is fair to say that the combination of disastrous economic stewardship and Western neglect of Russia's interest in no small measure laid the ground work for Putin's ascension and lasting popularity as having "restored" Russia.

#### U.S.-Russia relationship impossible—Russian military action

Washington Post, 9/25/08, “Russian Diplomat Says Snub Over Iran Meeting Was Aimed at U.S.”

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday that his government had refused to attend a high-level meeting scheduled for Thursday to discuss Iran's nuclear ambitions in retaliation for Washington's refusal to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight industrialized powers. The move was calculated to show the United States that it will pay a price for seeking to isolate Russia on the international scene in response to its military intervention in Georgia last month. "You cannot really have it both ways, punishing Russia by canceling the forums that are very important for the entire world at the same time demanding Russia's cooperation on the issues that are of importance to you," Lavrov said during a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations on Wednesday night.

### Relations Resilient

#### Tension won’t undermine relations or cooperation

Stratfor, 2/6/12, “Russia and the United States: Pushing Tensions to the Limit?,” <http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/russia-and-united-states-pushing-tensions-limit?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20120206&utm_term=agenda&utm_content=link4&elq=fb42edfd0c354ff99741c0e8338d6e29>, accessed 5/13/13

As Russia and the United States prepare for their respective presidential elections, tensions between the countries are growing. The central point of contention is U.S. ballistic missile defense (BMD) plans. Russia has several levers, including its ability to cut off supply lines to the NATO-led war effort in Afghanistan, to use in the standoff over BMD, but the United States could retaliate by supporting the current protests in Russia. Moscow is willing to escalate tensions with Washington but will not push the crisis to the point where relations could formally break.

#### Even when relations are low– mutual self-interest drives cooperation

Matthew Rojansky, Deputy Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 10/24/08, “Better Days Ahead for the US-Russia Relationship” <http://blog.psaonline.org/2008/10/24/better-days-ahead-for-the-us-russia-relationship/>, accessed 5/15/13

But all is not lost. I have been consistently reassured by those involved that robust US-Russia cooperation continues in many important arenas, including nuclear non-proliferation and counter-terrorism. So while the rhetoric is certainly grim, it is not clear that the core of the US-Russia relationship has suffered.

#### Relations resilient

Victor Miznin, Director of studies at the independent Moscow-based Institute of Strategic Assessments, Spring 2008, “Russia’s Nuclear Renaissance,” [www.securityaffairs.org/issues/2008/14/mizin.php](http://www.securityaffairs.org/issues/2008/14/mizin.php), accessed 5/15/13

Luckily, the next cold war is not quite upon us. Moscow does not have the necessary clout to control its half of the world. Some nationalistic impulses aside, neither does it now have an ideology fundamentally antagonistic to the capitalist West. The segment of the Russian strategic arsenal still targeting the United States and NATO has dwindled considerably over the past decade-and-a-half, and will be further reduced in the years ahead, either as a result of bilateral agreement or through the simple attrition of hardware. And politically, Russia’s elites depend too much on established relations with the West, where their monies are secured and where their families reside or vacation, to sever their links with American and its allies. This, then, is the current state of the U.S.-Russian nuclear relationship, in which dialogue may be continuous but is mired in mistrust, suspicion and mutual recriminations. Both countries remain locked in their Cold War military postures, and mutual assured destruction (MAD) continues to be an underlying premise of Moscow-Washington ties.

### No Impact – Relations

####  A deterioration in relations won’t affect strategic cooperation

Jack Matlock, Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, 4/18/13, "Repairing U.S.-Russia Relations," Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/russian-fed/repairing-us-russia-relations/p30484, accessed 5/24/13

Obviously, in public there are a lot of tensions, in particular over these human rights issues in Russia. But in private, when one speaks to senior Russians, you still have recognition that we have a lot of common interests and that it's important for both countries to continue cooperating on them. The big issue is to what degree we can work together without getting distracted by what Russians see as a U.S. effort to interfere seriously in their internal political process. Clearly, President Putin has been encouraging anti-American sentiment because he associates U.S. influence with the opposition to his own presidency--and that's not going to ease. On the other hand, he's a realist. One of the things we learned when a group of former ambassadors from Russia and the United States met in Moscow a few weeks ago is that on issues that are extremely important to the United States, like dealing with North Korea, dealing with Afghanistan, and dealing with Iran, our policies are very close and tend to be mutually supportive. So we shouldn't ignore the fact that there is a lot of cooperation going on behind the scenes, and therefore, there is hope that cooler heads will prevail on both sides and that we can pursue our common interests without letting emotional issues get too much in the way.

#### Relations aren’t key to solving global problems

Dmitry Babich, senior parliament correspondent, 2/21/05, "The Pre-Summit Warm-Up," Russia Profile, russiaprofile.org/international/a1045/print\_edition/, accessed 5/25/13

“I categorically deny that there is an orchestrated anti-Russian campaign in the United States,” said Nikolai Zlobin, director of Russian and Asian programs at the Center for Defense Information in Washington. “There is some criticism, but it does not come from those who wish Russia ill. Basically, these people are not criticizing Russia.” According to Zlobin, part of the problem was that the letter’s authors overestimate the importance of Russia-U.S. relations to the present situation in the world. “Global politics are not centered on these ties any more,” Zlobin said. “And global problems certainly cannot be solved at a summit according to prescriptions which were made public only two weeks in advance. I know that some of the letter’s signatories other channels by which they can approach the two presidents with this advice. It is surprising that they chose the old-fashioned form of an open letter instead.”

#### Issues don’t spillover

US News and World Report, 2/18/08, "Rising Anti-Americanism in Russia," [www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2008/01/18/rising-anti-americanism-in-russia](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2008/01/18/rising-anti-americanism-in-russia), accessed 5/25/13

Putin has cultivated Russians' resentments, making strident nationalism and bitter antiwesternism a regular part of his public addresses. Before the parliamentary elections, he said in a nationally televised speech that his liberal opponents "scavenge like jackals at foreign embassies." Meanwhile, billboards around Moscow proclaimed "Putin's Plan--Russia's Victory." His message is reinforced by Russia's state-owned television channels, which dominate the airwaves, and many of Russia's major papers. "The enlargement of NATO, America's actions in Iraq and Georgia--they irritate people, and they want an explanation," explains Andrei Baranov, a political editor at Putin-friendly Komsomolskaya Pravda, one of Russia's largest papers. Any talk of a new Cold War seems premature. Russia may have withdrawn in July from a 1990 treaty limiting military-force numbers in Europe, but it continues to cooperate with Washington on counterterrorism, among other issues. "Americans and Russians have more in common than differences," says Alexander Lebedev, a former Duma deputy and billionaire part owner of the airline Aeroflot. "They're not facing each other across the Berlin Wall anymore."

### No US Russia War

#### No US/Russia war threat

George Perkovich, Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment, March April 2003, “Bush's Nuclear Revolution: A Regime Change in Nonproliferation,” Foreign Affairs,

As for Russia, a full-scale war between it and the United States now seems inconceivable. Given the desires for larger cuts in nuclear forces that Russia displayed in negotiating the 2002 Moscow Treaty, Russia hardly seems enough of a threat to justify the size and forward-leaning posture of America's present arsenal.

#### No Russian threat- too weak

Walter Russell Mead, Professor of Foreign Affairs at Bard, 2/4/09, “Only Makes You Stronger: Why the recession bolstered America”, The New Republic

Today, a much-diminished Russia cannot realistically aspire to fill the shoes of czarist Russia, much less those of the Soviet Union. In Europe, the post-cold war loss of the Baltic republics, most of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and above all Ukraine has pushed Russia back to its boundaries at the time of Ivan the Terrible, leaving Russia shorn of half its population and most of its agricultural potential. Now Russia is struggling, with only partial success, simply to maintain its Soviet-era infrastructure and educational system, unable to build the base for a modern economy. Pushed from the center to the far fringes of European geography, lagging well behind Western norms in economic and social productivity, and challenged by the rising powers to its east, Russia retains only shards of the power potential that once made it a credible rival of the United States. Peace negotiations check US-Russian escalation

#### No war- Russia doesn’t have the military or economy to back aggressiveness

Times Online, 1/29/09, “Kremlin ripe for deal with US as crisis takes hold,” [www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article5604935.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article5604935.ece), accessed 5/20/13

Russia is ripe for a deal. Last year’s war in Georgia, its dispatch of warships to Cuba and Venezuela, and its general bluster were supposed to put the world on notice that it is once again a great power and ready to project force abroad. Instead, as this week’s report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies highlighted, Russia is more rattle than sabre. Its military is outdated. Its economy is in freefall. It faces huge social problems. The first cases of unrest have already broken out. Those attending the World Economic Forum in Davos last night must have enjoyed watching Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister, eat his words. The architect of Russia’s assertive foreign policy and the man who oversaw the country’s rearmament insisted last night that “militarisation did not solve problems”.

## China CP Answers

### Perm Solvency

#### US and China can work together in Latin America

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

As was recognized during the cold war period, the United States has a stake in the outcome of the socioeconomic and political evolution of Latin America. Not only is the United States intimately tied to the region’s economy, but it is also connected in physical and human terms. When the region is beset by social crisis and ungovernability, the United States is affected through heightened drug flows, gang violence, and even terrorism. When Latin American economies cannot generate jobs and prosperity, the United States is the primary destination of its economic refugees. Reciprocally, those impacted in Latin America are increasingly, in literal terms, the families of persons living here. It is not possible, and perhaps not desirable, for the United States to stop the economic rise of China that is driving the Asian giant into Latin America. The United States can, however, work China and with those countries with which it shares this hemisphere to manage that change in the interest of the prosperity and wellbeing of its citizens and the region as a whole.

#### US and China can work together in Latin America—empirically proven

Isabel Hilton, formerly Latin America editor of The Independent newspaper and is editor of www.chinadialogue.net, 2-2013, “China in Latin America: Hegemonic Challenge?” NOREF, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow\_site/storage/original/ application/26ff1a0cc3c0b6d5692c8afbc054aad9.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

The United States, distracted elsewhere in recent years, has reacted calmly to date to China’s increasing presence in Latin America. In a striking acknowledgement of China’s importance in the region, the U.S. and China have created a mechanism for mutual transparency through the U.S.–China Dialogue on Latin America. This started in 2006, just before then-President Hu Jintao’s visit to Washington, and continues under the Obama administration. Through four rounds of dialogue to date, the U.S. has conceded China’s standing in Latin America, while seeking successfully to set limits to China’s action in troublesome countries such as Venezuela and Cuba. In 2006, for instance, when Venezuela sought a chair on the United Nations Security Council, China was reluctant to lend its support. Although China eventually voted in favour, it did not otherwise back the campaign.

#### Perm solves—energy proves

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/usfp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

Beijing and Washington have similar concerns in their energy policies and face the same ¶ set of challenges: high dependency on foreign sources of energy, rising energy-related ¶ environmental impacts, how to achieve energy conservation and efficiency, and the effect ¶ on their economies of energy price spikes. Although China and the United States do not ¶ rely on each other for energy supplies, as the two largest oil-consuming countries they are ¶ natural energy bedfellows in coping with similar challenges. They should cooperate, ¶ through joint or parallel action, to keep global energy supplies open, secure, and at an ¶ affordable price level. Both countries would win if they choose to cooperate rather than ¶ confront each other in their pursuit of energy security and efficiency. If the US and China ¶ can promote the expansion of renewable energy in Latin America, it will help exporters ¶ and producers within the US and China by expanding trade and investment opportunities ¶ throughout the LAC region. By partnering with capital-rich China and an innovative US, ¶ Latin America has the opportunity to expand its own knowledge and manufacturing base ¶ and grow its renewable energy market into one that can provide sustainable solutions for ¶ the region whose diverse climate should take full advantage of the benefits of renewable ¶ energy. The US should take the lead in coordinating trilateral trade fairs and business ¶ forums, an initiative often pursued bilaterally or intra-regionally.

### China Doesn’t Solve Cuba

#### Engagement with China empirically doesn’t help the Cuban economy – only benefits China

Jamaica Observer, 7-5-2012, “China, Cuba sign economic pacts on Castro visit,” <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/China--Cuba-sign-economic-pacts-on-Castro-visit>, accessed 5-15-2013

Cuba today signed a series of economic agreements with China coinciding with a visit to Beijing by leader Raul Castro that offered him a first-hand look at Chinese economic reforms. The pacts inked include a grant and interest-free loan to the Cuban government for economic and technological cooperation, and a credit line to support Cuban health care and other public services. No details were given. The signings followed talks in which Castro told Chinese President Hu Jintao that relations between the nations were deepening and broadening. The trip is Castro's first to China since taking over from his brother in 2008, and Cuba watchers have speculated he would study China's mix of socialism and market liberalization of which he spoke approvingly during a 1997 visit. Asked what Cuba could learn, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said China was eager to share its experiences. "We consider that mutual communications benefit helping countries adopt a suitable model for economic and social development depending on concrete local conditions," Liu told reporters at a briefing. Cuba is China's biggest commercial partner in the Caribbean. Beijing helped prop up the Cuban economy after the withdrawal of Russian aid in the 1990s. Bilateral trade totalled $1.8 billion in 2010. Though both communist nations, China has opened broadly to private business and has thrived economically while Cuba remains largely poor.

#### Doesn’t solve our relations advantage – engagement with China ensures Cuba remains adversarial to the US

William Ratliff, fellow @ Hoover Inst., 2006, “Cuba’s Struggle to Awake,” Hoover Digest, no. 2, <http://www.hoover.org/publications/digest/4587466.html>, accessed 5-15-2013

No government bureaucrat wants to be unemployed, particularly if he has worked for a dictator whose death will leave the majority of the population looking for big changes, probably including the replacement and maybe punishment of the dictator’s surviving cronies. Thus top Cuban leaders today are grasping for a survival strategy, as the 2004 report by the presidential Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba put it, which will enable them to stay in power after Fidel. Indeed current leaders—with varying ideas on the relative importance of ideology, power, and economics—are looking at several possible survival strategies, which may be summarized as (1) batten down the hatches and (2) significant reform. The first approach is favored by the hard-liners in the current government, who prioritize ideology and power over economic reform, in the best Fidelista tradition. They may take power after Fidel goes, but they have little hope of surviving for long without heavy levels of repression and global begging. The main benefactor of the hard-liners will be Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, assuming he survives in power until then. Rapidly expanding ties with China suggest that that country may be an important player as well. The Chinese have no use for Fidel’s nonsensical economic ideas, but they do have an interest (particularly as long as the status of Taiwan is an issue) in a Cuba that is critical of the United States.

#### Cuba-Chinese engagement fails

Larry Cata Backer, Law Prof @ Penn State, 2005, “Cuban Corporate Governance at the Crossroads,” Transnational Law & Contemp. Problems, v. 14, no. 5, p. np

Despite this rather rosy picture, and for all of its potential benefits to Cuba, a number of factors may make it impossible for Cuba to successfully implement a Cuba-appropriate version of the Chinese model of engagement with globalization. First, it is not clear that the Chinese model of global economic engagement has actually worked as advertised in China.33 Second, the Chinese model may not translate well to the Cuban context. 34 The sort of engagement consistent with Maoist understandings of Marxist-Leninist theory may be impossible in the context of Cuba’s more Stalinist system of politico-economic organization—at least without what in Cuba would be viewed as a substantial shift in the nature of the governing ideology. Third, neither Cuba nor China has solved the core foundational problem of economic development through independent collectives, legal entities that are not an integral part of the state apparatus controlled by the Communist party.35

### China Doesn’t Solve Mexico

#### China and Mexico have economic problems

Enrique Dussel Peters, Coordinator, Center for Chinese-Mexican Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico, 12-2008, “Mexico’s Economic Relationship with China: Heading for conflict?” http://www.uea.ac.uk/polopoly\_fs/1.113470!4%20Mexico%20GENERAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

Finally, it is important to understand that the bilateral relationship has been under ¶ increasing strain in the last years, particularly from a trade perspective. On the one hand, ¶ Mexico was the last country to negotiate bilaterally China’s accession to the World Trade ¶ Organization (WTO) in December of 2001; as part of this accord both countries agreed that ¶ Mexico could keep anti-dumping measures for more than 1300 tariff lines covering ¶ products such as textiles, clothing, footwear, organic chemicals, toys and pencils, among ¶ others (Dussel Peters, 2005a). These measures would only be subject to the provisions of ¶ the WTO Agreement from 12 December, 2007 (Dussel Peters, 2007 Monitor de la ¶ Manufactura Mexicana, 2007). In addition, both the United States (on 2 February, 2007) ¶ and Mexico (on 26 February, 2007) requested a WTO Panel challenging China’s incentive ¶ programs for policies such as R&D, trade and industry, among others.24 Finally, Mexico ¶ has been one of the few countries in Latin America that has not granted market economy ¶ status to China in the context of the WTO.

#### China and Mexico have a history of economic conflict

Helena Powell, 2-3-2013, "China/Latin America: Mexican relations with China at lowest ebb in recent years according to experts," Pulseamerica, http://www.pulsamerica.co.uk/2013/02/03/chinalatin-america-mexican-relations-with-china-at-lowest-ebb-in-recent-years-according-to-experts/

This issue has been brought into sharp focus in recent weeks over the Dragon Mart controversy, (see last week’s article). Plans to build Chinese-financed retail complex near Cancun have received widespread criticism in Mexico from environmental groups and public figures who questioned the transparency of China’s trade practices. It is the latest incident in a somewhat chequered history; last year Mexico filed a complaint against China in the WTO over malpractice in the textile industry, and in 2011 Mexico failed in its bid for the International Monetary Fund’s head position when China refused to back candidate Agustin Carstens.¶ Such tensions will not help Mexico in resolving issues within the bilateral economic relationship. Mexico has a starkly negative trade deficit with China, importing $52bn worth of Chinese goods in 2011 while exporting just $2bn worth in return. Furthermore China’s FDI in Mexico is surprisingly low; the two countries disagree widely about the exact figure (Mexico estimates the 2011 figure to be $157m while China puts it at $614m), however put into perspective both figures are noticeably paltry compared to the US 2011 contribution of $8bn.

#### China and Mexico have the lowest relationship in recent history

Helena Powell, 2-3-2013, "China/Latin America: Mexican relations with China at lowest ebb in recent years according to experts," Pulseamerica, http://www.pulsamerica.co.uk/2013/02/03/chinalatin-america-mexican-relations-with-china-at-lowest-ebb-in-recent-years-according-to-experts/

Mexican relations with China at lowest ebb in recent years according to experts Mexico is ‘completely clueless when it comes to China… There’s no strategy that adequately reflects China’s global importance and does justice to our second leading trade partner. I don’t think economic and trade relations can get any worse.’ This damning assessment of Sino-Mexican relations came from Enrique Dussel, director of the Center for China-Mexico Studies of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

### China Doesn’t Solve Venezuela

#### Chinese engagement causes Venezuelan political and economic instability

R. Evan Ellis is an assistant professor of National Security Affairs at the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, 8-18-2010, “Venezuela’s Relationship with China: Implications for the Chávez Regime and the Region,” https://umshare.miami.edu/web/wda/hemisphericpolicy/Ellis\_Venezuelas\_ Relationship\_w\_China.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

While Chinese assistance helps to sustain the Chávez regime in the short term, it contributes to a ¶ fundamentally unsustainable cycle of spending and mismanagement by the Chávez regime, while ¶ sowing the seeds of a complex and potentially dangerous situation when the internal ¶ contradictions of the regime bring it to its crisis point. Although Venezuela’s external debt is ¶ still relatively low, it is expanding rapidly, increasing 32% over 2009 alone to $61.6 billion.51 On one hand, very little of the Chinese funding appears to be creating productive capacity within ¶ Venezuela that could be used to repay that debt. On the other hand, the loans appear to be ¶ structured to ensure that the Chinese debt will be repaid, even if Venezuela is forced to default ¶ on its other obligations. The latest $20 billion loan package, for example, is to be repaid in ¶ deliveries of Venezuelan oil from areas in which Chinese companies are extracting oil. In short, ¶ whereas in the past countries could default on loans to the IMF or World Bank, for Venezuela to ¶ default on its loan from China, it would have to actively prevent China from extracting oil from ¶ Venezuela.

#### Chavez’s death will damage the economic relationship

Didi Kirsten Tatlow, 5-6-2013, "Chávez's Death May Challenge China, a Friend," IHT Rendezvous, http://rendezvous.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/06/chavezs-death-may-challenge-china-a-friend/

Still, the death of Mr. Chávez is a challenge for China. As Matt Ferchen of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy wrote before Mr. Chávez’s death but after his serious illness was known, China’s close friendship has produced deep economic ties but could lead to problems.¶ Mr Chávez’s re-election to a third term late last year “elicited almost universal praise from Chinese media and foreign policy analysts,” noted Mr. Ferchen, who specializes in China’s relationship with other developing nations. The two countries have a very strong economic relationship, he noted, based mostly on China’s growing oil needs.¶ In fact, the China Development Bank, China’s “Superbank,” “has led China’s financing efforts in Venezuela with more than U.S. $42 billion in loans-for-oil deals since 2007,” Mr. Ferchen wrote.¶ Those deals represent “the bank’s largest loan exposure anywhere outside of China and account for nearly 60 percent of the bank’s loans to Latin America and the Caribbean,” Mr. Ferchen noted.¶ Mr. Chávez’s death could threaten all that, he writes, against a background of “a reinvigorated Venezuelan political opposition movement.”¶ “Henrique Capriles, the youthful leader of the opposition, has stated that if he were president, while not seeking to overturn the loans-for-oil deals with China, he would review their legality,” wrote Mr. Ferchen, pointing out that little is known publicly about the details of the deals.¶ The risk? “China may learn that partnerships of convenience with polarizing, strong-man leaders like Chávez can also quickly and unexpectedly become highly inconvenient,” he wrote.

#### China exploits Venezuela for resources

Jonathan Watts, 3-26-2013, “China's exploitation of Latin American natural resources raises concern,” http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/26/china-latin-america-resources-concern, accessed 5-15-2013

Venezuela and Ecuador, which have been unable to access international capital markets since defaulting, have received hefty loans from China. Argentina is seeking similar treatment.¶ But giving up one kind of dependency can lead to another. Repayments to China are guaranteed by long-term commodity sales, which means a commitment to push ahead with resource exploitation – often with dire consequences for the environment and indigenous communities.¶ "China is shopping worldwide for natural resources. We're in the midst of a process of commodity accumulation by them. In that context, they lend money to Ecuador and the government pays with oil through anticipated sales. We have committed sales to them up until 2019," said Alberto Acosta, who served as energy minister but has since challenged the government of President Rafael Correa. He estimates his country's debts to China at $17bn.¶ The lopsided nature of China-Latin America trade is also questioned because while it is good in terms of GDP quantity, it has not been so beneficial in developmental quality. Commodity suppliers are delighted at the Chinese demand for their exports, but manufacturers complain of a flood of cheap Chinese imports that undermine their competitiveness.¶

### US Key—Say No to China

#### Latin American countries don’t trust China

Sebastian Castaneda is a graduate student at the University of Hong Kong and a contributor to Foreign Policy in Focus, 4-21-2011, “South America awake to risks of China ties,” Asia Times Online, http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/MD21Ad01.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Fear of China

Despite the strides that China has made in the region, countries remain apprehensive. The WikiLeaks diplomatic cables highlighted the level of suspicion. One Colombian trade representative based in Beijing noted that his country would not be "walked all over" by China "like Africa". A Mexican official stated that "we don't want to be China's next Africa". And the Brazilian consul general in Shanghai argued that "China's strategy is very clear: it is doing everything possible to control the supply of commodities." ¶ China's negotiation tactics in the region corroborate such apprehension. In 2010, after Argentina imposed anti-dumping measures on Chinese footwear and textile products when the government detected unfair competition, Beijing halted imports of soya oil, Argentina's main export, in retaliation. Despite Argentine concessions, Beijing has not resumed imports.

#### Latin American countries prefer the US

Sebastian Castaneda is a graduate student at the University of Hong Kong and a contributor to Foreign Policy in Focus, 4-21-2011, “South America awake to risks of China ties,” Asia Times Online, http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/MD21Ad01.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Soft-power competition

The dynamics of Washington's engagement with Latin America, in spite of historic grievances, renders the United States a more popular power than China. According to a 2010 Gallup poll, 50% of Latin Americans approve the job performance of the US leadership. In contrast, 28% of the region's respondents approve of China's leadership. The leadership of both countries rates a 20% of disapproval. There are no significant differences in response between Central and South America. ¶ More telling, however, are the results of a similar Gallup poll carried out in 2006. Five years ago, US approval ratings stood at 30% while disapproval reached 45%. Regarding China, although 28% approved of its leadership, 22% disapproved. Comparing the 2006 with the 2010 results, it is clear that Washington has gained an advantage in soft power over Beijing, especially given China's repression of human rights activists. China's economic activities in Latin America, especially South America, are not a zero-sum game. Although China's engagement results in more influence, Beijing's methods also decrease its effectiveness.

#### They prefer the US—more transparency

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/usfp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

Furthermore, Latin American businesses have had mixed perceptions when working with ¶ their Chinese counterparts. While Chinese companies have brought capital and attractive ¶ business terms in a time where US and EU investment have stagnated, LAC businesses ¶ have become frustrated over the lack of transparency among their Chinese partners. ¶ While LAC businesses have long dealt with the US in developing clear, explicit ¶ contracts, stringent CSR standards in labor practices and environmental protection, ¶ Chinese partners have been ambiguous at best with their LAC counterparts, which has ¶ produced more turbulent relations.

### US Key—Reforms

#### US better-reforms and long term economic growth

Charles Shapiro, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, 9-21-2005, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America Should Enhance U.S. Ties to the Region,” US Embassy Montevideo Archives, http://archives.uruguay.usembassy.gov/usaweb/paginas/527-00EN.shtml, accessed 5-15-2013

Our economic engagement in the region is extensive and broad-based. We have comprehensive trade and investment relationships with Mexico and Chile through existing free trade agreements; CAFTA-DR was just approved and we hope to conclude an Andean free trade agreement, as well as one with Panama, in the near future. The Millennium Challenge Account offers great promise to assist countries in making the reforms necessary for long-term growth, and we are pleased to note that two of the first four countries to have MCA compacts -- Honduras and Nicaragua -- lie within our hemisphere. Of course, the heavy lifting in the region, as it should be, is done by the U.S. private sector. An estimated 30% of foreign direct investment flows into the region are from the U.S., and the U.S. accounts for more than 50% of multinational firms doing business in the region.

#### Chinese engagement means no reforms

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/us

fp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

A trade agenda also has important foreign policy implications. China’s growing ¶ economic presence in the Americas provides Latin American and Caribbean nations with ¶ additional trade and investment options that reduce US leverage to promote open market, ¶ democratic values. US efforts to promote labor and environmental reforms through trade ¶ agreements are undermined when other nations have the ability to sign similar ¶ agreements with China that do not include similar provisions.10 For example, China’s ¶ FTAs with Chile and Peru liberalize agriculture and markets for lower value-added ¶ manufactured goods but do not include deregulation and liberalization of services and ¶ investment and stronger protection of intellectual property rights.11 US FTAs seek to ¶ raise the economic competitiveness of both signatories through the harmonization and modernization of services and investment.12

#### Chinese engagement is detrimental to Latin American reforms

Institute of the Americas, 3-1-2013, “LATIN AMERICA MUST STOP RELYING ON CHINA FOR ECONOMIC “BONANZA,” SAYS CURBELO OF CAF,” https://www.iamericas.org/latest-news/1942-latin-america-must-stop-relying-on-china-for-economic-bonanza-says-curbelo-of-caf, accessed 5-15-2013

Latin America is too dependant on sales of commodities to China, relying on soaring prices of raw materials rather than innovation to boost economic growth, said José Luis Curbelo, vice president of development strategies and public policies for the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).¶ Latin American countries “think this bonanza is going to last forever, so we are not making the necessary economic reforms,” Curbelo said. “The relationship must mature. Latin America must move from being a single supplier of commodities to becoming an economic and trade partner of relevance to China.”

### China Doesn’t Solve Economy—Dutch Disease

#### China’s focus on natural resources causes Dutch Disease—the impact is the economy and trade

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Serv.ed strain on the ¶ primary commodity sector to perform year in and year out. This socio-economic concern ¶ is of the US national interest as future trade, research and development is contingent on the strength of the Latin American economy. As the emerging markets drive the highest rates of growth in the world economy, Latin America plays a crucial role in the ¶ ¶ consumption of goods and services that the United States supplies. If Dutch disease ¶ ¶ impedes the development of the Latin American economy, it could have enormous longterm implications for hemispheric trade and development initiatives.

#### Chinese trade prevents diversification and weakens Latin American economies

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Jeffrey Davidow is the president of the Institute of the Americas and former assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere and ambassador to Venezuela and Mexico, 1-2011, “China, Latin America, and the United States: The New Triangle,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/LAP\_120810\_Triangle\_rpt.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013.

Nonetheless, the trade relationship is not unproblematic. Chinese ¶ exports to LAC consist primarily of manufactured goods, while Latin ¶ America’s exports to China consist mainly of primary commodities.¶ Critics have charged that trade patterns resemble those of the 17th ¶ and 18th century, and that China discriminates against products with ¶ greater value added. For example, between 2006 and 2008, soy and soybean oil comprised almost 80 percent of Argentina’s exports to China; in April 2010, China suspended imports of processed oil in apparent ¶ protest of Argentina’s filing of a formal anti-dumping complaint against ¶ Chinese exporters.¶ 9¶ Brazil’s exports between 2006 and 2008 consisted of ¶ iron ore (44 percent of the total) and soy (23 percent). For Chile, copper ¶ and copper ore comprised 81 percent of exports to China. While the ¶ destination of commodity exports from the region has changed in recent ¶ years, the role of commodities as a portion of total exports has changed ¶ less dramatically in Latin America than in other parts of the developing ¶ world; indeed, 75 percent of the exports of Chile, Peru, and Venezuela ¶ still consist of commodities.¶ 10 This underscores ongoing problems of diversification in Latin American economies, and, critics maintain, magnifies the region’s vulnerability to external shocks.

#### Chinese resource demand fosters Dutch disease

Isabel Hilton, formerly Latin America editor of The Independent newspaper and is editor of www.chinadialogue.net, 2-2013, “China in Latin America: Hegemonic Challenge?” NOREF, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow\_site/storage/original/ application/26ff1a0cc3c0b6d5692c8afbc054aad9.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s primary resources imports are largely concentrated in four countries: Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru, ¶ which together account for 90% of the region’s exports ¶ to China. Agricultural products make up 30% of those ¶ exports, according to the Economic Commission for Latin ¶ America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), with about 65% in ¶ minerals and resources. for China’s trade partners, the ¶ risks are resource dependency, currency overvaluation and ¶ the possibility that other sectors of their economies will ¶ become uncompetitive. It also renders them highly vulnerable to price and demand fluctuations, whilst tethering ¶ them to unsustainable commodity-led growth with the associated negative environmental impacts.

### China Doesn’t Solve Democracy—Reform Backsliding

#### Chinese economic engagement causes democratic reform backsliding

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

For example, U.S. efforts to promote labor and environmental reforms through trade agreements are undermined when other nations have the ability to sign similar agreements with China that do not include similar provisions. Programs of multilateral lending agencies like the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank that promote financial reforms and good governance become less relevant if borrowing nations can receive funds from China or elsewhere, including Venezuela, without conditions. To put it starkly, the oft-maligned IMF has no influence with nations such as Argentina that do not currently require IMF funding or access to global capital markets.5¶ In fact, China’s huge purchases of hemispheric commodities and the provision of credits on favorable terms have greatly assisted Latin American commodities exporters in the ongoing global economic crisis. In some cases this has allowed leaders the flexibility to postpone indefinitely the necessary economic and political reforms that would otherwise be consistent with open market, healthy democratic governance.¶ Ironically, this has allowed some democratically elected leaders to undermine democratic institutions, including freedom of the press, and return to the days of corporatist, rent-seeking economies. This model failed spectacularly during the twentieth century, but it is now enabled, if not promoted, by Chinese economic engagement.

#### Chinese economic engagement undermines democratic reforms

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/usfp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s foreign aid is often made quickly available without many of the conditions and ¶ safeguards that are attached to most OECD donors or international institutions.43 Thus, ¶ China’s unconditional aid could undermine US foreign assistance as conditions such as ¶ human rights, market oriented reforms, and democracy development are typically ¶ attached to US aid. Millennium Challenge Account funds will go to countries that enact ¶ market oriented measures for increased market competition, combat corruption, ¶ encourage business transparency and invest in both citizen health care and education.44¶ Chinese development aid also varies from US aid, as it tends to focus on highly visible ¶ public works like roads, railways, or stadiums. Such large physical projects allow for ¶ greater public understanding of Chinese results rather than in-tangible projects such as ¶ democracy development, which are harder to quantify and are longer-term.

#### China bad for reforms

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Jeffrey Davidow is the president of the Institute of the Americas and former assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere and ambassador to Venezuela and Mexico, 1-2011, “China, Latin America, and the United States: The New Triangle,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/LAP\_120810\_Triangle\_rpt.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s laser-like focus on economic benefit means that a number of ¶ political concerns that must be taken into consideration by Western governments and companies—human rights and political participation, for ¶ example—are frequently ignored. And China’s role as the world’s leading ¶ air polluter and producer of carbon emissions raises the potential for political conflict with many Latin American countries that take environmental ¶ issues seriously. That said, China has succeeded in lowering its energy intensity rate more quickly and extensively than other countries around the ¶ world, and its investment in clean energy dwarfs that of the United States.

### AT: China Sphere of Influence Disad—No Link

#### No link—US and China not at odds in Latin America

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/usfp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s ties with Latin America and the Caribbean are likely to deepen in the future. The ¶ US should welcome China’s involvement in the region by encouraging it to be a ¶ responsible and productive partner. While Chinese and US interests will diverge in some ¶ sectors, this is not a cause for alarm. The US has broad economic, security, cultural, and ¶ historical ties with the countries of the region and it must continue to nurture these ¶ connections in order to maintain its influence. Engaging China multilaterally in the ¶ region can benefit not only Latin America, the Caribbean, and China, but also the United ¶ States.

#### Chinese action doesn’t trade off with the US

Charles Shapiro, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, 9-21-2005, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America Should Enhance U.S. Ties to the Region,” US Embassy Montevideo Archives, http://archives.uruguay.usembassy.gov/usaweb/paginas/527-00EN.shtml, accessed 5-15-2013

China's growth and development have naturally brought growing relationships with traditional U.S. allies in the region. This does not diminish U.S. influence or capabilities. U.S. policy toward Latin America is anchored in our strong and enduring alliances, which continue to provide unprecedented stability and prosperity in the region. Our allies throughout Latin America believe good U.S.-China relations are important to global peace, prosperity and stability. Our efforts to work with China should enhance, not impair, our regional alliances.

#### China doesn’t trade off with the US

Sebastian Castaneda is a graduate student at the University of Hong Kong and a contributor to Foreign Policy in Focus, 4-21-2011, “South America awake to risks of China ties,” Asia Times Online, http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/MD21Ad01.html, accessed 5-15-2013

In the wake of US President Barack Obama's recent tour of Latin America, media reports and commentators claimed that China has been economically outmuscling the United States in the region. The reality, however, is that Beijing's economic presence has not come at the expense of the United States. Although Washington still maintains an overwhelming edge, its influence is decreasing. This decline will be exacerbated by Obama's focus on boosting US exports to the region rather than importing more of Latin America's manufactured goods.

### AT: China Sphere of Influence Disad—No Impact

#### Non-unique—lots of other countries are getting involved in Latin America

Margaret Myers is director of the China and Latin America program at the Inter-American Dialogue, 8-16-2012, “New Asia-Latin America Political Cooperation,” http://www.chinaandlatinamerica.com/2012\_08\_01\_archive.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Although exclusion of the U.S. from the Caracas-based CELAC summit on December 2nd was characterized by some as a definitive rejection of U.S. hegemony in the region, Indian and Chinese association with CELAC should not be considered affront to the United States – or to Canada, for that matter. These countries’ association with CELAC instead is part of broader efforts to establish long-term relationships within the region. CELAC ‘troika’ members, Chile and Venezuela, are obvious partners for both China and India as they seek raw materials to fuel future growth. And CELAC-affiliated nations have been looking to expand their economic partnerships for years. Not only China and India, but also Japan, South Korea and other global economic powers are set to make additional headway in Central and South America.

#### No impact—China does not have designs in Latin America

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

To the extent that simple commercial exchange dominates the China story in the Americas, the implications for the United States are minimal. A rational and appropriate response would simply be to promote a level, transparent playing field for U.S. business and investors to compete effectively with a new, well-financed competitor.¶ This is exactly the way Chinese leaders have presented their efforts: as benign economic actions that offer little challenge to U.S. interests. Indeed, the stock of U.S. investment in the region continues to dwarf Chinese investment, and regional trade with the United States continues to surpass trade with China by a factor of almost four to one. At this point, neither Chinese pronouncements nor concrete actions establish a reason to believe that China has strategic designs on Latin America from a military or security perspective, either to project power into the region or to challenge U.S. military predominance from a hemispheric platform.

#### China is already working in Latin America but it doesn’t trade off with the US

Jon Brandt et al, American University School of International Service, 12-2012, “Chinese Engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean: Implications for US Foreign Policy,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, http://www.american.edu/sis/usfp/upload/Chinese-Engagement-in-LAC-AU\_US-Congress-FINAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s presence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has mushroomed in the last ¶ decade. The region has experienced a dramatic increase in economic, political, military, ¶ cultural, and diplomatic ties with China. Our research indicates that while these ties are ¶ not an imminent threat to the United States., the China-LAC relationship should be ¶ monitored closely, as these ties are likely to deepen in the future. ¶ China’s emphasis on building South-South cooperation has given governments and ¶ businesses in the LAC region an alternative to the United States. While the United States ¶ is still viewed as a preferred economic partner to many LAC nations, we have found ¶ evidence that US market share of LAC trade is declining, Chinese financing in the region ¶ is increasing, and Chinese investments in LAC have grown.

## Capitalism K Answers

### Permutation Solves Capitalism

#### Do the plan and engage in criticism of capitalism. The state can be a site for revolutionary struggle.

Chris Harman, contributing writer, 2006, “The State and Capitalism Today,” International Socialism, <http://www.isj.org.uk/?id=234>, accessed 5-1-2013

Poulantzas argued that this was to see a merely contingent relationship between the state and capitalism, to see the state’s character as depending simply on who manned its top structures. He argued what has been called the ‘functional’ view: the state has to fulfil the needs of the society of which it is part; since this is a capitalist society it is necessarily a capitalist state. The state is, as Poulantzas puts it, ‘a condensate of class forces’, and the forces it ‘condenses’ are capitalist forces. Despite their apparent opposition to each other, both Miliband’s and Poulantzas’ views can lead to the conclusion that the capitalist state can be used to reform capitalist society. If it is the character of its personnel that guarantees the capitalist nature of the state, then changing the personnel could change the character of the state, allowing it to be used for socialist purposes. If the state is a function of the society of which it is part, then if that society is racked by deep class struggles, these would find their expression through the state.

#### Permutation solves best: Reform and Revolution are dialectically intertwined and complimentary.

Ed Rooksby, Faculty in Department of Social Sciences, Ruskin College, Oxford, 2008, "Towards a ‘Revolutionary Reformist’ Strategy: Within, Outside and Against the State," Academia.edu, http://www.academia.edu/693169/Towards\_a\_Revolutionary\_ReformistStrategy\_Within\_Outside\_and\_Against\_the\_State, accessed 5-5-2013.

I shall go on to argue that it is necessary to develop a different strategy for revolutionary change which centres on a process of preparatory reform. Revolution, I shall argue, can only emerge organically and dialectically from a process of radical reform set in motion by a socialist government utilising the bourgeois state apparatus. I shall argue that the Russian theorist Boris Kagarlitsky provides us with a series of valuable ideas that can be incorporated into a strategy for socialist transformation that seems superior to the traditional strategies of reformism, on the one hand, or classical revolutionary socialism, on the other. I call this strategy (following Kagarlitsky) ‘revolutionary reformism’ – the name captures the idea that reform and revolution should not be conceived as polarised strategic alternatives, but as inseparable, dialectically intertwined processes.

#### The permutation utilizes the full strength of the mass movement advocated by the alternative. The movement pressures policymakers into revolutionary behavior.

Ed Rooksby, Faculty in Department of Social Sciences, Ruskin College, Oxford, 2008, "Towards a ‘Revolutionary Reformist’ Strategy: Within, Outside and Against the State," Academia.edu, http://www.academia.edu/693169/Towards\_a\_Revolutionary\_ReformistStrategy\_Within\_Outside\_and\_Against\_the\_State, accessed 5-5-2013.

Revolutionary reformists within state institutions must be subjected to constant pressure from below – there must be a mass socialist movement outside these institutions, capable of controlling their representatives and of forcing them on to implement the reforms they have promised. This implies that the mass movement must possess substantial independence from politicians in state office – as Kagarlitsky puts it, it is essential that the mass movement ‘extends beyond the bounds of political parties, [and] is autonomous from their day-to-day leadership’. Furthermore, ‘revolutionary reforms’ must be designed to strengthen and empower this mass movement. It is not difficult to see how the extension of popular democracy and popular power would contribute to the revolutionary reformist dynamic – the logic of change where each reform ‘outstrips itself’. The growth of grass-roots power would help to develop the class-consciousness, organisational capacity and competence of the working class and its allies in the mass movement.

### Permutation Solves Best

#### Finite demands like the plan are more subversive than the alternative.

Slavoj Zizek, philosopher, 11-2007, "Resistance is Surrender," London Review of Books, http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n22/slavoj-zizek/resistance-is-surrender, accessed 5-5-2013

The lesson here is that the truly subversive thing is not to insist on ‘infinite’ demands we know those in power cannot fulfil. Since they know that we know it, such an ‘infinitely demanding’ attitude presents no problem for those in power: ‘So wonderful that, with your critical demands, you remind us what kind of world we would all like to live in. Unfortunately, we live in the real world, where we have to make do with what is possible.’ The thing to do is, on the contrary, to bombard those in power with strategically well-selected, precise, finite demands, which can’t be met with the same excuse.

#### Permutation solves best: The left must embrace reforms, current political structures, and regulated markets rather than rejecting capitalism altogether.

G. William Domhoff, research professor at University of California-Santa Cruz, 12-21-2009, "Leftists, Liberals--and Losers?" In These Times, http://inthesetimes.com/article/5314/leftists\_liberalsand\_losers/, accessed 5-5-2013.

I suggest leftists think in terms of a fact that has been overlooked until recent years. Markets can be socialized to serve collective purposes by using four well-known policy tools as carrots and sticks: subsidies, taxes, government purchases and regulations. That is, there can be conscious and planned interventions in the market in the name of greater equality and participation. I contend that this is a form of planning that makes use of markets even though some of their more dangerous qualities would not be fully tamed. It is a form of planning that the current American government has the power and experience to institute through Congress and a variety of government agencies. The best example of how the government currently shapes markets concerns the annual battle in Congress between heavy industry and environmentalists over energy policy. Environmentalists call for higher taxes on fossil fuels, subsidies for renewable energy sources and regulations that force automobile manufacturers and utilities to burn fuels more efficiently and cleanly. The oil, coal, automobile and utility companies demand low taxes on fossil fuels, subsidies for fossil fuels and minimal or no regulations relating to efficiency or pollution, which in effect is a very different plan. If the environmentalists' plan were to prevail, the United States could gradually wean itself from foreign oil and clean up the air and water at the same time. The answer is not to be found in economics, but in politics. It is a matter of who has the power. Once the left accepts that there will be markets and private property, all the talk about the sanctity of markets become a rationale elites use to maintain their privileges. Taming the market through collective action is the basic strategy of living-wage campaigns, which use laws to force employers to pay higher wages. Laws regarding affirmative action, sexual harassment and discrimination also operate through the market. The real issue, again, is political power. A reconstructed market system--featuring a more progressive tax structure, higher inheritance taxes and a transaction tax on financial trades --could be much more open and flexible than the one that currently exists in the United States.

#### A progressive-liberal alliance is the best way to take advantage of people’s preferences for economic justice.

G. William Domhoff, research professor at University of California-Santa Cruz, 12-21-2009, "Leftists, Liberals--and Losers?" In These Times, http://inthesetimes.com/article/5314/leftists\_liberalsand\_losers/, accessed 5-5-2013.

Why don’t leftists connect with very many people, even though most Americans support greater equality, jobs for all, government support for education at all levels, government health insurance and much more? Maybe the problem is in the solutions the left offers and the way we’ve framed them, rather than people’s unwillingness to support greater fairness and equality. To overcome our relative marginalization, American leftists should create a strong new alliance with our more numerous brethren–the approximately 20 percent of Americans who define themselves as “liberal.” Why an alliance? First, such an alliance might influence centrist Democrats in Washington if it could garner strong support from the Democratic base. Second, an alliance would have a chance to reach the American electorate’s great middle, including independents who turned on the Republicans in 2006 and 2008 because of the failure of the Iraq War and the rapacious destruction of the economy by the financial sector. If the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to produce failure and American casualties (as is entirely likely), and if the Obama administration is unsuccessful in its efforts to deal with the current health, financial and employment crises (as looks increasingly likely), then a liberal-left program backed by nonviolent social disruption would resonate with those in the middle who have lost their jobs, homes, and/or life savings. This alliance would require progressives to make major changes in strategy, but not in values and goals; liberals would have to recognize that a constitutional democracy has room for far more economic egalitarianism than America has ever seen.

### Capitalism Inevitable

#### Capitalism is inevitable.

John Isbister, Professor Economics at the University of California-Santa Cruz, 2001, Capitalism and Justice, p. 46.

Some in the capitalist world try to retain or re-create the best parts of precapitalism. Some Amish and Mennonite communities are based on precapitalist values, as are some other faith-based groups. The 1960s and 1970s saw the creation of secular alternative rural communes, communities whose members tried to eliminate all marks of distinction between them, to be self-sufficient, and to live simply. The communes had some successes, but most eventually collapsed. Communities such as these have attempted to embody precapitalist values, but none has succeeded in cutting itself off from capitalist influences: from the market, from the media, from the legal system, and from other influences of the modern world. While we can learn from our antecedent societies, we cannot return to them. The door has been closed.

#### Capitalism is inevitable. Even the groups that resist it are part and parcel of the system.

John Wilson, coordinator of Independent Press Association, 2000, How the Left can Win Arguments and Influence People, pp. 12- 14.

Progressive capitalism is not a contradiction in terms, for progressives support capitalism in many ways. Even nonprofit organizations and cooperatives are not antithetical to capitalism and the market; these groups simply use capitalism for aims different from the single-minded pursuit of profits. But the rules of supply and demand, the expenses and revenues, the idea of entrepreneurship and innovation, and the need to adapt to the market are essential. Any progressive magazine or institution that tries to defy the rules of capitalism won't be around for very long and certainly won’t have the resources to mount a serious advocacy of progressive ideas. One of the most effective tactics of the environmental movement was encouraging consumers to consider environmental values when making capitalist choices about what products to buy. Today, a manufacturer who ignores environmental issues puts its profits at risk because so many people are looking for environmentally friendly products and packaging. Crusades against Coca-Cola for its massive output of non-recycled plastic bottles in America or against companies supporting foreign dictatorships are part of the continuing battle to force companies to pay attention to consumer demands. Of course, consumer protests and boycotts are only one part of making "capitalism for everyone." Many progressive groups are now buying stock in companies precisely to raise these issues at stockholder meetings and pressure the companies to adopt environmentally and socially responsible policies.

#### Cuba is already moving towards capitalism in the status quo.

Damien Cave, staffwriter, 11-19-2012, “Easing of Restraints in Cuba Renews Debate on U.S. Embargo,” The New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/20/world/americas/changes-in-cuba-create-support-for-easing-embargo.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0>, accessed 4-19-13.

With Cuba cautiously introducing free-market changes that have legalized hundreds of thousands of small private businesses over the past two years, new economic bonds between Cuba and the United States have formed, creating new challenges, new possibilities — and a more complicated debate over the embargo.

### Anti-Capitalist Thinking Is Flawed

#### Be suspicious of anti-capitalist evidence: The authors are writing from a position of prideful resentment and a desire to sell their books.

Peter Saunders, professor emeritus at the Centre for Independent Studies, Spring 2008, “Why Capitalism is Good for the Soul,” Insider Online, <http://www.insideronline.org/archives/2008/spring/chap3.pdf>, accessed 5-6-2013

Joseph Schumpeter offered part of the answer. He observed that capitalism has brought into being an educated class that has no responsibility for practical affairs, and that this class can only make a mark by criticising the system that feeds them. Intellectuals attack capitalism because that is how they sell books and build careers. More recently, Robert Nozick has noted that intellectuals spend their childhoods excelling at school, where they occupy the top positions in the hierarchy, only to find later in life that their market value is much lower than they believe they are worth. Seeing ‘mere traders’ enjoying higher pay than them is unbearable, and it generates irreconcilable disaffection with the market system.(28) But the best explanation for the intellectuals’ distaste for capitalism was offered by Friedrich Hayek in The Fatal Conceit.(29) Hayek understood that capitalism offends intellectual pride, while socialism flatters it. Humans like to believe they can design better systems than those that tradition or evolution have bequeathed. We distrust evolved systems, like markets, which seem to work without intelligent direction according to laws and dynamics that no one fully understands. Nobody planned the global capitalist system, nobody runs it, and nobody really comprehends it. This particularly offends intellectuals, for capitalism renders them redundant. It gets on perfectly well without them. It does not need them to make it run, to coordinate it, or to redesign it. The intellectual critics of capitalism believe they know what is good for us, but millions of people interacting in the marketplace keep rebuffing them. This, ultimately, is why they believe capitalism is ‘bad for the soul’: it fulfils human needs without first seeking their moral approval.

#### Their underlying premise is incorrect: Capital and labor are complimentary.

Robert J. Samuelson, economist, 5-21-2012, "American Capitalism is on Trial in This Election, But The Argument Is Misleading," Oregonlive.com, http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/05/in\_this\_election\_american\_capi.html, accessed 5-1-2013.

It's misleading because, in the long run, labor's and capital's interests coincide. Production and technological advances that enrich capitalists also raise mass living standards. Marxism's failure to recognize this was its undoing. But in the short run, labor's and capital's interests often diverge. Layoffs may boost profits; wage increases may do the opposite. Politics thrives on these conflicts.

#### The benefits of capitalism don't just go to the elites.

Robert J. Samuelson, economist, 5-21-2012, "American Capitalism is on Trial in This Election, But The Argument Is Misleading," Oregonlive.com, http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/05/in\_this\_election\_american\_capi.html, accessed 5-1-2013.

First, capital income doesn't flow just to "fat cats." It also goes to small businesses, retirement accounts, college endowments, ordinary shareholders, landlords and people who collect interest. Second, labor's shrinking share isn't necessarily a disaster for workers. What else is happening in the economy also matters. The inflationary 1970s, when labor's share was rising, were turbulent. The period from the mid-1980s until 2007, when labor's share was falling, was generally prosperous. If economic growth is strong, compensation can increase even if labor's share drops. The bargain that capitalism makes with society is that profits won't simply be consumed but will also be reinvested. Jobs and living standards will increase.

### Capitalist Engagement Causes Peace

#### Capitalist economic engagement spreads peace and makes military conflict less feasible.

Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, 11-10-2005, "Spreading Capitalism is Good for Peace," Cato Institute, http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/spreading-capitalism-is-good-peace, accessed 5-5-2013.

The shift from statist mercantilism to high-tech capitalism has transformed the economics behind war. Markets generate economic opportunities that make war less desirable. Territorial aggrandizement no longer provides the best path to riches. Free-flowing capital markets and other aspects of globalization simultaneously draw nations together and raise the economic price of military conflict. Moreover, sanctions, which interfere with economic prosperity, provides a coercive step short of war to achieve foreign policy ends.

#### Capitalism doesn't cause war; other motivations are key.

John Mueller, Professor of Political Science at Ohio State University, 2010, "Capitalism, Peace, and the Historical Movement of Ideas," International Interactions v. 36, p. 173.

In result, capitalism—or economic development in general—has regularly been irrelevant to war’s prosecution. Whether war does or does not advance economic well-being has often been of no interest whatever because the people prosecuting the war do not value economic development. When economic motivations have been put forward, they have often seemed like a rationale for impulses that are actually more nearly moral, aesthetic, emotional, or psychological.

#### Growing acceptance of capitalism is key to peace.

John Mueller, Professor of Political Science at Ohio State University, 2010, "Capitalism, Peace, and the Historical Movement of Ideas," International Interactions v. 36, p. 173.

Logic suggests, then, that international war is unlikely if people come to accept three additional ideas: they must take prosperity and economic growth as a dominant goal; they must see peace as a better motor than war for development, progress, and innovation; and they must come to believe that trade, rather than conquest, is the best way to achieve their dominant goal. All three propositions have now gained wide currency, and, although international war has hardly evaporated from the planet, it is worth noting that the nations of the developed world have avoided war with each other for the longest period of time in millenia and that, despite the great increase in the number of independent countries, international war has become quite rare (Mueller 2009; see also Gleditsch 2008). This remarkable development may at least partly be due to the increasing joint acceptance of the capitalist/peace propositions. Over time, most countries in most areas of the world have opted for peace and, not unrelatedly, for the banal pleasures of capitalist economic development.

### Capitalism Good – Environment

#### Empirically, capitalist economies are better for the environment.

Herbert Walberg Fellow Hoover institute and Joe Bast, CEO of the Heartland Institute, 2003, Education and Capitalism: How Overcoming Our Fear of Markets and Economics Can Improve America's Schools, p. x.

One way to judge the impact of capitalism on the environment is to compare the environmental records of capitalist countries with those of countries with precapitalist, socialist, or communist economies. The record clearly shows environmental conditions are improving in every capitalist country in the world and deteriorating only in noncapitalist countries. Environmental conditions in the former Soviet Union prior to that communist nation’s collapse, for example, were devastating and getting worse. Untreated sewage was routinely dumped in the country’s rivers, workers were exposed to high levels of toxic chemicals in their workplaces, and air quality was so poor in many major cities that children suffered asthma and other breathing disorders at epidemic levels. Some environmentalists say it is unfair to compare environmental progress in a very affluent nation, such as the United States, to conditions in very poor nations, such as those in Africa. But it was the latter’s rejection of capitalism that made those countries poor in the first place.

#### Capitalism incentivizes protection of the environment.

Johan Norberg, senior fellow at the Cato institute, 2003, In Defense of Global Capitalism, p. 224.

Although multinational corporations and free trade are proving good for development and human rights in the Third World, there still remains the objection that globalization harms the environment. Factories in the Western world, the argument runs, will relocate to poorer countries with no environmental legislation, where they can pollute with impunity. The West has to follow suit and lower its own environmental standards in order to stay in business. That is a dismal thesis, with the implication that when people obtain better opportunities, resources, and technology, they use them to abuse nature. Does there really have to be a conflict between development and the environment? The notion that there has to be a conflict runs into the same problem as the whole idea of a race to the bottom: it doesn't tally with reality. There is no exodus of industry to countries with poor environmental standards, and there is no downward pressure on the level of global environmental protection. Instead, the bulk of American and European investments goes to countries with environmental regulations similar to their own. There has been much talk of American factories moving to Mexico since NAFTA was signed. Less well known, however, is that since free trade was introduced Mexico has tightened up its environmental regulations, following a long history of complete nonchalance about environmental issues. This tightening up is part of a global trend.

#### Economic freedom and growth solves worldwide environmental problems.

Johan Norberg, senior fellow at the Cato institute, 2003, In Defense of Global Capitalism, p. 224.

All over the world, economic progress and growth are moving hand in hand with intensified environmental protection. Four researchers who studied these connections found “a very strong, positive association between our [environmental] indicators and the level of economic development.” A country that is very poor is too preoccupied with lifting itself out of poverty to bother about the environment at all. Countries usually begin protecting their natural resources when they can afford to do so. When they grow richer, they start to regulate effluent emissions, and when they have still more resources they also begin regulating air quality. A number of factors cause environment protection to increase with wealth and development. Environmental quality is unlikely to be a top priority for people who barely know where their next meal is coming from. Abating misery and subduing the pangs of hunger takes precedence over conservation. When our standard of living rises we start attaching importance to the environment and obtaining resources to improve it.

### No impact/Capitalism Won't Collapse

#### Capitalism evolves to solve its own crises.

Madsen Pirie, President of the Adam Smith Institute, 4-11-2013, "Why Marx Was Wrong about Capitalism," Adam Smith Institute, http://www.adamsmith.org/research/think-pieces/why-marx-was-wrong-about-capitalism, accessed 5-4-2013.

The point is that capitalism changes and evolves. It has been through many transformations. The capitalism that Marx thought would collapse under its own contradictions is not the capitalism of today - the one this motion refers to. In the material world organisms evolve. They respond to crises and they change. A similar thing happens with our social practices. They evolve and adapt to new circumstances. Capitalism has faced many crises, and each time it has evolved and changed. Each time a new form of capitalism has emerged to solve the problems its predecessor faced. This is how human beings progress. We solve our problems by adapting our practices.

#### Capitalism won't collapse; it will evolve, change, and create new resources.

Madsen Pirie, President of the Adam Smith Institute, 4-11-2013, "Why Marx Was Wrong about Capitalism," Adam Smith Institute, http://www.adamsmith.org/research/think-pieces/why-marx-was-wrong-about-capitalism, accessed 5-4-2013.

Capitalism will survive its current crisis. It will be tweaked and modified but it will not collapse, because nothing has ever been found that can replace it or do what it does, or bring the advantages and benefits it brings. It has brought the resources that have lifted most of humankind above subsistence and starvation, that have enabled us to conquer diseases, to fund education and social services, to enable people to engage in artistic and cultural activities and to enrich their lives with previously undreamt-of opportunities.

#### Crises make capitalism stronger.

George Friedman, CEO and chief analyst at Stratfor, 5-11-2010, "The Global Crisis of Legitimacy," Kasama Project, http://kasamaproject.org/political-economy/2255-87capitalism-039-s-legitimacy-crisis, accessed 5-5-2013.

Financial panics are an integral part of capitalism. So are economic recessions. The system generates them and it becomes stronger because of them. Like forest fires, they are painful when they occur, yet without them, the forest could not survive. They impose discipline, punishing the reckless, rewarding the cautious. They do so imperfectly, of course, as at times the reckless are rewarded and the cautious penalized. Political crises — as opposed to normal financial panics — emerge when the reckless appear to be the beneficiaries of the crisis they have caused, while the rest of society bears the burdens of their recklessness. At that point, the crisis ceases to be financial or economic. It becomes political. The financial and economic systems are subsystems of the broader political system. More precisely, think of nations as consisting of three basic systems: political, economic and military. Each of these systems has elites that manage it. The three systems are constantly interacting — and in a healthy polity, balancing each other, compensating for failures in one as well as taking advantage of success. Every nation has a different configuration within and between these systems. The relative weight of each system differs, as does the importance of its elites. But each nation contains these systems, and no system exists without the other two.

### Capitalism Is More Ethical

#### Capitalism is the only ethical alternative to "loot and grab" conflicts

Tom G. Palmer, Students for Liberty and Atlas Network, 2011, The Morality of Capitalism, http://atlasnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/10/The-Morality-of-Capitalism-PDF.pdf, accessed 5-1-2013

Capitalism is a system of cultural, spiritual, and ethical values. As the economists David Schwab and Elinor Ostrom noted in a seminal game-theoretic study of the role of norms and rules in maintaining open economies, free markets rest firmly on the norms that constrain us from stealing and that are “trust enhancing.” Far from being an amoral arena for the clash of interests, as capitalism is oft en portrayed by those who seek to undermine or destroy it, capitalist interaction is highly structured by ethical norms and rules. Indeed, capitalism rests on a rejection of the ethics of loot and grab, the means by which most wealth enjoyed by the wealthy has been acquired in other economic and political systems. (In fact, in many countries today, and for much of human history, it has been widely understood that those who are rich are rich because they took from others, and especially because they have access to organized force—in today’s terms, the state. Such predatory elites use this force to gain monopolies and to confi scate the produce of others through taxes. They feed at the state treasury and they benefi t from state-imposed monopolies and restrictions on competition. It’s only under conditions of capitalism that people commonly become wealthy without being criminals.)

#### Capitalism doesn't breed selfishness; it rewards one's ability to serve others.

Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for South East England, 1-19-2012, "In Defence of Capitalism, The Most Virtuous Economic System Yet Devised," The Telegraph, http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100131209/capitalism-isnt-immoral-its-the-most-virtuous-system-on-the-market/, accessed 4-30-2013

There’s nothing selfish about capitalism. Like every economic model, it is a matrix within which individual actors can behave morally or immorally. But here’s the thing: no one has yet come up with a system that rewards decent behaviour to the same extent. In an open market based on property rights and free contract, you become wealthy by offering an honest service to others. I am typing these words on a machine developed by the late Steve Jobs. He gained from the exchange (adding fractionally to his net wealth) and so did I (adding to my convenience). Under the various forms of corporatism tried by fascist and socialist regimes, by contrast, someone else – generally a state official – gets to allocate the goodies, guaranteeing favouritism and corruption.

#### Greed is inevitable, but capitalism harnesses greed to socially productive ends, and encourages contract-based ethical relationships.

Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for South East England, 1-19-2012, "In Defence of Capitalism, The Most Virtuous Economic System Yet Devised," The Telegraph, http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100131209/capitalism-isnt-immoral-its-the-most-virtuous-system-on-the-market/, accessed 4-30-2013

Greed – that is, the desire for material possessions – is not a product of markets, but a product of a human genome evolved in a competitive environment. Capitalism harnesses greed to socially productive ends. The way to become rich in a free economy is to give others what they want, not to suck up to those in power. It’s heartening to hear David Cameron making the moral case for free markets. Too many people vaguely think of the Left–Right spectrum as running from decency to efficiency: socialists are inept but well-meaning, conservatives able but cruel. In fact, it is difficult to think of a more ethical relationship than one created by a free contract. Each party will add to the other’s well-being by doing precisely what is expected of him.

### Alternative Fails

#### The alternative doesn't solve; it cedes the political sphere to the right and makes reforms look too radical for people to embrace

John Wilson, coordinator of Independent Press Association, 2000, How the Left can Win Arguments and Influence People, pp. 15- 16.

Capitalism is far too ingrained in American life to eliminate. If you go into the most impoverished areas of America, you will find that the people who live there are not seeking government control over factories or even more social welfare programs; they're hoping, usually in vain, for a fair chance to share in the capitalist wealth. The poor do not pray for socialism—they strive to be a part of the capitalist system. They want jobs, they want to start businesses, and they want to make money and be successful. What's wrong with America is not capitalism as a system but capitalism as a religion. We worship the accumulation of wealth and treat the horrible inequality between rich and poor as if it were an act of God. Worst of all, we allow the government to exacerbate the financial divide by favoring the wealthy: go anywhere in America, and compare a rich suburb with a poor town—the city services, schools, parks, and practically everything else will be better financed in the place populated by rich people. The aim is not to overthrow capitalism but to overhaul it. Give it a social-justice tune-up, make it more efficient, get the economic engine to hit on all cylinders for everybody, and stop putting out so many environmentally hazardous substances. To some people, this goal means selling out leftist ideals for the sake of capitalism. But the right thrives on having an ineffective opposition. The Revolutionary Communist Party helps stabilize the "free market" capitalist system by making it seem as if the only alternative to free-market capitalism is a return to Stalinism.

#### Radicals are merely embracing new forms of capitalism.

Anthony Lerman, former Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 7-13-2010, "Where is the Anti-Capitalist Ideology," The Guardian, http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/13/anti-capitalist-ideology-economic-crisis, accessed 5-1-2013

Despite claims that Marxism is undergoing a revival, memory of the barbarous uses to which it was put by communist regimes is still too fresh to make it anything more than of minority interest. And when a radical populist like President Lula da Silva produces 9% growth in Brazil in first quarter 2010, within a basically capitalist economic framework, what thinking revolutionary will see the appeal of Marxism? So, too, with the anti-globalisation movement directed at G8s and G20s, which anyway seems to have run out of steam.

#### The alternative is empirically denied: no mass anti-capitalist movement has emerged, and policymakers are resorting to traditional economic fixes

Anthony Lerman, former Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 7-13-2010, "Where is the Anti-Capitalist Ideology," The Guardian, http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/13/anti-capitalist-ideology-economic-crisis, accessed 5-1-2013

If, as many claim, "humanity is at the crossroads of the most serious economic and social crisis in modern history", where is today's big answer, or bold ideological analysis and recipe for transformation, the movement that's taking the masses by storm? It's not that I want it. It's just that the circumstances seem so ripe for such a response and yet, unless I'm missing something, nothing comparable has emerged and I'm struggling to understand why. Perhaps it's because politicians in all countries affected have successfully framed the crisis not only in terms of economic errors but also but also moral deficiencies. They have offered a sop to the anger of the public, but dampened down speculation about the need for revolutionary change by proposing solutions that are almost exclusively managerial.

### Noone Will Join The Alternative

#### The vast majority of the people will submit to capitalism and the state before revolting against the system.

Punk Johnny Cash, anarchist writer and founder of Gonzo Times, 5-2-2013, "The Absolute Failure of the Left in Submission to the Ruling Class," Gonzo Times, http://www.gonzotimes.com/2013/05/the-absolute-failure-of-the-left-in-their-submission-to-the-ruling-class/, accessed 5-5-2013.

We are not close to having a revolution in the United States. If there were a battle cry today it would be “More Submission!” The Occupy movement had potential. There was a rising, small in comparison to the population as a whole, but much could have come from this, and still may. The problem is that it is all too willing to submit. Nobody really wants to take land and throw the ruling regime out of a given territory, and if some do they are far outnumbered by those who are all too willing to submit to the authority of the state.

#### Citizens' concern over non-economic issues will always outstrip the potential for revolutionary consciousness.

Michael Lind, New America Foundation, 2-1-1999, "Why There Will Be No Revolution in the U.S.," New Left Review, http://newleftreview.org/I/233/michael-lind-why-there-will-be-no-revolution-in-the-us-a-reply-to-daniel-lazare, accessed 5-3-2013.

In many democracies, then, class alignments are fairly weak, compared to "primordial" ties, particularly where there are deep and enduring cleavages among sub-national communities defined by race, religion, region or other non-economic factors. Marxists may wish that most democratic party systems were organized around debates over the means of production, but they are not, and it simply will not do to dismiss all of the non-economic concerns of real voters in real democracies as trivial diversions by "bourgeois" parties-particularly given the fact that many of the intellectuals and activists of "proletarian" leftist parties are so seldom proletarians themselves.

#### Cultural differences empirically outstrip class solidarity.

Michael Lind, New America Foundation, 2-1-1999, "Why There Will Be No Revolution in the U.S.," New Left Review, http://newleftreview.org/I/233/michael-lind-why-there-will-be-no-revolution-in-the-us-a-reply-to-daniel-lazare, accessed 5-3-2013.

At the end of the twentieth century, we now have enough examples of democratic regimes to know that parties based on class affiliation rather than other aspects of identify -- regional, ethnic, linguistic, religious -- are the exception, rather than the rule. American politics has often revolved around "culture war" issues like abortion or prohibition, which have symbolized clashes between ethnic groups, races or subcultures -- Protestant "drys" versus Catholic "wets," evangelical conservatives versus secular feminists. Similar patterns are familiar in other democracies. In parliamentary Canada, the party system is Balkanized along regional and linguistic lines, not class lines. Regional partisanship is important in European democracies like Italy and Germany and Asian democracies like South Korea. Even in Britain, with its Labour and Conservative parties, the pattern of partisan alignment has as much to do with region and ethnicity -- the Celtic periphery versus the English ethnic core -- as with socio-economic class. Since most democracies are parliamentary regimes with PR voting, and since few democracies have consistent and competitive "labor parties," the reason for the absence of one in the U.S. cannot be that the federal constitution or the plurality voting system is an impediment.

## Venezuela Neg

### SQ Solves Latin America Engagement

#### The U.S. is increasing economic engagement to boost relations now

Miami Herald (editorial), April 30, 2013, “Latin America no longer anyone’s ‘backyard’,” <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/04/30/3373319/latin-america-no-longer-anyones.html>, accessed 5-1-2013

Although crime and violence pose serious challenges and will undoubtedly garner attention during this trip, they are far from the sole issues on the agenda with either Mexico or Central America. Greater energy, commercial, and education cooperation are centerpieces of the U.S. agenda in the Americas as our increasingly connected and capable neighbors no longer measure the strength of relations by totaling up U.S. security assistance. Instead, our neighbors desire dynamic partnerships built upon the more than $1 trillion in U.S. trade with and investment in the Americas. Although room remains for neighbors to step up and more effectively share responsibility, countries like Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Chile are engaged in trilateral cooperation with the United States and other nations in the region to tackle common challenges and advance shared interests. This shift to partnership together with an appreciation of the United States’ place in the Americas is the key to understanding how the president’s trip to Mexico and Central America advances modern U.S.-Latin American relations.

#### Plan Colombia proves the U.S. is engaged in Latin America now

Zach Silberman, Global Security Studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Advanced Governmental Studies, February 4, 2013, “Opportunity Knocks in Latin America,” U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, <http://www.usglc.org/2013/02/04/opportunity-knocks-in-latin-america/>, accessed 5-2-2013

The U.S. is also working closely with Latin America on mutual national security issues. For example, programs like [Plan Colombia](http://www.state.gov/www/regions/wha/colombia/fs_000328_plancolombia.html) demonstrate the success of engagement these critical areas.  The Obama administration could use the success of a Plan Columbia as a guide to build on programs that we already have in place in Latin America that will have a positive impact towards improving the lives of many. U.S. Southern Command, which has responsibility for Latin America, has worked across agencies in the past specifically through Plan Colombia and through its successor the [Colombian Strategic Development Initiative](http://www.southcom.mil/ourmissions/Pages/US-Military-Support-to-Colombia.aspx).

#### Current Obama engagement policies are working in Latin America

Arturo Valenzuela, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brookings Institution, January 6, 2011, “U.S.-Latin American Relations: A Look Ahead,” [http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/rm/ 2011/154105.htm](http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/rm/%202011/154105.htm), accessed 5-2-2013

Since its first days in office, the Obama Administration has worked very hard to shift the balance in the U.S.-Latin American relationship in a positive and constructive direction – and we are confident that our approach is achieving results. I see so many here who, like me, have spent the better part of their careers studying the Americas, or U.S. policy in the region. For us, in particular, these are fascinating times. That’s because we are seeing the convergence of two powerful and positive trends: the consolidation of successful market democracies that are making big strides in meeting their peoples’ needs, and the growing global integration of Latin America. These trends are fundamentally reordering our interaction with each other. Indeed, our greatest regional challenges – including inequality, the impunity of power, lack of rights, ineffective institutions, lack of opportunity – are receding in most countries in the Americas. And nations of the hemisphere are realizing their stake in new global challenges, like food security, climate change, transnational crime, and economic competitiveness. Most importantly, they are realizing their capacity to act, on a global level, to address these issues. So there is a whole new set of incentives for democratic societies to adjust national policies, pursue greater regional integration, and join in new networks of partnership around the world in order to help meet the tests of our times.

### China Solves Economic Engagement

#### China’s economic engagement in Venezuela leads a push for alternatives to the U.S.

Jonathan Watts, Staff Writer, March 26, 2013, “China's exploitation of Latin American natural resources raises concern,” The [Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/), <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/26/china-latin-america-resources-concern>, accessed 5-2-2013

Since the 2008 financial crisis, [China](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/china) has also become the main lender to the region. In 2010, it provided $37bn (£24bn) in loans – more than the World Bank, Inter-American Bank and the US Import-Export Bank combined. Most of this has gone to four primary exporters – Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and [Ecuador](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/ecuador) – for mining or transport infrastructure. The economic benefits have been enormous. Trade between China and Latin America was just $10bn in 2000. In 2011, it had surged to $241bn. While the distribution has varied enormously from country to country, this helped Latin America avoid the worst of the financial and economic crises that gripped much of the developed world and provided extra revenue for poverty alleviation programmes that have eased the region's notorious inequality. It also played a major part in bolstering left-leaning governments that are seeking an alternative to neo-liberal prescriptions from Washington and Wall Street.

#### China has extensive economic engagement with Venezuela

[Hai Luong](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/author/hai-luong/), Staff Writer, March 7, 2013, “Post-Chavez Venezuela and the Chance for Change,” [Epoch Times](http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/about-us.html/), <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/4167-post-chavez-venezuela-and-the-chance-for-change/>, accessed 4-26-13

China’s interest in Chavez is clear: Venezuela has the world’s largest oil reserves. Its proven crude reserves reached 296.5 billion barrels in 2010, surpassing Saudi Arabia’s 264.5 billion barrels, according to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. In the last half of Chavez’s 14-year rule, China became a major player in Venezuela’s oil industry. Today, China imports 10 times more Venezuelan crude than it did five years ago. By contrast, the United States imports 40 percent less than it did a decade ago. In the next 10 years, China intends to double imports. Beijing has been doing what it can to ensure the oil will keep flowing in a post-Chavez future. Beijing has made major loans to Venezuela totaling $38 billion as of April 201Those loans are all to be repaid in oil.

#### Chinese economic engagement is strong in Venezuela and Latin America

Jonathan Watts, Staff Writer, March 26, 2013, “China's exploitation of Latin American natural resources raises concern,” The [Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/), <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/26/china-latin-america-resources-concern>, accessed 5-2-2013

Amazonian [forest cleared in Ecuador](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/26/ecuador-chinese-oil-bids-amazon), a mountain [levelled in Peru](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/dec/20/chinese-mining-peru-corporate-responsibility), the Cerrado savannah converted to soy fields in [Brazil](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/brazil) and oil fields under development in Venezuela's Orinoco belt. These recent reports of environmental degradation in Latin America may be thousands of miles apart in different countries and for different products, but they have a common cause: growing Chinese demand for regional [commodities](http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/commodities). The world's most populous nation has joined the ranks of wealthy countries in Europe, North America and east Asia that have long consumed and polluted unsustainably. This has led to what author Michael T Klare calls "a race for what's left" and its impact is particularly evident in the continent with much of the untapped, unspoiled natural resources. Even more than Africa, Latin America has become a major focus of Beijing's drive for commodities. A [study](http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/DP33DusselNov12.pdf) last year by Enrique Dussel Peters, a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, found that the region has been the leading destination for Chinese foreign direct investment – mostly for raw materials and by big government-run companies such as Chinalco and CNOOC.

### Venezuela Prefers China

#### Latin America is actively engaging China. They want to work with China

Gabriel Marcella, PhD, Strategic Studies Institute, Winter 2012, “China's Military Activity in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, <http://www.ciaonet.org.er.lib.k-state.edu/journals/aq/aq1054/04.html>, accessed 5-1-2013

The alarmist reporting, much of it from U.S. sources, also ignores the Latin American perspective. Latin Americans are not simple bystanders. They seek to engage China in order to understand the nature and extent of China's power and influence-and its effect on their national interests and foreign policies. They also want to keep their options open for acquiring military equipment at an affordable price and technology transfers for coproduction or independent production. They are also aware of the risks of acquiring a motley mix of systems from various nations, a prospect that makes maintenance expensive and readiness problematic.

#### Venezuela is economically dependent on Chinese economic engagement

Jonathan Watts, Staff Writer, March 26, 2013, “China's exploitation of Latin American natural resources raises concern,” The [Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/), <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/26/china-latin-america-resources-concern>, accessed 5-2-2013

Venezuela and Ecuador, which have been unable to access international capital markets since defaulting, have received hefty loans from China. Argentina is seeking similar treatment. But giving up one kind of dependency can lead to another. Repayments to China are guaranteed by long-term commodity sales, which means a commitment to push ahead with resource exploitation – often with dire consequences for the environment and indigenous communities.

#### China uses extensive economic engagement to push out U.S. influence

Frank Vernuccio, Staff Writer, August 3, 2012, “China a major factor in Latin America,” The Examiner,

<http://www.examiner.com/article/china-a-major-factor-latin-america>, accessed 5-2-2013

[China](http://www.examiner.com/topic/china) has become a major factor in Latin American and [Caribbean](http://www.examiner.com/topic/caribbean) affairs. After President Hu Jintao’s first visit to the region in 2004, it took just three years for bilateral trade to reach over $100 billion, notes [Russell Hsiao.](http://www.jamestown.org/) 121 bilateral agreements and cooperation initiatives have been signed since 2000, concentrating in trade, cultural, public administration/consular affairs, science and technology, tourism, and military matters. Participation in regional organizations has become extensive. Beijing joined the Organization of American States as a permanent observer. It also joined the [Inter-American Development Bank](http://www.iadb.org/)with a donation of $350 million. It expanded diplomatic ties with the Group of Rio, the Andean Community, and the Caribbean Community groups. China has also been particularly encouraging in the development of regional organizations that exclude the United States. President Hu Jintao sent an enthusiastic congratulatory message to Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera past December on the founding of the “Community of Latin American and Caribbean States” (CELAC), a grouping that includes every nation in the western hemisphere except the United States and Canada.

### Yes China-Venezuela Arms Sales

#### Arms sales to Venezuela are part of China’s overall agenda to undermine the U.S.

Fox News Latino (Editorial), November 16, 2012, “Chinese Military Planes Begin Arriving in Venezuela,” <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/11/16/chinese-military-planes-begin-arriving-in-venezuela/>, accessed 5-2-2013

The U.S.-China Economic & Security Review Commission reports that Venezuela, Chile, Bolivia and Cuba now maintain strong ties to the Chinese military “through a high number of official visits, military officer exchanges, port calls, and limited arms sales.” Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador have begun to buy Chinese arms and military equipment, including radar and aircraft. Bolivia has signed a military cooperation agreement with China. [Cynthia Watson’s](http://www.jamestown.org/) study Of China’s arms sale to the region notes that the introduction of Chinese armaments allows Latin American governments to distance themselves from Washington. She notes that “Beijing’s military to military ties are growing with the states of South America across the board: military missions, educational exchanges and arms sales. This activity is part of Beijing’s overall advancement of a foreign policy.” America has traditionally kept potential threats far from the Western Hemisphere. The Obama Administration now must decide whether to ignore a policy that has worked successfully for two centuries.

#### Chinese economic engagement in Latin America leads to arms sales

Loro Horta, Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Security Studies (CSIS) at Sydney University in Australia, September/October 2008, “In Uncle Sam’s Backyard: China's Military Influence in Latin America,” [Military Review](http://search.proquest.com.er.lib.k-state.edu/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/Military%2BReview/%24N/40805/DocView/225306723/fulltext/%24B/1?accountid=11789), p. 47

There are significant political, economic, and military dimensions to most weapons trade. By that, I mean that major arms sales tend to follow or run in parallel with close and favorable political and economic relations. For instance, major recipients of U.S. arms, such as Israel, are allies of Washington that enjoy a close, privileged relationship. The same applies to NATO members and U.S. allies in Asia and the Middle East. Arms sales take place in a larger political and diplomatic setting. A direct link exists between major arms transferences and the nature of political and economic relations. Using this line of reasoning, we can conclude that China's arms sales to Latin America are likely to increase as China's political and economic relations with Latin America progress. Beijing's rising economic and political influence in Latin America may pave the way for major Chinese arms sales and a further expansion of its military influence. China's sophisticated new defense diplomacy is a major force driving this process.

#### Venezuela engages China for arms to circumvent the U.S. ban

Fox News Latino (Editorial), November 16, 2012, “Chinese Military Planes Begin Arriving in Venezuela,” <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/11/16/chinese-military-planes-begin-arriving-in-venezuela/>, accessed 5-2-2013

After the U.S. said it would ban arm sales to his country, Chávez actively began looking for a new place to buy them. He found cooperation among Russia and China. Chávez announced this week that he would begin receiving new Chinese-made military transport planes – shrugging off U.S.’s attempt to choke off Venezuela’s weapons supply. The Venezuelan president said during a televised Cabinet meeting that the first two of the Y-8 planes that Venezuela has bought from China have arrived. He has said previously that Venezuela agreed to buy a total of eight planes from China last year for nearly $353 million. The U.S. government in 2006 banned arms sales to Venezuela, citing the country's ties with Iran and Cuba and accusing it of not fully cooperating in counterterrorism efforts. Chávez has instead turned to Russia and China, spending billions of dollars on fighter jets, transport planes, radar systems, helicopters and assault rifles.

### Politics – Plan Popular With GOP

#### GOP Supports increasing economic engagement

Doug Palmer, Staff Writer, May 8, 2012, “Top Republican urges deeper engagement in Latin America,” Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/08/us-usa-trade-boehner-idUSBRE84718520120508>, accessed 5-2-2013

The Congress' top Republican called on Tuesday for deeper economic engagement with Latin America as a bulwark against Iran's attempt to gain influence in the region and the destabilizing effects of international drug cartels. "The best defense against an expansion of Iranian influence in Latin America - and against the destructive aspirations of international criminals in the region - is for the United States to double down on a policy of direct engagement," U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said at the State Department. "We must be clear that we will be there, with our friends and partners in the region, committed to fighting and winning the war for a free, stable, and prosperous hemisphere," Boehner said in a speech to the Council of Americas, which represents companies that do [business](http://www.reuters.com/finance?lc=int_mb_1001) in Latin America.

#### Republicans are pushing for Obama to increase engagement

Andres Oppenheimer, Staff Writer, September 2, 2012, “GOP's tilt on Latin America,” Charleston Gazette (West Virginia), p. 3C

The Republicans are right in that Obama has neglected Latin America. He has (and, by the way, so did former President Bush after 9/11). But critics are right that tough-sounding rhetoric plays right into the hands of Chavez and his disciples in the region. They are constantly insulting Washington in hopes of getting the U.S. president to say something that would justify their claim that the "U.S. empire" is about to invade their countries at any moment, and who use that fantasy as an excuse to grab absolute powers. If Romney takes that line, he may - ironically - strengthen them.

#### Republicans back increasing economic deals with Latin America

Julia E. Sweig, the Nelson and David Rockefeller senior fellow for Latin America studies and director for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, January 2013 - February 2013, “Getting Latin America Right,” The National Interest, <http://nationalinterest.org/article/getting-latin-america-right-7880>, accessed 5-2-2013

Over the following months, the slog in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee over Cuba, Honduras and confirmations led to an administration practice of bending to ideological winds in Congress when it came to Latin America—even at the expense of the president’s stated diplomatic objectives. This occurred despite support for the president from key congressional Democrats and a number of Republicans, including Representative Paul Ryan, who backed trade with and travel to Cuba. This path of least political resistance extracted a cost for the administration in terms of U.S. standing in the region. In the meantime, the noise over Cuba and Honduras reinforced the administration’s strategic instincts to focus on the region’s biggest countries, especially Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. Mexico mattered particularly because of its proximity and the severity of its security crisis, as well as the depth of its commercial and human ties to the United States. Brazil stood out for its sheer size and growing diplomatic and economic weight. Colombia—long tied to U.S. security assistance—represented an institutionalized legacy relationship and an opportunity to involve a model ally in security efforts within and beyond Latin America. With such priorities rising to the top in a low-priority region, Obama’s Latin America policy increasingly resembled his predecessor’s.

### Conditions CP Solvency

#### Congress wants conditions on engagement

Roger F. Noriega, former assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, January 07, 2013, “Venezuelan roulette,” American Enterprise Institute, <http://www.aei.org/article/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/latin-america/venezuelan-roulette/>, accessed 5-3-2013

Bipartisan leaders in Congress are paying closer attention to the dangerous developments in Venezuela than are the foreign policy agencies in the executive branch. It is vital that they weigh in urgently to ensure that U.S. diplomats make vital law enforcement, security, and human rights concerns a condition of rapprochement with Caracas.

#### We should condition the plan on human rights and rule of law reforms

[Diana Villiers Negroponte](http://www.brookings.edu/experts/negroponted?view=bio), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Duke University, April 16, 2013, “Maduro as President of Venezuela: What to Expect,” [http://latinamericancaribbean.duke.edu/ news/archive/2013/04/16/maduro-as-president-of-venezuela-what-to-expect](http://latinamericancaribbean.duke.edu/%20news/archive/2013/04/16/maduro-as-president-of-venezuela-what-to-expect), accessed 5-3-2013

Under these circumstances, what should the U.S. government do? I anticipate that President Obama will recognize Maduro as president in the near future, and cannot prevent growing Chinese influence. However, Washington should not accept the abuse of human rights and the denial of the rule of law. Together with the democratic countries in the hemisphere, it should use the weight of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its effective court system to protect Venezuelan citizens and prevent the consolidation of authoritarian rule in the hemisphere.

#### The U.S. should condition engagement on transparency and reform

Patrick Christy, staff writer, March 15, 2013, “Obama Must Stand Up for Democracy in Post-Chavez Venezuela,” U.S. News & World Report, <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2013/03/15/after-chavez-us-must-encourage-democratic-venezuela>, accessed 5-5-2013

Corruption and criminality were widespread under the Chavez regime, as high-level government and military officials benefited from close ties to corrupt businesses and international drug traffickers. Yet to date, the Obama administration has done little to hold Venezuela's leaders accountable. Washington should make clear that full diplomatic relations with the United States will be contingent upon Venezuela ending ties to international terrorist groups and rogue regimes like Iran. If Venezuela takes meaningful steps to end these ties and ensure future elections, the United States should work with Caracas and the private sector to reform Venezuela's energy industry and identify key development projects and reforms to improve the country's economic future.

### Solvency – Venezuela Says No

#### Maduro will say no in the short term. Relations thaw will take a long time

Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, April 9, 2013, “Hugo Chávez’s Death: Implications for Venezuela and U.S. Relations,” CRS Report for Congress, [http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/ R42989.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/%20R42989.pdf), accessed 4-26-13

While some observers contend that Chávez’s passing and the beginning of a new political era in Venezuela could ultimately lessen tensions in U.S.-Venezuelan relations, there is no expectation that this will happen quickly. In fact, State Department officials have cautioned that the upcoming electoral campaign could delay any forward movement in improving bilateral relations. Just hours before Chávez’s death on March 5, Vice President Maduro announced that two U.S. military attachés were being expelled from Venezuela for reportedly attempting to provoke dissent in the Venezuelan military and even appeared to blame Chávez’s sickness on the United States. State Department officials strongly denied the Venezuelan charges regarding the attachés, and ultimately responded on March 11 by expelling two Venezuelan diplomats (a consular official in New York and a second secretary at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington).

#### Maduro will say no to the plan to shore up military credibility

Paul D. Shinkman, Staff Writer, April 24, 2013, “Iranian-Sponsored Narco-Terrorism in Venezuela: How Will Maduro Respond?,” US News & World Report, [http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/ 04/24/iranian-sponsored-narco-terrorism-in-venezuela-how-will-maduro-respond](http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/%2004/24/iranian-sponsored-narco-terrorism-in-venezuela-how-will-maduro-respond), accessed 4-25-2013
U.S. officials might try to engage the new Venezuelan president first in the hopes of improving the strained ties between the two countries. But Maduro has never been close with the senior military class in his home country, and will likely adopt a more confrontational approach to the United States to prove his credentials to these Bolivarian elites. "Maybe if he were operating in different circumstances, he could be a pragmatist," Farah says. "I don't think he can be a pragmatist right now."

#### Anti-Americanism is essential to Maduro’s political survival

[Daniel W. Drezner](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/author/Daniel%20W.%20Drezner), professor of international politics at the [Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy](http://fletcher.tufts.edu/) at Tufts University, March 7, 2013, “[Why post-Chavez Venezuela won't be a U.S. ally anytime soon](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why_post_chavez_venezeula_wont_be_a_us_ally_anytime_soon),” Foreign Policy, [http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why\_post\_chavez\_venezeula\_ wont\_be\_a\_us\_ally\_anytime\_soon](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why_post_chavez_venezeula_%20wont_be_a_us_ally_anytime_soon), accessed 4-24-2013

Combative words, a warning of U.S. military intervention, and oddball conspiracy theories meant to encourage suspicion and distrust were always basic ingredients in Chávez’s rhetoric. The fear now is that Chavismo’s blend of bravado and insecurity could swing unpredictably in the hands of whichever cronies succeed Chávez. In a country as polarized as Venezuela, having political figures tell their supporters that the people who disagree with them may be responsible for their beloved leader’s demise comes dangerously close to throwing a match on a tinderbox.

### Solvency – Madero Says No

#### Maduro will continue to demonize the U.S,

[Daniel W. Drezner](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/author/Daniel%20W.%20Drezner), professor of international politics at the [Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy](http://fletcher.tufts.edu/) at Tufts University, March 7, 2013, “[Why post-Chavez Venezuela won't be a U.S. ally anytime soon](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why_post_chavez_venezeula_wont_be_a_us_ally_anytime_soon),” Foreign Policy, [http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why\_post\_chavez\_venezeula\_ wont\_be\_a\_us\_ally\_anytime\_soon](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/03/07/why_post_chavez_venezeula_%20wont_be_a_us_ally_anytime_soon), accessed 4-24-2013

All of which may spell a more insecure, paranoid, and perhaps aggressive presidential palace. Indeed, Maduro’s statement informing Venezuelans of Chávez’s death wasted no time in engaging in bizarre, politically charged scapegoating. “We have no doubt, the time will come in history when we can create a scientific commission to show that Comandante Chávez was attacked with this disease,” said Maduro on Tuesday. “We already have plenty of clues about this, it’s a very serious matter that will have to be investigated by a special committee of scientists.” Maduro also announced the expulsion of two American military attachés and accused the United States of trying to destabilize the regime.

#### Maduro won’t engage because demonizing the U.S. is key to his power base

Jordan Fabian, Staff Writer, March 6, 2013, “Hugo Chávez Death: Fixing the U.S.-Venezuela Relationship Won't Be Easy,” ABC News, <http://abcnews.go.com/ABC_Univision/Politics/hugo-chavez-death-fixing-us-venezuela-relationship-easy/story?id=18668275&page=2#.UXyTkrXz2m4>, accessed 4-23-13

Eric Farnsworth, vice president of the Council of the Americas and Americas Society, said that it's in Maduro's political self-interest to maintain Venezuela's current tack against the United States. "My strong belief is that Maduro is going to keep relations with the U.S. in the deep freeze because he has to establish his own legitimacy," he said in an interview with ABC/Univision. "He doesn't have his own base of support. He's got to keep tensions high with the United States." Tried and true tactic."

#### Maduro will say no to engagement

Elise Labott, CNN Foreign Affairs Reporter, March 6, 2013, “U.S.-Venezuela relations likely to remain tense after Chavez,” CNN Wire, <http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2013/03/06/u-s-venezuela-relations-likely-to-remain-tense-after-chavez/>, accessed 4-27-13

"The opportunities are not there yet for the U.S. to engage" says Carl Meacham of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "For the next month or so, Maduro has to show he is even more Chavez than Chavez was. That means he is going to be more anti-American, more anti-capitalist, more anti-systemic. As far as a rapprochement, I don't see it coming anytime soon."

#### The plan can never solve if Venezuela says no

Paul Richter and Chris Kraul, Staff Writers, March 6, 2013, “U.S.-Venezuela ties may now thaw; Chavez's immediate successors appear a lot less hungry for regional leadership,” Los Angeles Times, p. A8.

"It's going to take two to tango," Nuland said. "It's going to take action on the Venezuelan side."

It may be difficult for the Obama administration to move toward better relations with Venezuela without a major step from Caracas, partly because it would open the administration to attacks from congressional Republicans. They consider the White House too soft on the regime.

### Solvency – AT: Maduro Isn’t Chavez

#### Maduro will continue Chavez’s anti-American foreign policy

Ted Piccone, a senior fellow and deputy director for [Foreign Policy](http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/foreign-policy) at Brookings, March 6, 2013, “Chavez Is Dead. Chavismo Lives On,” <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/03/06-chavez-venezuela-piccone>, accessed 5-3-2013

In foreign policy, Maduro is unlikely to veer from Chavez's tested formula of demonizing the United States, at least rhetorically, a tactic he has already deployed in accusing Washington of somehow instigating Chavez's illness and expelling two U.S. military attachés. The longstanding close relationship between Chavez and the Castros in Havana is likely to continue under new leadership in Venezuela, at least for the short to medium term. Cuba has carefully inserted itself into the transition planning process in Caracas and both sides benefit from continuity in terms of oil subsidies, medical and education services, security and intelligence cooperation and ideological and anti-U.S. solidarity.

#### Maduro will be just as paranoid as Chavez and will scapegoat the U.S.

Washington Post (Editorial Board), March 6, 2013, “A misguided U.S. strategy for Venezuela,” [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-baffling-us-strategy-for-post-chavez-venezuela/ 2013/03/06/d068c30c-8687-11e2-98a3-b3db6b9ac586\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-baffling-us-strategy-for-post-chavez-venezuela/%202013/03/06/d068c30c-8687-11e2-98a3-b3db6b9ac586_story.html), accessed 5-3-2013

Anticipating the [death of Hugo Chavez](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/hugo-chavez-passionate-but-polarizing-venezuelan-president-dead-at-58/2013/03/05/42525790-afdd-11e0-90e1-c12867691ae6_story.html?hpid=z3), the Obama administration began reaching out months ago to his designated successor, [Nicolas Maduro](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/venezuela-officials-call-for-unity-army-pledges-loyalty-after-hugo-chavez-dies-at-age-58/2013/03/05/1b749452-85f7-11e2-a80b-3edc779b676f_story.html), in the hope of bettering U.S.-Venezuelan relations. On Tuesday, that strategy absorbed a body blow: Hours before revealing that Mr. Chavez had died of cancer, Mr. Maduro tried to blame the United States for his illness, and he expelled two U.S. military attaches on charges of “proposing destabilizing plans” to the armed forces. So much for the “reset” with Caracas. The ludicrous and crude propaganda launched by Mr. Maduro was a sign that Mr. Chavez’s successors will be more thuggish and less politically adept than he was — and, if anything, more inclined to scapegoat the United States and Venezuela’s democratic opposition for the horrendous problems the caudillo leaves behind.

#### Maduro will be a puppet of regional leaders

Alvaro Vargas Llosa, Senior Fellow of The Center on Global Prosperity at The Independent Institute, February 8, 2013, “The End of the Latin American Left , Will Hugo Chávez’s revolution die with him?,” <http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=3550>, accessed 5-3-2013

All of this points to the Cuba-Venezuela connection continuing to play a pivotal role through Maduro. That said, Maduro will have considerably less ability to project influence than when Chávez was at the helm. Presumably, the vacuum partially left by Chávez will see various forces vying for an increased role, including Kirchner as the radicalized Peronista running the largest populist economy, while Morales and Correa, as well as Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega, call attention to themselves without the necessary power to back their chutzpah. Brazil will arbitrate among these leftists and wait to see what emerges before throwing its lot with anyone.

### US Engagement Doesn’t Solve US influence

#### Latin America wants to pursue a path independent of U.S. influence

Jesse Jackson, Founder of Rainbow/PUSH, April 13, 2013, “Time to restart U.S.-Venezuela relations,” Chicago Sun-Times, <http://www.suntimes.com/news/jackson/18781426-452/time-to-restart-us-venezuela-relations.html>, accessed 4-26-13

At Chavez’s funeral, leaders of the new populist politics in Latin America gathered — including the presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Some have used anti-American postures to consolidate their legitimacy at home. All search for building greater economic and political independence from the U.S.

#### U.S. can’t improve relations in Latin America without ending the Cuba embargo

Peter Hakim, Staff Writer, March 27, 2013, “Post Chavez: Can U.S. rebuild Latin American ties?,” Reuters, <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2013/03/27/post-chavez-can-u-s-rebuild-latin-american-ties/>, accessed 5-1-2013

Recent developments suggest, however, that for Washington to regain clout in regional affairs, it must it end its standoff with Cuba. U.S. policy toward Cuba sets Washington against the views of every Latin American and Caribbean government. Long-standing U.S. efforts to isolate and sanction Cuba, have, counterproductively, brought every country in Latin America to Cuba’s defense with a general admiration of Havana’s resistance to U.S. pressures.

#### Latin America prefers regional solidarity

[Howard LaFranchi](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Staff/Howard-LaFranchi), Staff Writer, March 5, 2013, “Hugo Chavez legacy: a wedge between US, Latin America,” Christian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0305/Hugo-Chavez-legacy-a-wedge-between-US-Latin-America-video>, accessed 5-1-2013

With Chávez’s death, the question for Venezuela and Latin America becomes, “Will there be Chavismo without Chávez?” says Tinker Salas. For Venezuela, the short-term answer appears to be yes. In elections for state governors in December, Chavista candidates – several of them leftist former military officers like Chávez – trounced the opposition. Latin America, on the other hand, has already largely moved on from Chávez, though a few leftist populist states still depend on Chávez largess. Even so, strains of Chávez’s anti-imperialist, region-centric doctrine and his socialist rhetoric are heard in the region's new responses to global and economic challenges, some experts say. Chávez sits with Fidel Castro and “the sainted [Che Guevara](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Che%2BGuevara%22%20%5Ct%20%22_self)” in touching “a chord in Latin America that is there,” says Charles Shapiro, a former US ambassador to Venezuela who is now director of the [Institute of the Americas](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Institute%2Bof%2Bthe%2BAmericas) in [San Diego](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/San%2BDiego).

### Economic Engagement Alt-Causes

#### Latin America will side with Cuba versus U.S. engagement

Peter Hakim, Staff Writer, March 27, 2013, “Post Chavez: Can U.S. rebuild Latin American ties?,” Reuters, <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2013/03/27/post-chavez-can-u-s-rebuild-latin-american-ties/>, accessed 5-1-2013

Because this U.S. policy is viewed as so extreme, no Latin America country is willing to criticize Cuba — almost regardless of its words or actions. Chavez, with his close association with Cuba, possessed some of that immunity — with his neighbors leaving him unaccountable for his violations of democracy, human rights and decency. His funeral made it clear that the United States has a lot of work to do to prevent that immunity from spreading.

#### Economic engagement is not enough. Other factors have too much influence

Jim Kuhnhenn, Staff Writer, April 13, 2012, “Obama praises US-Latin America trade relationship,” Seattle Times, <http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2017977076_apltobama.html>, accessed 5-2-2013

Still, while U.S. exports in dollar amounts have increased in the Americas, its share of the market has declined over the past decade. China, in particular, is surpassing the U.S as a trading partner with Brazil, Chile, and Peru. In the United States, labor is already restive over a U.S. trade deal with Colombia that is awaiting final certification. The Colombian government has worked to meet the requirements of a labor rights agreement that was a condition of passage in Congress last year. The question bubbling in Cartagena was whether Obama, over the objections of U.S. union leaders, would certify that Colombia has successfully met the terms. And trade could get lost in the discussion over Cuba's exclusion from the summit, a rising call from Latin American countries to consider legalizing drugs to ease the violence associated with narco-trafficking, and even Argentina's claims to the British-controlled Falkland Islands. Adding an embarrassing wrinkle to the visit was Friday's acknowledgement by the Secret Service that agents facing allegations of misconduct for deeds before the president's arrival had been sent home. What's more, U.S. influence in Latin America has waned as countries such as Brazil and Chile gain economic stature. The U.S. can no longer buy its standing in the Americas through development assistance.

#### Latin America doesn’t want U.S. democracy, just regional solidarity

Peter Hakim, Staff Writer, March 27, 2013, “Post Chavez: Can U.S. rebuild Latin American ties?,” Reuters, <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2013/03/27/post-chavez-can-u-s-rebuild-latin-american-ties/>, accessed 5-1-2013

The problem is not that Latin America has retreated from democratic rule. Though democratic governance has deteriorated in some countries, it is still the overwhelming regional norm ‑ and getting stronger in many places.  The commitment of Latin Americans to democracy, however, now largely applies to their own countries. What they have given up on is the idea of collectively defending democratic practice in countries other than their own. Regional solidarity is now a higher priority than democracy, a reflection of the many ideological and political differences among Latin American nations.

### Latin American Engagement Fails

#### Latin Americans are organizing to exclude the U.S.

The Time-Herald Record (Editorial), April 27, 2012, “The real scandal: our Latin America policies,”

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120427/OPINION/204270322/-1/SITEMAP>

Responding to overall U.S. intransigence, other Western Hemisphere countries are organizing. Greg Grandin, professor of Latin American history at New York University, told me: "Latin Americans themselves are creating these bodies that are excluding the United States. This seems to be a venue in which they come together in order to criticize Washington, quite effectively." Grandin compared Obama's Latin America policies to those of his predecessors: "The two main pillars of U.S. foreign policy — increasing neoliberalism and increasing militarism around drugs — continue. They have created a crisis running from Colombia through Central America to Mexico. That's been a complete disaster."

#### U.S. engagement fails without coop for democracy reforms and counter-terrorism

Ray Walser, PhD, Senior Policy Analyst for Latin America and Jessica Zuckerman, a Research Associate in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation, March 6, 2013, “Venezuela After Chavez: U.S. Should Rally to Democracy,” [http://www.heritage.org/ research/reports/2013/03/venezuela-after-death-of-chavez-us-should-rally-to-democracy](http://www.heritage.org/%20research/reports/2013/03/venezuela-after-death-of-chavez-us-should-rally-to-democracy), accessed 5-2-2013

Dealing with a post-Chavez Venezuela will require an ongoing U.S. commitment to free and fair presidential elections, to the defense of individual rights and liberties, and to leveraging future improvements in bilateral relations to genuine cooperation in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism. Working with Venezuela for a more stable and secure hemispheric energy market is also a desired, if still distant, objective.

#### The U.S. should hold off on engagement to gauge Maduro’s leadership

Ted Piccone, a senior fellow and deputy director for [Foreign Policy](http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/foreign-policy) at Brookings, March 6, 2013, “Chavez Is Dead. Chavismo Lives On,” <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/03/06-chavez-venezuela-piccone>, accessed 5-3-2013

Washington should bide its time and quietly wait out what should be a relatively smooth transition to a post-Chavez leadership and then remount its earlier efforts to turn a page away from the antagonism of the Chavez era toward a more pragmatic relationship of mutual interests. If Maduro concludes, however, that he has more to gain parroting the Chavez line of virulent anti-Americanism, it will be difficult to turn the other cheek for another six years.

### AT: Iran Advantage – Not A Threat

#### Chavez’s death took the strength out of Venezuela-Iranian ties

Ilan Berman, Staff Writer, March 12, 2013, “Hugo Chavez's Death Is a Blow to Iran,” US News & World Report, <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2013/03/12/after-chavez-a-challenge-for-iran>, accessed 4-27-13

Even so, the departure of Chavez is bound to be a blow to Tehran. Without its most reliable broker, Iran now faces a region in profound political flux. During his 14 years in office, Chavez had served as the champion of anti-Americanism in Latin America. Now that mantle of leadership, coveted by power-hungry regional leaders like Ecuador's Correa, is up for grabs. So, too, is the prevailing attitude toward Tehran.

#### Iran’s influence in Venezuela and Latin America is just lackluster propaganda

Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, January 10, 2013, “Venezuela: Issues for Congress,” CRS Report for Congress, <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R40938.pdf>, accessed 4-26-13

Venezuela also has played a key role in the development of Iran’s expanding relations with other countries in the region. This outreach has largely focused on leftist governments—Bolivia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua—that share the goal of reducing U.S. influence in the region. While Iran has promised significant assistance and investment to these countries, observers maintain that there is little evidence that such promises have been fulfilled. Iranian President Ahmadinejad also visited Cuba, Nicaragua, and Ecuador in January 201Although he signed a number of agreements during his tour, it is doubtful that this will lead to significant Iranian investment or financial support. Analysts point out that leaders’ statements during these trips are largely propaganda, with the official Iranian press trumpeting relations with these countries in order to show that Iran is not isolated internationally and that it has good relations with countries geographically close to the United States. Some press accounts characterized Ahmadinejad’s tour of the region as “lackluster” and a mere diplomatic show attempting to remind the world that Iran continues to have relations with countries in Latin America. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testified before Congress in late January 2012 that while the U.S. intelligence community remains concerned about Iran’s connection with Venezuela, Ahmadinejad’s recent trip to Latin America “was not all that successful.”

#### Iran doesn’t need Venezuela because it has the entire region

Ilan Berman, Staff Writer, March 12, 2013, “Hugo Chavez's Death Is a Blow to Iran,” US News & World Report, <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2013/03/12/after-chavez-a-challenge-for-iran>, accessed 4-27-13

But now, Chavez's death—and the political jockeying that is sure to follow his passing, both within Venezuela and throughout Latin America—could call all of that into question. Of course, Iran's leaders have not been caught totally unprepared. In truth, the Iranian regime has planned for some time for a post-Chavez era, and the past two years have seen it expand its political ties to the governments of [Evo Morales in Bolivia](http://www.ilanberman.com/11722/iran-woos-bolivia-for-influence-in-latin-america) and [Rafael Correa in Ecuador](http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/02/15/irans_man_in_ecuador), as well as to a number of other regional players ([most recently the administration of Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in Argentina](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-21612517)). Iran has had considerable success in doing so, broadening its strategic footprint in the region in the process.

### AT: Iran Advantage – Latin America Not Key

#### Despite trade deals, Iran has lost almost all influence in Latin America

[Sara Miller Llana](http://www.csmonitor.com/About/Staff/Sara-Miller-Llana), Staff Writer, January 10, 2013, “What's Ahmadinejad getting out of his Latin America tour?,” Christian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2012/0110/What-s-Ahmadinejad-getting-out-of-his-Latin-America-tour/Iran-may-actually-be-losing-allies?nav=topic-tag_topic_page-storyList>, accessed 5-2-2013

Despite a flurry of deals signed in recent years, some say [Iran](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Iran)'s economic and political influence in [Latin America](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Latin%2BAmerica) is shrinking. Only a handful of countries in the region – mostly impoverished, with the exception of [Venezuela](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Venezuela) – extend an open hand to Ahmadinejad and Venezuela is the clear ringleader. Without him in office – a possibility given Venezuela’s presidential election in October, as well as his cancer diagnosis – the other countries very well may forgo the friendship, says [Meir Javedanfar](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Meir%2BJavedanfar), an expert on contemporary Iranian politics at the [Interdisciplinary Center – Herzliya](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Interdisciplinary%2BCenter%2BHerzliya) in [Israel](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Israel).

#### Ecuador would still supply uranium to Iran

[Roger F. Noriega,](http://www.aei.org/scholar/roger-f-noriega/) Cresencio S. Arcos Jr., Otto Reich, and Mark D. Wallace, American Enterprise Institute, January 14, 2013, “Iran: A regional threat beyond the Middle East,” [South Florida Sun Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/sfl-iran-a-regional-threat-beyond-the-middle-east-by-ambassador-cresencio-s-arcos-jr-ambassador-otto-rei-20130114%2C0%2C5995775%2Cprint.story), <http://www.aei.org/article/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/middle-east-and-north-africa/iran-a-regional-threat-beyond-the-middle-east/>, accessed 5-2-2013

While Venezuela is Iran's most notorious enabler in the region, other countries are also ramping up their support for Tehran. The most recent and blatant offender in this regard is Ecuador, which has been one of the most vocal proponents of Iran's development of so-called "peaceful nuclear energy." In July, Ecuador announced that it would defy international sanctions and purchase some $400 million of Iranian oil. Even more troubling, there is growing evidence that Ecuador's radical president Rafael Correa is actively facilitating Iran's illegal activities. For example, Ecuador plans to begin mining uranium in the next few years and in late 2009, signed an agreement with Iran "to boost closer and mutually beneficial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on a variety of fronts, among them mining and geology." The entire international community should clearly be concerned by the prospect of an Ecuador-Iran alliance cemented by a steady supply of uranium ore to Tehran.

#### Others countries outside of the topic will aid Iran

[Roger F. Noriega,](http://www.aei.org/scholar/roger-f-noriega/) Cresencio S. Arcos Jr., Otto Reich, and Mark D. Wallace, American Enterprise Institute, January 14, 2013, “Iran: A regional threat beyond the Middle East,” [South Florida Sun Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/sfl-iran-a-regional-threat-beyond-the-middle-east-by-ambassador-cresencio-s-arcos-jr-ambassador-otto-rei-20130114%2C0%2C5995775%2Cprint.story), <http://www.aei.org/article/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/middle-east-and-north-africa/iran-a-regional-threat-beyond-the-middle-east/>, accessed 5-2-2013

In the past year the international community has taken unprecedented action to pressure the Iranian regime to abandon its nuclear ambitions. For example, the U.S. and European Union have adopted comprehensive new sanctions measures aimed at tightening the economic noose around the regime, while a number of other nations have finally taken steps to curtail Iranian oil imports - striking at the economic heart of the regime. These actions are having a tangible effect on Iran's economy as evidenced most demonstrably by the crash of Iran's currency, the rial, which has plummeted to historic lows in recent weeks. Against this backdrop of increasingly effective and broad economic pressure, however, is a curious anomaly. Several countries in one region of the world are working to undermine international sanctions against Iran and some are even helping the Iranian regime engage in illegal activities such as money laundering and narco-terrorism. Surprisingly, these countries are not located in the Middle East, but rather in a region much closer to the United States: Latin America. It is time for the U.S. and other like-minded countries to acknowledge and confront this growing threat.

### AT: Iran Nuclearization Impact

#### Iran won’t cause nuclear war with Israel

Zachary Taylor, staff writer, August 2012, “War With Iran: 3 Biggest Myths About Nuclear Weapons and Israel,” PolicyMic, <http://www.policymic.com/articles/13917/war-with-iran-3-biggest-myths-about-nuclear-weapons-and-israel>, accessed 5-5-2013

Iran lacks a strong ideological commitment to Israel’s destruction, much less a commitment stronger than the wish to forgo its own survival. It’s true that the Iranian regime sponsored terrorist attacks against Israel long before any Israeli leader suggested bombing Iran, but that is because these attacks were a relatively low-cost way of boosting its anti-Israel credentials. Nuclear war changes the calculation.

#### U.S. deterrence will contain a nuclear Iran

Shashank Joshi, doctoral student at Harvard University and associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, February 21, 2012, “Nuclear alarmism over Iran is backing us into a corner,” Cristian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2011/1012/Hey-America-Iran-still-isn-t-threat-No.-1>, accessed 5-5-2013

Comments like these reflect a growing nuclear alarmism that could drag us into an unwinnable and unnecessary war. A nuclear Iran is profoundly undesirable – but it's also [eminently containable](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/feb/16/iran-false-nuclear-fears). The first argument, that Iran is too crazy to be deterred, is historically untenable. Stalin's Soviet Union was viewed in exactly the same terms.[NSC-68](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/nsc-68/nsc68-1.htm), one of the most famous American intelligence assessments of the cold war, judged Moscow to be "animated by a new fanatic faith, antithetical to our own", aimed at "domination of the Eurasian landmass". That was the year after the Soviets' first nuclear test. Mao Zedong, who was to acquire a bomb shortly thereafter, [welcomed a nuclear war](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ftv7ks-Ehq0C&lpg=PA788&ots=-0wYIWSmas&dq=mao%20%22imperialism%20would%20be%20razed%20to%20the%20ground%22&pg=PA788#v=onepage&q&f=false) in which "imperialism would be razed to the ground, and the whole world would become socialist".

#### There is no evidence Iran has or will produce nuclear weapons

David Cortright, Director of Policy Studies at the [Kroc Institute](http://kroc.nd.edu/) for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, April 29, 2013, “[Coercive Sanctions and Military Threats Push Iran Closer to the Nuclear Threshold](http://theglobalobservatory.org/interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html),” accessed 5-5-2013, http://theglobalobservatory.org/ interviews/491-coercive-sanctions-and-military-threats-push-iran-closer-to-the-nuclear-threshold.html

It’s quite clear that they have a substantial nuclear production capacity, but also clear that no evidence exists that they have turned that into a nuclear weapon. The US intelligence agencies, as you indicate, have been assessing every year for the last several years that Iran does not have a nuclear weapons capability and that it made a decision several years ago to desist from any further activities in that direction. We also have the several-times-a-year reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency. Their reports also say that we cannot state whether Iran has a nuclear weapon or not. We have no such evidence. We can’t state the positive, but we can’t state the negative. We really have no evidence to suggest that they are actually in possession of a nuclear weapon, and a lot of evidence that they have built up this capacity. But actual creation of a weapon—they don’t have that yet.

### US Sanctions On Venezuela Good

#### Sanctions on Venezuela prevent support for Hezbollah

Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, and June S. Beittel, Analyst in Latin American Affairs, April 5, 2013, “Latin America: Terrorism Issues,” [http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/ RS21049.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/%20RS21049.pdf), accessed 5-6-2013

A reason for U.S. concerns about Iran’s deepening relations with Venezuela is its ties to

Hezbollah, a State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. Hezbollah, along with

Iran, is reported to have been linked to two bombings against Jewish targets in Argentina in the

early 1990s, including the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) in

Buenos Aires that killed 85 people (See Table 1 for background on the AMIA investigation.) The

United States has imposed sanctions on individuals and companies in Latin America for

providing support to Hezbollah, including two Venezuelans. The State Department’s 2011

terrorism report maintained that “there were credible reports that Hizballah sympathizers and

supporters engaged in fundraising and support activity in Venezuela.” (For more, see “Concerns

about Hezbollah” below.)

#### Absent sanctions, Venezuela can resume aiding enemies of the U.S.

Jose Orozco, staff writer, February 12, 2013, “U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Venezuela’s Cavim Arms Company,” Bloomberg News, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-12/u-s-imposes-sanctions-on-venezuela-s-cavim-arms-company.html>, accessed 5-6-2013

The U.S. imposed sanctions on a state-owned Venezuelan weapons company after it traded with Iran, North Korea or Syria, the State Department said in a [statement](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/02/204013.htm) posted on its website. The U.S. sanctioned the Venezuelan Military Industry Company under the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act, known as INKSNA. The sanctions, which the statement didn’t detail, expire in February, 2015. The U.S. also penalized companies or individuals in Belarus, China, Iran, Sudan and Syria, according to the statement. “There was credible information indicating they had transferred to, or acquired from, Iran, North Korea, or Syria, equipment and technology,” the State Department said yesterday.

#### Aid from Venezuela helps rogue states advance nuclear proliferation

El Pais (English edition editorial)m February 14, 2013, US sanctions Venezuelan arms firm for illegal sales,” <http://elpais.com/elpais/2013/02/14/inenglish/1360847589_160965.html>, accessed 5-6-2013

The US State Department on Tuesday announced sanctions against Venezuela's state-owned weapons manufacturer Venezuelan Military Industry Company (Cavim) - along with other firms from different nations - for selling arms and transferring defense technology that could allegedly help Iran, North Korea and Syria develop sophisticated weapons. The US government will prohibit Cavim and 12 other firms from doing business with any company in the United States or federal or state agencies until February 2015. The sanctions were imposed under the Iran, North Korea and Syria Nonproliferation Act. The "sanctions were imposed on these entities and individuals because there was credible information indicating they had transferred to, or acquired from, Iran, North Korea, or Syria, equipment and technology listed on multilateral export control lists [...], or items that are not listed, but nevertheless, could materially contribute to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or cruise or ballistic missile program," the State Department release said.

### US Should Not Lift Sanctions On Venezuela

#### Sanctions are irrelevant. They will continue to trade with Iran

Aletho News, editorial, February 17, 2013, “Venezuelan arms maker to continue Iran trade despite US bans,” <http://alethonews.wordpress.com/2013/02/17/venezuelan-arms-maker-to-continue-iran-trade-despite-us-bans/>, accessed 5-6-2013

Venezuelan officials say the state-owned weapons manufacturer, CAVIM, will keep on trading with Iran in defiance of the US sanctions imposed on the company, Press TV reports. “We think that it is logical for Venezuela to have trade and economic relations with all countries in the world. We are exercising our sovereignty,” Venezuelan Envoy to international rights bodies German Saltron said. “We feel it is an abuse of power that the United States’ government is trying to block Iran from trading with other countries,” he added.

#### Lifting sanctions would give a green light to weapons cooperation with Iran

Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, and June S. Beittel, Analyst in Latin American Affairs, April 5, 2013, “Latin America: Terrorism Issues,” [http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/ RS21049.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/%20RS21049.pdf), accessed 5-6-2013

U.S. officials have expressed concerns over the past several years about Venezuela’s lack of cooperation on antiterrorism efforts, President Hugo Chávez’s sympathetic statements for Colombian terrorist groups, and Venezuela’s relations with Iran. Since May 2006, the Secretary of State has made an annual determination that Venezuela has not been “cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts” pursuant to Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA). The most recent determination was made in May 201As a result, the United States imposed an arms embargo on Venezuela in 2006, which ended all U.S. commercial arms sales and retransfers to Venezuela. (Other countries currently on the Section 40A list include Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, and Syria, not to be confused with the “state sponsors of terrorism” list under Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979.) As discussed, below, the United States has imposed various sanctions on Venezuelan individuals and companies for supporting the FARC, Iran, and Hezbollah.

#### Free from sanctions, Venezuela can resume aid to the FARC

Mark P. Sullivan, Specialist in Latin American Affairs, and June S. Beittel, Analyst in Latin American Affairs, April 5, 2013, “Latin America: Terrorism Issues,” [http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/ RS21049.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/%20RS21049.pdf), accessed 5-6-2013

To date, the United States has imposed financial sanctions against seven current or former

Venezuelan government and military officials for providing support to the FARC. In September

2008, the Treasury Department froze the assets of two senior intelligence officials—General

Hugo Carvajal and General Henry Rangel Silva—and the former interior minister, Ramón Rodríguez Chacín, for allegedly helping the FARC with weapons and drug trafficking. General Rangel was appointed by President Chávez as defense minister in January 2012, an action that raised concern among U.S. policymakers. He stepped down in October 2012, and went on to win the governorship of the Venezuelan state of Trujillo in December 2012 elections. Rodríguez Chacín also was elected as governor of the state of Guárico in December.

## Russia DA

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#### US-Russian relations fragile but growing closer

Christian Science Monitor, 5/7/13, "At Kerry-Putin meeting, US-Russia relations thaw – a little," www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2013/0507/At-Kerry-Putin-meeting-US-Russia-relations-thaw-a-little, accessed 5/15/13

Experts say the atmosphere is a bit more favorable for US-Russia detente today than a few months ago, when each side was passing laws that branded some of the other's officials as criminals . In part that may be because the tragedy of last month's Boston Marathon bombing has focused minds in both countries on the need for greatly improved security cooperation between their intelligence services. One of the main purposes of Kerry's two day visit, his first to Moscow since becoming secretary of State, is to prepare the ground for two high-profile upcoming meetings between Mr. Obama and Putin. The first is the G-8 summit, to be held this year in Northern Ireland in just over a month's time. Then, in September Obama will visit Russia for the first time since 2009, where he will hold meetings with Putin on the sidelines of the G-20 leader's summit in St. Petersburg. "The Boston tragedy may turn out to be a catalyst which offers Obama and Putin an opportunity to do what they've clearly wanted to do for some time, which is to arrest the deterioration of the US-Russia relationship," says Sergei Markov, a political analyst and former adviser to Putin. "With Russophobia running rampant in the US these days, and anti-Americanism so strong in Russia, it's not easy for the two presidents to overcome the public moods. But everyone agrees on the need for better security, so they can shake hands, make a deal about that, then move forward with other serious matters," he adds. Mr. Markov says the current upswing bodes well for almost all aspects of the troubled relationship, except Syria.

#### The plan is an intrusion into Russia’s sphere of influence

[Insert Link]

#### Violating Russia’s sphere of influence in Latin America ensures relations collapse

Ted Carpenter, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, 10/19/10, "Resets and Spheres of Influence," The National Interest, nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/resets-spheres-influence-4266, accessed 5/24/13

Like the proverbial broken clock that is right twice a day, however, the hawks are correct with respect to the Russian-Venezuelan nuclear deal. The United States has an important interest at stake in making sure that Latin America, currently a nuclear-weapons-free zone, stays free of nuclear weapons. Moscow’s willingness to help Hugo Chavez, the Crazy Eddie of the Western Hemisphere, acquire nuclear capabilities—even if they are ostensibly for peaceful power-generation purposes—is an unfriendly act in our geopolitical back yard. Both sides need to back off. Russia needs to find a graceful way out of its increasingly cozy relationship with Chavez, and the United States needs to stop talking about deploying missile defenses or expanding NATO eastward. Washington and Moscow must acknowledge that the concept of spheres of influence is alive and well, and that gratuitous violations of that concept will negate any prospect for a reset in relations. U.S. leaders must also comprehend that cordial relations with China require a willingness to accept that East Asia’s rapidly rising great power will seek to establish a sphere of influence in its neighborhood. Beijing’s expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea and the recent spat with Japan over disputed islets in another body of water are signs of that process. China’s growing power and assertiveness means that the United States will need to tread softly regarding such territorial disputes, as well as the even more sensitive Taiwan issue, if Washington wants to avoid nasty confrontations with Beijing. Condoleezza Rice could not have been more wrong. Whether we like it or not, spheres of influence will be a crucial feature of international politics—and especially of great power relations—in the twenty-first century. It is imperative that U.S. policy makers understand and adjust to that reality.

#### Maintaining relations with Russia prevents nuclear conflict

Graham Allison, Director Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 10/30/11, “Ten Reasons Why Russia Still Matters,” Politico, <http://www.cfr.org/russian-fed/ten-reasons-why-russia-still-matters/p26345>, accessed 5/20/13

No one denies that Russia is a dangerous, difficult, often disappointing state to do business with. We should not overlook its many human rights and legal failures. Nonetheless, Russia is a player whose choices affect our vital interests in nuclear security and energy. It is key to supplying 100,000 U.S. troops fighting in Afghanistan and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Ten realities require U.S. policymakers to advance our nation's interests by engaging and working with Moscow. First, Russia remains the only nation that can erase the United States from the map in 30 minutes. As every president since John F. Kennedy has recognized, Russia's cooperation is critical to averting nuclear war.

### Uniqueness – Relations High

#### Response to the Boston bombings have restored relations

Cory Welt, Adjunct Fellow at the Center for American Progress, 4/22/13, "The Boston Marathon Attack, the North Caucasus, and U.S.-Russian Relations," www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2013/04/22/61146/the-boston-marathon-attack-the-north-caucasus-and-u-s-russian-relations/, accessed 5/12/13

The Russian response to the Boston attack was entirely welcome, as sympathetic and supportive as have been American responses to terrorist attacks in Russia. In a call that Russian President Vladimir Putin initiated to President Barack Obama, the two leaders discussed the possibility of increased counterterrorism cooperation. The impact of the attack on U.S.-Russian relations has provided an echo of the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, which prompted a boost in the U.S.-Russian security partnership. This may seem like a dramatic turnaround given the decline in U.S.-Russian relations over the past year, especially in light of Moscow’s January termination of an agreement on law enforcement and counternarcotics cooperation. But in recent months the U.S. and Russian governments have been seeking ways to renew security cooperation on issues such as nuclear nonproliferation and arms control via updated mechanisms. The Boston attack provides an entry point for discussions in the counterterrorism sphere.

#### US/Russia cooperation increasing

Reuters, 4/20/13, Boston bombings: a chance for U.S.-Russia cooperation, www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/20/us-usa-explosions-russia-cooperation-idUSBRE93J0F520130420, accessed 5/12/13

Instead, he and the U.S. president made positive statements about cooperation on counterterrorism in a phone conversation on Friday, suggesting both sides see an opportunity to improve strained relations between their countries. "I hope the revelation of the bombers' Chechen ties will, if anything, open a window of opportunity to repair U.S.-Russia security cooperation," said Matthew Rojansky, deputy director of the Russia and Eurasia program at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington. The Kremlin said in a brief statement after the phone call between Putin and Obama that the two presidents had agreed to step up cooperation on counterterrorism. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, sounded an upbeat note in a television interview, telling state-run Russia 24: "I think that there will be contacts between our intelligence services." He gave no details. A U.S. law enforcement source told Reuters on Saturday that Russia had asked the FBI to investigate Tamerlan Tsarnaev in 2011. It was not clear what Moscow had done to cooperate with Washington since Monday's bombings, but even small steps would be progress in a security relationship that has worsened in recent years. Moscow and Washington have been at odds over the conflict in Syria and what the U.S. government sees as a clampdown on dissent since Putin's return to the Kremlin for a third term as president last May. WASHINGTON WANTS RESET, KREMLIN WANTS RETHINK The Kremlin appears to hope Washington will be forced into a rethink on the North Caucasus, even though the U.S. State Department said in its latest survey of human rights around the world that the rule of law was "particularly deficient" there. Putin cemented his rise to power by crushing an independence bid by Chechnya in the second of two wars there, so is sensitive to any criticism of his handling of the Islamist insurgency that has now spread across the North Caucasus. Robert Legvold, professor emeritus at Columbia University and a Russia expert, said the events in Boston would help increase U.S.-Russian cooperation because the sides would share intelligence and information about the suspects. He underlined that Russia had been quick to rally behind Washington after the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and a similar deepening of security cooperation could take place now. "I think in the end, the Russians under Putin want to keep the relationship as constructive as possible," Legvold said. "This episode is likely to be more positive than negative (for U.S.-Russian relations)." Putin needs closer cooperation on security matters now because he wants to ensure the 2014 Winter Olympics pass off peacefully in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, which is close to the violence in the North Caucasus. During a visit to Moscow by White House national security adviser Tom Donilon this week, the two sides avoided hostile public rhetoric in a sign they want to get the "reset" in relations, sought by Obama when he became president, on track.

#### Problem areas in the US/Russia relationship are being resolved constructively now

Christian Science Monitor, 5/7/13, "At Kerry-Putin meeting, US-Russia relations thaw – a little," www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2013/0507/At-Kerry-Putin-meeting-US-Russia-relations-thaw-a-little, accessed 5/15/13

Other areas of tension in US-Russian relations look more promising, say experts. They include Afghanistan, where the Russians are increasingly alarmed about what might happen after NATO draws down its forces next year. Even the thorny issue of a NATO-run anti-missile shield in Europe, which has stymied negotiators for years, could see significant progress when Putin and Obama talk face-to-face in coming months, analysts say. "We will likely see a renewal of constructive dialogue about missile defense. There are a lot of small technical compromises that could be made quickly, and would build confidence," says Markov. "A full agreement is probably some time off, but the re-start of serious negotiations could happen very soon."

### Uniqueness – AT: Magnitsky/Adoption

#### Magnitsky and Yakovlev won’t undermine relations

Christian Science Monitor, 4/15/13, Can US-Russia relations get back on track after human rights blacklists?, [www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0415/Can-US-Russia-relations-get-back-on-track-after-human-rights-blacklists](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0415/Can-US-Russia-relations-get-back-on-track-after-human-rights-blacklists), accessed 5/18/13

After the battle of the blacklists, can the US-Russia relationship get back on track? The leaders of both countries on Monday signaled a desire to move beyond a recent deterioration in what were already brittle relations. Last Friday, the United States released a list of 18 Russians subject to sanctions for alleged involvement in human rights abuses – prompting Russia to retaliate over the weekend with its own list of 18 Americans targeted for similar sanctions. The tit for tat of blacklists, which some US-Russia analysts describe as more worthy of the cold-war era, is the outcome of laws passed in 2012. After the US Congress approved a law targeting Russian human rights abusers, Russia retaliated with its own law banning adoptions of Russian children by Americans and providing for the targeting of US rights abusers. The US law was named the Magnitsky Act after Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian tax collector who reported hundreds of millions of dollars in stolen tax receipts, only to be thrown in prison, where he died in 2009. The Russian legislation approved in December was named for Dima Yakovlev, a Russian boy who died in 2008 after his adoption by a Virginia family. Now President Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin are hinting at their hopes for getting past the Magnitsky and Yakovlev affairs to issues of mutual interest to the two powers, like missile defense and nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

#### Fallout from Magnitsky being managed now

Reuters, 4/20/13, Boston bombings: a chance for U.S.-Russia cooperation, www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/20/us-usa-explosions-russia-cooperation-idUSBRE93J0F520130420, accessed 5/12/13

The main obstacle to better ties in the past few months has been a row in which the United States passed legislation to punish Russians suspected of involvement in human rights abuses including the 2009 death of whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky in a Russian jail, and tit-for-tat moves adopted by Russia. But political analysts say the former Cold War enemies have both shown that despite the dispute, they want to limit the damage to relations.

#### Magnitsky sanctions were watered down – prevents relations backlash

Christian Science Monitor, 4/15/13, Can US-Russia relations get back on track after human rights blacklists?, [www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0415/Can-US-Russia-relations-get-back-on-track-after-human-rights-blacklists](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2013/0415/Can-US-Russia-relations-get-back-on-track-after-human-rights-blacklists), accessed 5/18/13

In fact, some Russian lawmakers had breathed a sigh of relief Friday when the Treasury Department released the list of 18 Russians to be slapped with visa bans and a freeze on any US assets, saying the list of mostly minor police and prison officials suggested that the Obama administration hoped to avoid rising tensions with Russia. “The US ... administration has decided against the path of escalating a political crisis with Moscow,” said Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the Russian Duma’s foreign affairs committee, in an interview with the Interfax news agency. He went on to describe the Obama administration as “disposed to be more reasonable than Congress.”

### Uniqueness – AT: Syria

#### The US and Russia are finding common ground on Syria

Deutsche Welle, 5/8/13, "US, Russia seek to bridge divide over Syria," www.dw.de/us-russia-seek-to-bridge-divide-over-syria/a-16799373, accessed 5/21/13

For more than two years, Washington and Moscow have been at loggerheads over Syria, as the civil war there continued to escalate. But now, the former Cold War foes are promising to bridge the diplomatic divide. If one were to take US Secretary of State John Kerry at his word, then the diplomatic stalemate between America and Russia over the Syrian civil war seems to have been a miscommunication. During talks in Moscow, Kerry told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the US and Russia have "very significant common interests" in pushing for a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Syria.

#### US and Russia working together on a negotiated settlement in Syria

Boston Globe, 5/18/13, "US, Russia may have found common ground in Syria," www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2013/05/17/russia-may-have-found-common-ground-syria/gRYLO15upAve8ymot6zhrI/story.html, accessed 5/24/13

Despite fight after fight in recent months over everything from new sanctions targeting Russian officials for rights abuses to the detention of a US Embassy official this week on charges of espionage, the two diplomats seem to have found common purpose on one of the most intractable disputes between the United States and Russia: Syria’s civil war. Although much remains uncertain, they have revived the prospect of a negotiated settlement in Syria that was first proposed a year ago but then abandoned as the death toll from the war grimly mounted. They have done so with greater comity than Lavrov ever showed toward Clinton or her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice. Both women had famously frosty relationships with Lavrov and Russia’s leader, President Vladimir V. Putin, shaped in no small part by the Russians’ perception that the United States relentlessly meddles in their country’s internal affairs.

#### The US has capitulated to Russian demands over Syria

Deutsche Welle, 5/8/13, "US, Russia seek to bridge divide over Syria," www.dw.de/us-russia-seek-to-bridge-divide-over-syria/a-16799373, accessed 5/21/13

The US position, however, may have moved closer to Russia's stance in one important respect. Kerry maintained that he does not personally see how Assad could play a role in a political transition. But the US secretary of state also said that it's for the Syrians to decide who ultimately participates in the process, leaving open the possibility that negotiations could include Assad.

"In some ways the United States has backed down from its more hard-line position in the beginning, which was that Assad has to go," Landis said. "The Russians made it very clear, that they would not accept preconditions - that they can't tell Assad to go."

### Uniqueness – Sphere of Influence

#### US retreating from the Russian sphere of influence now

Jackson Adams, Editorial intern at The American Spectator, 2/22/13, "Resetting the Reset on Russian Relations," American Spectator, spectator.org/blog/2013/02/22/resetting-the-reset, accessed 5/23/13

All of this happens to be congealing in a period of U.S. disengagement. Mr. Kura-Murza noted that the State Department blandly congratulated the Russian people on their successful election on the same day as the election protests. As the U.S. pulls out of Afghanistan and quietly stops talking about a “new silk road,” they cede Central Asia to Russia’s sphere of influence. Finally, Russian moves to block action in Syria and Iran have so far met no apparent American resistance

#### Missile defense retreat shows respect for the Russian sphere of influence now

New York Times, 3/16/13, "U.S. Cancels Part of Missile Defense That Russia Opposed," www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/world/europe/with-eye-on-north-korea-us-cancels-missile-defense-russia-opposed.html, accessed 5/14/13

The United States has effectively canceled the final phase of a Europe-based missile defense system that was fiercely opposed by Russia and cited repeatedly by the Kremlin as a major obstacle to cooperation on nuclear arms reductions and other issues. Russian officials here have so far declined to comment on the announcement, which was made in Washington on Friday by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel as part of a plan to deploy additional ballistic missile interceptors to counter North Korea. The cancellation of some European-based defenses will allow resources to be shifted to protect against North Korea. Aides to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia said there would be no reaction until early next week, when they expect to be briefed by American officials. But Russian news accounts quickly raised the possibility that the decision could portend a breakthrough in what for years has been a largely intractable dispute between Russia and the United States. A headline by the Itar-Tass news agency declared, “U.S. abandons fourth phase of European missile defense system that causes the greatest objections from Russia.”

#### The US is demonstrating respect for the Russian sphere of influence

Washington Post, 5/15/10, “U.S. abandoning Russia's neighbors,” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/14/AR2010051404496.html>, accessed 5/10/13

Obama and other senior U.S. officials have repeatedly said they do not recognize a Russian "sphere of influence," but actions, or non-actions, speak louder than those words. Through its neglect of countries in the region except for Russia, the administration is ceding to Moscow exactly such a sphere. By some counts, Obama has spoken and met with his "friend and partner," President Dmitry Medvedev, more times than with any other leader, including on Thursday. He should use those occasions to lay down clear markers that Russian aggression toward and occupation of its neighbors are unacceptable. He also should start making "friends and partners" elsewhere in the region. Some of these leaders aren't the easiest to get along with, nor are they poster children for democracy and human rights -- but then again, neither are Medvedev and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

### Link – Venezuela – Sphere of Influence

#### Russia views Venezuela in zero sum terms – US engagement is an encroachment on their sphere of influence

Michael Maloof, staff writer for WND and G2Bulletin and a former senior security policy analyst in the office of the secretary of defense, 3/3/13, "RUSSIA-CHINA STANDOFF IN VENEZUELA," WND, www.wnd.com/2013/03/russia-china-standoff-in-venezuela/

Sechin and Maduro finalized a number of agreements that help assure Russia’s future position in Venezuela and keeps pace with China, which has loaned billions of dollars to the Chavez government to help ensure security of its own oil investments in the country. Both countries are in the process of helping develop Venezuela’s oil reserves, said to be the largest in the world at an estimated 296 billion barrels. Regional sources say that Sechin negotiated almost $47 billion in investments in the Venezuelan oil sector, including agreements to set up a joint Russia-Venezuela drilling and manufacturing company and to permit increased Russian access to offshore oil reserves. However, both countries also have an ulterior strategic reason for maintaining their position in Venezuela, and that is having a base from which to watch and undertake a containment approach toward the United States. Russia is using its investments as a way to obtain more bases for its navy. In 2008, Russia sent in long-range bombers and a naval squadron to Venezuela. While it hasn’t done a repeat of these deployments, Russia wants permanent basing rights in Venezuela. Russia also has expanded its arms sales to Venezuela, including more than 100,000 Kalashnikov rifles, Mi-35 helicopters, Su-30 jet fighters, air defense systems, tanks and armored vehicles. If Chavez dies, there is a question as to what extent a new leader will be as friendly to both Russia and China. Any new leadership probably will continue working with them but could be friendlier to the United States, unlike the Chavez regime, according to informed sources. In turn, this could create a climate for further American investment which the Russians would then find competitive with their own interests.

#### Russia is trying to build a strategic relationship with Venezuela to further its global power

Inter Press Service, 3/18/13, "Russia to Get Venezuelan Oil for a Few Cents a Barrel," www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/russia-to-get-venezuelan-oil-for-a-few-cents-a-barrel/, accessed 3/18/13

“Rosneft’s agreements with PDVSA are part of Russia’s projection towards Latin America, a region that has traditionally been in the sphere of influence of the United States,” said Kenneth Ramírez, an expert on oil geopolitics and president of the private Venezuelan Council of International Relations. This projection is part of “Russia’s grand strategy to re-emerge as a global power and replicate the advance of Washington over what was once its zone of influence, in central and southern Asia, the Caucasus, the Balkans and the Black Sea,” he told IPS. “Among its strategies is strengthening its ties with Brazil, the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and making advances to ALBA (the eight-member Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America) which is led by Venezuela,” Ramírez said. Russian President Vladimir Putin sent the head of Rosneft, Igor Sechin, as his special representative to the state funeral for Chávez on Mar. 8. Sechin met with Nicolás Maduro, the acting president of Venezuela and the candidate expected to win the Apr. 14 elections, to smooth over obstacles in the bilateral oil relationship. Local media indicate PDVSA is having difficulties meeting its financial commitments, pointing to delays in its obligations to Brazilian state oil company Petrobras for the construction of the Abreu e Lima refinery. But oil minister Rafael Ramírez, who is also head of PDVSA, confirmed “the commitment to continue the energy policy begun in 1999″ by the late president Chávez. “The strategic relationship with China and Russia will be deepened, in concordance with the multipolar scheme that has been the basis of the foreign policy of the revolution,” said the minister. As the projects are developed, the Russian-Venezuelan alliance will invest 46 billion dollars in the Orinoco belt, of which Moscow will contribute 17 billion dollars, he said. Kenneth Ramírez highlighted that Rosneft is also working in mature fields (those in which production has passed its peak) in areas other than the Orinoco belt, and has signed agreements to participate in future gas production and to supply drills for crude extraction. “Moscow isn’t seeking supplies of oil, since it has reserves of 88 billion barrels, but it’s looking for deals to leverage a strategic alliance,” he said.

#### Venezuela is one of Russia’s most important strategic partners

Pravda, 3/6/13, "What will Russia do without Venezuela?," english.pravda.ru/russia/economics/06-03-2013/123984-russia\_venezuela-0/, accessed 5/24/13

Chavez was consistently pursuing the policy of building friendship with Russia. During the recent years, Caracas has become one of the most important strategic partners of Moscow on the Latin American continent.

### Link Booster – Venezuelan Importance to Russia

#### Venezuela is a critical source of oil and arms sales for Russia

Pravda, 3/6/13, "What will Russia do without Venezuela?," english.pravda.ru/russia/economics/06-03-2013/123984-russia\_venezuela-0/, accessed 5/24/13

First of all, it goes about the development of Junin-6 field in the Orinoco Oil Belt, where commercial production has already started. The total investment in the project is evaluated at $20 billion. All Russian companies take part in five projects for the extraction of oil in Venezuela. Russian oil company Rosneft signed documents on the possible participation in a number of projects on the shelf of Venezuela, including natural gas projects, as well as memorandums of understanding. Agreements in the field of hydropower were also signed. The head of the state-owned company, Igor Sechin, who visited the country at the end of December, said that Russian investments were protected and projects would be implemented in a long term perspective. Defense cooperation between Russia and Venezuela takes a special place. As predicted by the Center for the Analysis of World Arms Trade, Venezuela is to be ranked second in Russia's arms exports in 2012-2015, following India, with the purchasing volume of $3.2 billion.

#### Russia has a ton of arms sales wrapped up in Venezuela

Kommersant, 3/11/13, "WILL RUSSIA'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA DIE WITH CHAVEZ?," worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/will-russia-039-s-cozy-relationship-with-venezuela-die-with-chavez-/venezuela-chavez-russia-oil-military-trade-weapons/c1s11149/, accessed 5/22/13

When word first came out in 2011 that Hugo Chavez was suffering from a serious illness, a Russian military source predicted the consequences of the end of the Chavez era: not only could Moscow lose contracts already signed, but it might also never get paid for weapons it has already delivered to Caracas. Russia has a lot to lose in Venezuela. In total, experts estimate that the projects that Moscow had inked with Chavez are worth no less than $30 billion. And now the guarantor is gone.

#### Russia wants Venezuelan oil

Inter Press Service, 3/18/13, "Russia to Get Venezuelan Oil for a Few Cents a Barrel," www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/russia-to-get-venezuelan-oil-for-a-few-cents-a-barrel/, accessed 3/18/13

Russian state oil firm Rosneft and Venezuela’s PDVSA (Petróleos de Venezuela S.A.) have agreed to form a partnership to exploit an oilfield with estimated reserves of 40 billion barrels, strengthening the alliance between the two countries. For 1.5 billion dollars, the Russian company will take over 40 percent of a project at a Venezuelan deposit expected to produce 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude in five years’ time, executives from the two companies said. “It is an attractive deal for Rosneft to buy, or gain access to, reserves at a very low price. That 40 percent interest ‘buys’ 16 billion barrels at a cost of 10 cents of a dollar per barrel,” Víctor Poleo, a professor of graduate studies in oil economics at the Central University of Venezuela, told IPS. The cost of a barrel of oil on the international market is between 90 and 110 dollars.

### Link – Cuba – Sphere of Influence

#### Russia sees increased US engagement with Cuba as encroaching on its sphere of influence

Carneades, Financial Analyst, 4/17/09, "Cuba: Sphere of Influence?," The Value at Risk, thevalueatrisk.blogspot.com/2009/04/cuba-sphere-of-influence.html, accessed 5/24/13

The Obama Administration's recent engagement with Cuba has provoked outrage by those who, accurately so, portrary the Castro Regime as an authoritarian dictatorship that has accomplished little aside from keeping its citizens equally impoverished. Numerous motivations have been attributed to President Obama's "outreach" to Havana, however, from a geopolitical perspective, the move clearly underscores the strategic chess match between the United States and the Russian Federation. The principal observation we will make about the Russian people is that they have a strong yearning to achieve global significance and eventual SuperPower status. In fact, Vladimir Putin has built an entire political career around his knowledge of this one fact alone! Although many independent nations emerged from the fall of the Soviet Union, the Russian Government considers itself to still have "special privileged interests" over these former Soviet-bloc countries. This mindset has manifested into Russian foreign policy that tends to become more aggressive as the Motherland becomes more wealthy. We have seen Russia lash out militarily at its small neighbor Georgia, shut down natural gas pipelines to the Ukraine in the middle of the winter, attempt to interfere with US plans to install missile defense systems in the Czech Republic and Poland, and extend "strings attached" foreign aid to Armenia in a time of desperate need for that country. We would propose that, while this concept of a regional sphere of influence has historically been the forte of Russian foreign policy, its attractiveness insofar as crafting a pragmatic approach to American foreign affairs is gaining appreciation. The fact is, Cuba's geographical location is strategically attractive for a wide array of military operations. More importantly, improved US-Cuban relations will symbolically expel Russia from a position of influence over the island.

#### Russia has a special relationship with Cuba that the plan will be seen as threatening

Prensa Latina, 5/17/13, "Cuba and Russia Highlight Importance of Developing Bilateral Links," www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=1423511&Itemid=1, accessed 5/19/13

Russian Parliament president Valentina Matviyenko and her Cuban counterpart, Esteban Lazo, coincided Friday in the importance of keeping on the development of the bilateral relations between Cuba and Russia, which both regarded as excellent. In a meeting celebrated at the National Hotel in Havana, both expressed their satisfaction for the presence of a Russian delegation in Cuba, and this will contribute to strengthen the inter-parliamentary links, and also in other aspects. The president of the Council of the Russian Federation highlighted that Cuba is not only a strategic partner of her country, but a friend for whom they feel a special affection forged in historical relations accumulated for many years.

#### Russia has been heavily investing in Cuba to bring it into its sphere of influence

The Voice of Russia, 2/26/13, "Russia cancels $30bn Cuba debt: breakthrough in bilateral relations," english.ruvr.ru/2013\_02\_26/Russia-cancels-30bn-Cuba-debt-breakthrough-in-bilateral-relations/, Accessed 5/24/13

After the breakup of the USSR Moscow had to drop its financial support of Cuba and both countries have been trying to forge new ties in a post-Cold War world. With Russia as the Soviet Union’s legal successor Cuba was left with massive Soviet-granted loans, this had cast a shadow over Russia-Cuba ties. But following the visit to Cuba by the Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev the island has now received its biggest ever debt cancellation. Boris Martynov is Deputy Director of the Moscow-based Institute of Latin American Studies. He said the amount Cuba owed had impacted on Moscow-Havana relations. Boris Martynov: I think that this can be considered as a breakthrough in our bilateral relations, meaning that we didn’t get that breakthrough after the visit of Putin in 2000 because the problem of the Soviet debt has always been one of the or maybe the most difficult in our relations.

### Link Booster – Cuban Importance to Russia

#### Russia is pursuing major oil reserves in Cuba

Kommersant, 2/28/13, "Why is Russia writing off billions of Cuba's debt?", worldcrunch.com/business-finance/why-is-russia-writing-off-billions-of-cuba-039-s-debt-/medvedev-castro-soviet-union-ussr-oil-offshore-drilling/c2s11038/, accessed 5/24/13

There are several theories circulating among experts, however. One is that “opening” the relationship with Cuba is a type of insurance against changes in Venezuela. Another theory is that the interest in working with Cuba could be related to attempts to find oil off the Cuban coast. Since 2008 there have been discussions about the possibility of a large offshore oil deposit near the northern coast of Cuba. Venezuelan company PdVSA, the Malaysian Petronas, Russian Zarubezhneft and the Spanish Repsol have explored the area and decided, in 2012, that there was no commercially usable oil. But in December Zarubezhneft started a second round of explorations in a deeper area. The second round of tests will wrap up in June, but the results could theoretically be available already. If Zarubezhneft does find oil, it is entitled to sign an agreement with the Cuban state-owned oil company, Siret, to share exploitation of the deposits from now until 2034. Zarubezhneft did not comment on the issue. Local sources said there was no news on the second round of explorations. Regardless, Russia’s rush to complete the debt-restructuring process by Sept. 2013 could be related to the possibility of major oil reserves in Cuban coastal waters. Regardless of the oil situation, Russia is trying to restore active trade with Cuba. The Federal Customs Service has already signed agreements with Cuba on information sharing and preferential tariffs. Cuba has also signed several contracts to purchase Russian airplanes. Hardly a return to the Cold War bustle between the two countries, but it was time to get back to business.

#### Russia wants a Cuban naval base

AWR Hawkins, PHD in military histroy from Texas Tech, 7/30/12, "Obama ignores Russian plans for naval base in Cuba," Breitbard, www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2012/07/29/Obama-Looks-The-Other-Way-As-Russia-Plans-Naval-Base-in-Cuba, Accessed 5/24/13

If things go as planned, Russia could soon have a naval base just over 90 miles away from the continental U.S. Our former Cold War foe has been in talks with Cuba for some time, and is now making it known that a deal between the two nations is closer to happening. Russian Vice Admiral Viktor Chirkov says Russia is "studying the creation of points for assistance and technical maintenance" not only in Cuba, but in "the Republic of Seychelles and Vietnam" as well. In short, this means that while Obama continues to dismiss Russia as any real threat to American interests or American security, Russia is looking for ways to expand its Navy's global reach.

#### Cuba is a critical trade partner for Russia

Wall Street Journal, 5/18/13, "Cuba Parliament Leader: Ties With Russia Under Full Expansion," online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20130518-700836.html?mod=googlenews\_wsj, accessed 5/24/13

Relations between Cuba and Russia are under full expansion, Esteban Lazo, president of Cuban parliament, said Friday. Lazo made the remarks after signing an agreement with the visiting leader of Russia's senate, Valentina Matviyenko, to boost the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. The delegation of the Russian Senate arrived Thursday in Havana, headed by Ms. Matviyenko. Mr. Lazo said the visit would boost the "excellent" historical ties between both the governments and the peoples. He also called on Russia to increase the investments to the island country. Mr. Lazo stressed the importance of the current Russian investments in Cuba's oil sector and expressed the interest of the Cuban government in extending the cooperation to other areas, such as nickel production, tourism and agriculture. Cuba isn't just a strategic partner for Russia, but also a friend for whom Russia feels special affection, due to historical connections, Ms. Matviyenko said. Havana and Moscow were close allies during the Cold War era, but after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the relations cooled. Since 2005, the bilateral relations have began to improve with the resumption of mutual high-level visits. Currently, Russia is Cuba's ninth largest trade partner, with a trade volume of $224 million in 2011, according to official figures.

### Internal Link – Sphere of Influence – Relations

#### Intruding on Russia’s sphere of influence undermines US/Russian relations

Ted Carpenter, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, 10/19/10, "Resets and Spheres of Influence," The National Interest, nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/resets-spheres-influence-4266, accessed 5/24/13

The Obama administration has explicitly sought to “reset” the relationship with Russia, which had become quite dysfunctional during the final years of the Bush administration. Although Washington has not used the reset terminology with respect to the troubled U.S. relationship with China, the substantive goal appears to be similar. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ effort to restore the dialogue between the militaries of the two countries is one indication of that intent. Both goals, however, are encountering headwinds for a key reason. Policy makers seem unwilling to accept the reality that any great power in the international system expects, and will seek to enforce, a sphere of influence in its immediate region. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice famously (or infamously) insisted that the concept of a sphere of influence was both obsolete and pernicious. But that viewpoint is dangerously erroneous. The tensions between the United States and Russia and those between the United States and China confirm that point. The latest, clumsy provocation is Moscow’s agreement to help Venezuela build a nuclear-power plant. Predictably, that move has caused hawks in the United States to thunder about perfidious Russian contempt for the Monroe Doctrine. There is more than a little hypocrisy in that outrage, since many of those same hawks successfully lobbied for adding the Baltic republics to NATO and now advocate deploying ballistic missile defenses in Eastern Europe and offering NATO membership to Ukraine and Georgia—as though Russia has no justifiable reason to object to such moves in its geopolitical back yard.

#### Only respect for Russia’s sphere of influence can allow a strategic partnership

William Lind, Director of the American Conservative Center for Public Transportation, 3/28/13, "Don’t Break the China,” The American Conservative, [www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/dont-break-the-china/](http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/dont-break-the-china/), accessed 5/16/13

Just as a return to spheres of influence can replace conflict with alliance between the United States and China, so it can harmonize relations elsewhere, again with the goal of allying all states against the forces of the Fourth Generation. We should recognize Russia’s “near abroad” as her sphere of influence. We should work actively to bring Afghanistan into Pakistan’s sphere of influence. While contested spheres of influence can exacerbate conflicts, agreed spheres reduce them. By acting as an honest broker to facilitate such agreement—including between China and Japan—rather than joining either side, the U.S. can do more for her real interests, including her vital interest in maintaining the state system.

#### Russia backlashes against US intrusions into its sphere of influence

Stephen Cohen, Professor of Russian Studies and History at New York University, summer 2010, “Rethinking Russia: U.S.-Russian Relations in an Age of American Triumphalism,” Journal of International Affairs, [www.russiaotherpointsofview.com/2010/05/rethinking-russia-usrussian-relations-in-an-age-of-american-triumphalism-.html#more](http://www.russiaotherpointsofview.com/2010/05/rethinking-russia-usrussian-relations-in-an-age-of-american-triumphalism-.html#more), accessed 5/20/13

So American policy is this: The United States can have spheres of influence but Russia cannot, not even in its own security neighborhood. Moscow understands this, and has reacted predictably. If U.S. policymakers and their accommodating media really care about American national security, which requires fulsome Russian cooperation in many areas, they would rethink this presumption. Instead, leaders like Senator McCain and Vice President Biden repeatedly visit Tblisi and Kiev to declare that Russia is not entitled to influence in those capitals while trying to tug those governments into NATO.

### Internal Link – Sphere of Influence – Conflict

#### Intruding into Russia’s sphere of influence risks miscalculation and conflict

Eugene Rumer, Senior Fellow in the Institute for National Strategic Studies, April 2004, "Collision Avoidance: U.S.-Russian Bilateral Relations and Former Soviet States," Strategic Forum, www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a423059.pdf, accessed 5/24/13

Relations between the United States and Russia are entering a delicate phase. American involvement on the Russian periphery is reaching unprecedented proportions even as a consensus has emerged in Russia that these areas constitute its exclusive sphere of influence. U.S. efforts in the former Soviet states are simply an extension of the global war on terrorism and are intended to provide security and stability to countries still struggling with independence. But to many Russians, the U.S. military presence in Central Asia and security assistance to many former Soviet states seem to be deliberate attempts at encirclement. This perception creates an atmosphere ripe for miscalculation and even confrontation.

#### US encroachment sparks Russian expansionism

Yuri Zhukov, PhD in government from Harvard, 2008, “A Russian Sphere of Influence is Geopolitical Reality” <http://www.nextamerica.org/node/460>, accessed 5/20/13

Finally, a policy of neo-containment would be counterproductive. The alternative to a Russian sphere of influence may be a political and security vacuum, not necessarily a stronger U.S. position. As a global power, the U.S. will always face multiple demands on its foreign policy, of which Eurasia will rarely be the most pressing. Neither it nor any other regional power — whether China, India, Turkey or Iran — is likely to garner the resources and will to fill the void left by Russia. Meanwhile, when isolated and pushed into a corner, even a weak Moscow could create significant problems in areas of great importance to the U.S. — in weapons proliferation, Iran, the Eastern Mediterranean, Venezuela, the Korean Peninsula and in the former Soviet Union itself. Absent a credible commitment to the defense of its allies in Eurasia, the U.S. will need to consider whether neo-containment is an effective means to support the independence of Russia’s neighbors, or whether it will only bolster Russia’s desire to re-assert its authority in the region. Accepting a Russian sphere of influence in Eurasia need not be a strategic retreat. The U.S. should continue to expand its relationships with Russia’s neighbors and support their continued independence. At the same time, the U.S. should be keenly aware of the limits of what it can achieve.

#### US engagement in Russia’s sphere of influence risks warfare

Ivan Eland, Senior Fellow and Director of the Center on Peace & Liberty at The Independent Institute, 11/3/08, "Is a “Resurgent” Russia a Threat to the United States?," The Independent Institute, www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=2363, accessed 5/18/13

U.S. analysts say, however, that increased military spending would allow Russia to have more influence over nations in its near abroad and Eastern Europe. Of course, throughout history, small countries living in the shadow of larger powers have had to make political, diplomatic, and economic adjustments to suit the larger power. Increased Russian influence in this sphere, however, should not necessarily threaten the security of the faraway United States. It does only because the United States has defined its security as requiring intrusions into Russia’s traditional sphere of influence. By expanding NATO into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the United States has guaranteed the security of these allied countries against a nuclear-armed power, in the worst case, by sacrificing its cities in a nuclear war. Providing this kind of guarantee for these non-strategic countries is not in the U.S. vital interest. Denying Russia the sphere of influence in nearby areas traditionally enjoyed by great powers (for example, the U.S. uses the Monroe Doctrine to police the Western Hemisphere) will only lead to unnecessary U.S.-Russian tension and possibly even cataclysmic war.

### Impact – Relations – Laundry List

#### US/Russia relations solve prolif, terrorism, Afghanistan, China, and the economy

Graham Allison, Director Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 10/30/11, “Ten Reasons Why Russia Still Matters,” Politico, <http://www.cfr.org/russian-fed/ten-reasons-why-russia-still-matters/p26345>, accessed 5/20/13

Second, Russia is our most consequential partner in preventing nuclear terrorism. Through a combination of more than $11 billion in U.S. aid, provided through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, and impressive Russian professionalism, two decades after the collapse of the “evil empire,” not one nuclear weapon has been found loose. Third, Russia plays an essential role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile-delivery systems. As Washington seeks to stop Iran's drive toward nuclear weapons, Russian choices to sell or withhold sensitive technologies are the difference between failure and the possibility of success. Fourth, Russian support in sharing intelligence and cooperating in operations remains essential to the U.S. war to destroy Al Qaeda and combat other transnational terrorist groups. Fifth, Russia provides a vital supply line to 100,000 U.S. troops fighting in Afghanistan. As U.S. relations with Pakistan have deteriorated, the Russian lifeline has grown ever more important and now accounts for half all daily deliveries. Sixth, Russia is the world’s largest oil producer and second largest gas producer. Over the past decade, Russia has added more oil and gas exports to world energy markets than any other nation. Most major energy transport routes from Eurasia start in Russia or cross its nine time zones. As citizens of a country that imports two of every three of the 20 million barrels of oil that fuel U.S. cars daily, Americans feel Russia’s impact at our gas pumps. Seventh, Moscow is an important player in today’s international system. It is no accident that Russia is one of the five veto-wielding, permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, as well as a member of the G-8 and G-20. A Moscow more closely aligned with U.S. goals would be significant in the balance of power to shape an environment in which China can emerge as a global power without overturning the existing order. Eighth, Russia is the largest country on Earth by land area, abutting China on the East, Poland in the West and the United States across the Arctic. This territory provides transit corridors for supplies to global markets whose stability is vital to the U.S. economy.

#### Relations solve multiple scenarios for extinction

Jeffrey Tayler, Atlantic Correspondent, 11/14/2008, Medvedev Spoils the Party; It will take more than Obama's electoral triumph to improve the United States' strained relations with Russia,” The Atlantic, “http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2008/11/medvedev-spoils-the-party/7130/?single\_page=true, accessed 5/23/13

Like it or not, the United States cannot solve crucial global problems without Russian participation. Russia commands the largest landmass on earth; possesses vast reserves of oil, natural gas, and other natural resources; owns huge stockpiles of weapons and plutonium; and still wields a potent brain trust. Given its influence in Iran and North Korea, to say nothing of its potential as a spoiler of international equilibrium elsewhere, Russia is one country with which the United States would do well to reestablish a strong working relationship—a strategic partnership, even—regardless of its feelings about the current Kremlin government. The need to do so trumps expanding NATO or pursuing “full-spectrum dominance.” Once the world financial crisis passes, we will find ourselves returning to worries about resource depletion, environmental degradation, and global warming – the greatest challenges facing humanity. No country can confront these problems alone. For the United States, Russia may just prove the “indispensable nation” with which to face a volatile future arm in arm.

### Impact – Relations – Laundry List Cont…

#### US-Russia relations key to solve global stability – nuclear proliferation, narcotics, terrorism, trade, economy, Middle East war, climate change

John Beyrle et al, Former US Ambassador to Russia, April 12, 2013, “Priorities for Russia-U.S. Relations: A Statement by Former Ambassadors to Washington and Moscow,” <http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/04/12/priorities-for-russia-u.s.-relations-statement-by-former-ambassadors-to-washington-and-moscow/fza1>, accessed 5/24/2013

In our current talks, we welcomed further significant accomplishments by our two governments that have put in place a strong foundation for cooperation in the future. The new strategic arms agreement is being implemented and continuing to reduce the nuclear arsenals of both countries. The 123 agreement is in force and expanding our civilian nuclear cooperation. With strong U.S. support, Russia completed its formal entry into the World Trade Organization, and the level of mutual trade and investment is increasing. Russian-U.S. cooperation on Afghanistan has made the fight against terrorism and narcotics in that country more effective. And the signature of a major agreement on visas has made it easier for the citizens of both countries to visit and do business with each other. Against that backdrop of real achievement, we took a sober view of the strains that continue to complicate today’s relations. We agreed that the level of hard rhetoric and the high degree of mistrust that were once the norm in our relations have diminished, and the heads of our countries have expressed a desire to build a stable modus vivendi that takes into account the interests and national security of each state and its allies as well as world peace. On the other hand, we noted that the experience of the recent past shows that serious irritants and differences still can disrupt our bilateral relations. We agreed that these issues often stem from failure to conduct our relations in ways consistent with principles of equality and mutual respect. In discussing the global context for our relations, we stressed the reality of rapid change, and we agreed that one of the pressing tasks for us today is to coordinate better mutual bilateral and multilateral steps as we address the problems of a changing and complex global environment. Cooperation is essential as both nations face today’s challenges. The consequences of the global economic crisis linger. Shifting balances of economic, political, and military power reshape the international environment in unpredictable ways. The upheaval in the Arab Middle East has suddenly made that region a source of unpredictable and rapid change. Global problems—terrorism, climate change, and transnational crime—demand coordinated multilateral action. Nuclear proliferation and the uncertainties of dependence on increasingly complex technologies present familiar and new challenges to the status quo and global stability.

### Impact – Relations – Arms Control

#### Relations key to arms control – prevents extinction

Matthew Rojansky, Deputy director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment, 8/18/10, “Why Russia Matters,” Foreign Policy, <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=41409>, accessed 5/20/13

1. Russia's nukes are still an existential threat. Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Russia has thousands of nuclear weapons in stockpile and hundreds still on hair-trigger alert aimed at U.S. cities. This threat will not go away on its own; cutting down the arsenal will require direct, bilateral arms control talks between Russia and the United States. New START, the strategic nuclear weapons treaty now up for debate in the Senate, is the latest in a long line of bilateral arms control agreements between the countries dating back to the height of the Cold War. To this day, it remains the only mechanism granting U.S. inspectors access to secret Russian nuclear sites. The original START agreement was essential for reining in the runaway Cold War nuclear buildup, and New START promises to cut deployed strategic arsenals by a further 30 percent from a current limit of 2,200 to 1,550 on each side. Even more, President Obama and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, have agreed to a long-term goal of eliminating nuclear weapons entirely. But they can only do that by working together.

#### US/Russian arms control key to avoid nuclear exchange

Matthew Martin, Program officer in Policy Analysis and Dialogue at the Stanley Foundation, July 2008, "Avoiding an Accidental Nuclear War," Think, www.stanleyfoundation.org/resources.cfm?id=498&article=1, accessesd 5/20/13

Why is this important? Assistant Secretary for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation Paula DeSutter, the lead representative on the US side, has said that formal arms reductions treaties and monitoring and accounting measures between the US and Russia are no longer necessary because the Cold War is over. But this view ignores several key points. First, arms control discussions between the US and Russia (and before that, with the Soviet Union) have been one enduring opportunity for communication, transparency, and reassurance, regardless of the status of the political relationship between the two countries. Currently, when, despite the rosy rhetoric, the relationship is on rather rocky ground with serious disputes over NATO expansion and US missile defense plans for Eastern Europe, a steady venue for good, continued back-and-forth is helpful. Second, while a new arms race with Russia is unlikely, extending START solidifies that hope with verifiable, binding agreements while simultaneously keeping a watchful eye on new technologies that Russia has brandished quite publicly in recent months, such as the Topol-M missile. Finally, renewing START will provide momentum to further nuclear reductions by the two countries—reductions that Russia is seeking and which present an opportunity the United States should take advantage of to lower the chance of a US-Russian nuclear exchange.

#### Russian cooperation key to reduce nuclear arsenals

Gary Hart, Wirth Chair professor at the University of Colorado, 4/5/07, “Letter to Democrats on U.S.-Russia Relationship,” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gary-hart/letter-to-democrats-on-u_b_45075.html>, accessed 5/20/13

What interests, if any, do we have in common?, should be our first question. It turns out there are several. First, we have an ongoing interest in reducing nuclear arsenals. Thanks to the persistent efforts of Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, and despite resistance by the Bush administration, we continue to work with the Russians to carry out long-standing steps to dramatically reduce nuclear warheads and delivery systems on both sides. A serious argument as to how rejection of this project makes us safer has yet to be offered.

### Impact – Relations – Terrorism

#### US/Russia relations key to solve terrorism – access to intelligence networks

Gary Hart, Wirth Chair professor at the University of Colorado, 4/5/07, “Letter to Democrats on U.S.-Russia Relationship,” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gary-hart/letter-to-democrats-on-u_b_45075.html>, accessed 5/20/13

Second, we have a mutual interest in defeating terrorism. Those interests have caused the Russians to conduct prolonged military actions in Chechnya and the United States to conduct equally prolonged military occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. Clearly, there are differences in methodology, with the Russians using much more brutal means, but the residents of Grosny and of Falluja may not see that much difference. Though opposing our invasion of Iraq, the Russians fully endorsed our invasion of Afghanistan (where they themselves had a rather unpleasant experience). If we are not fully exploiting Russian intelligence networks in pursuit of this common interest, it is to our detriment.

#### Russian cooperation is key to prevent WMD terrorism

Nixon Center, September 2003, “Advancing American Interests and the U.S.-Russian Relationship,” <http://www.nixoncenter.org/publications/monographs/FR.htm>, accessed 5/20/13

President Bush has correctly identified terrorism and the nexus of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction as the most serious security threat the U.S. faces today. His administration’s “Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction” warns that, “we will not permit the world’s most dangerous regimes and terrorists to threaten us with the world’s most destructive weapons” (emphasis added). Fulfilling this commitment has become the organizing principle for America’s foreign policy. Addressing this threat requires not simply a strong coalition of the willing, but a structure in which Russia plays a leading cooperative role in fighting the War on Terrorism and proliferation.

#### Nuclear terrorism ensuresplanet-ending great power nuclear war

Dennis Ray Morgan, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, December 2009 , Futures, Volume 41, Issue 10, Pages 683-693

In a remarkable website on nuclear war, Carol Moore asks the question ‘‘Is Nuclear War Inevitable??’’ [10].4 In Section 1, Moore points out what most terrorists obviously already know about the nuclear tensions between powerful countries. No doubt, they’ve figured out that the best way to escalate these tensions into nuclear war is to set off a nuclear exchange. As Moore points out, all that militant terrorists would have to do is get their hands on one small nuclear bomb and explode it on either Moscow or Israel. Because of the Russian ‘‘dead hand’’ system, ‘‘where regional nuclear commanders would be given full powers should Moscow be destroyed,’’ it is likely that any attack would be blamed on the United States’’ [10]. Israeli leaders and Zionist supporters have, likewise, stated for years that if Israel were to suffer a nuclear attack, whether from terrorists or a nation state, it would retaliate with the suicidal ‘‘Samson option’’ against all major Muslim cities in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Israeli Samson option would also include attacks on Russia and even ‘‘anti-Semitic’’ European cities [10]. In that case, of course, Russia would retaliate, and the U.S. would then retaliate against Russia. China would probably be involved as well, as thousands, if not tens of thousands, of nuclear warheads, many of them much more powerful than those used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would rain upon most of the major cities in the Northern Hemisphere. Afterwards, for years to come, massive radioactive clouds would drift throughout the Earth in the nuclear fallout, bringing death or else radiation disease that would be genetically transmitted to future generations in a nuclear winter that could last as long as a 100 years, taking a savage toll upon the environment and fragile ecosphere as well.

### Impact – Relations – Iran

#### US/Russia relations key to contain Iranian prolif

Gary Hart, Wirth Chair professor at the University of Colorado, 4/5/07, “Letter to Democrats on U.S.-Russia Relationship,” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gary-hart/letter-to-democrats-on-u_b_45075.html>, accessed 5/20/13

Fifth, Russia is neighbor to several Islamic states, former Soviet republics, and whether one subscribes to a Huntingtonian thesis of civilization clashes or merely civilization frictions, Russia occupies an unrivaled strategic position on the margins of a cultural divide. Further, it occupies a strategic position in Northeast Asia, particularly with regard to North Korea and China. Russia allied with the West and sharing a common international agenda can only be in our interest. As the noted Russian expert Dimitri Simes has repeatedly pointed out, its geo-strategic location places Russia in a unique position to exert influence on critical matters such as Iran's nuclear ambitions. According to Professor Simes, "exactly like the United States, Russians wonder what will be the immediate purpose of the Iranian nuclear enrichment program."

#### Iranian nuclearization makes nuclear war inevitable in the Middle East

Colin Kahl, Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, Sep/Oct 12, “Iran and the Bomb,” Foreign Affairs; Vol. 91 Issue 5, p157-162

Kenneth Waltz is probably right that a nuclear-armed Iran could be deterred from deliberately using nuclear weapons or transferring a nuclear device to terrorists ("Why Iran Should Get the Bomb," July/August 2012). But he is dead wrong that the Islamic Republic would likely become a more responsible international actor if it crossed the nuclear threshold. In making that argument, Waltz mischaracterizes Iranian motivations and badly misreads history. And despite the fact that Waltz is one of the world's most respected international relations theorists, he ignores important political science research into the effects of nuclear weapons, including recent findings that suggest that new nuclear states are often more reckless and aggressive at lower levels of conflict. RATIONAL BUT DANGEROUS Waltz correctly notes that Iran's leaders, despite their fanatical rhetoric, are fundamentally rational. Because Iran's leadership is not suicidal, it is highly unlikely that a nuclear-armed Iran would deliberately use a nuclear device or transfer one to terrorists. Yet even though the Islamic Republic is rational, it is still dangerous, and it is likely to become even more so if it develops nuclear weapons.

#### Iranian nuclearization causes regional and global arms racing.

Joseph Cirincione, Director of the Non-Proliferation Project at Carnegie, Summer 2006, “A New Non-Proliferation Strategy”, SAIS Review

The danger posed by the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran or North Korea is not that either country would be liable to use these weapons to attack the United States, the nations of Europe, or other countries. Iran, for example, would likely decide to build nuclear weapons only as a means to defend itself from the aggression of other nations. Iranian leaders, like the leaders of other states, would be deterred from using nuclear weapons in a first strike by the certainty of swift and massive retaliation. The danger is that certain actions may be viewed by Iran as a defensive move, however they would trigger dangerous reactions from other states in the region. A nuclear reaction chain could ripple through a region and across the globe, triggering weapon decisions in several, perhaps many, other states. Such developments could weaken Iran’s security, not increase it. With these rapid developments and the collapse of existing norms could come increased regional tensions, possibly leading to regional wars and to nuclear catastrophe.

### Impact – Relations – Europe

#### Collapse of relations causes terrorism and instability in Europe and collapse of NATO effectiveness.

Matthew Rojansky, Deputy Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, February 21, 2013, “Putin and Obama Need to do More Than Reset Relations (Again),” The Guardian, <http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/02/21/putin-and-obama-need-to-do-more-than-reset-relations-again/fisn>, accessed 5/24/2013

As these foundations crumble, so too will the everyday cooperation now taken for granted, from trade relations that benefit American businesses and Russian consumers, to coordination that enables NATO supplies to transit Russia en route to Afghanistan, which helps stop terrorists and drug traffickers before they move north into Russia and Europe. President Obama's ambitions for new nuclear reductions? The possibility of working together to defuse the Syrian crisis? You can forget about both.

#### US/Russian relations key to European stability

Robert Legvold, Professor of political science at Columbia, Winter 2002, “All the way: crafting a U.S.-Russian alliance,” National Interest , findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\_m2751/is\_2002\_Winter/ai\_95841626, accessed 5/20/13

First, as Alexander Vershbow, the current U.S. ambassador in Moscow, puts it: "Russia is the most important key to the stability of Eurasia", without which neither Europe nor Asia--two regions in which the United States has vital interests--can "be stable and prosperous." As long as Russia respects the sovereignty of the former Soviet republics, the United States has every reason to cooperate with Russia in stabilizing and aiding those states. In this regard, as well as others, alliance does not mean condominium; U.S.-Russian collaboration must not imply a readiness to decide matters over the heads of Russia's neighbors. On the contrary, an alliance's purpose would be to strengthen their sovereignty and vitality. A key example of the subtle way in which the revolution in Russian foreign policy makes this kind of alliance possible concerns Belarus. Putin's new agenda has led to a sharp cooling in Russia's relations with Alexander Lukashenka's regime. As a consequence, a leadership that flouts the values on which modern European security is based is increasingly isolated, the prospect of a Russian-Belarusian union has faded, and Ukraine's fears of encirclement have eased. Although not perfectly parallel, U.S. and Russian interests in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova now converge sufficiently to make promoting stability and successful reform there a matter of common U.S. and Russian ground.

#### European war escalates and goes nuclear

Charles Glaser, Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago, Summer 93, International Security

However, although the lack of an imminent Soviet threat eliminates the most obvious danger, U.S. security has not been entirely separated from the future of Western Europe. The ending of the Cold War has brought many benefits, but has not eliminated the possibility of a major power war, especially since such a war could grow out of a smaller conflict in the East. And, although nuclear weapons have greatly reduced the threat that a European hegemon would pose to U.S. security, a sound case nevertheless remains that a major European war could threaten U.S. security. The United States could be drawn into such a war, even if strict security considerations suggest it should stay out. A major power war could escalate to a nuclear war that, especially if the United States joins, could include attacks against the American homeland. Thus, the United States should not be unconcerned about Europe’s future.

### Impact – Relations – Central Asia

#### Cooperation with Russia key to stabilize Central Asia

Robert Legvold, Professor of political science at Columbia, Winter 2002, “All the way: crafting a U.S.-Russian alliance,” National Interest, findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\_m2751/is\_2002\_Winter/ai\_95841626, accessed 5/20/13

Second, to borrow the formulation of Alexei Bogaturov, in the 21st century no longer is peninsular Europe or Northeast Asia the critical "strategic rear" of the United States, but the vast turbulent region stretching from eastern Turkey to western China and along Russia's south. As the United States girds to cope with the threats emanating from this area, no country brings more value as a potential ally than Russia. As things stand, the United States has backed into Central Asia with military power as part of the war against terrorism, and in the process it has offered quasi-security commitments to its new partners, almost certainly without careful consideration of their wider implication." Central Asia forms the unstable core of Inner Asia; it is an area--the only one in the world--surrounded by four nuclear powers, two of whom recently teetered on the brink of war. It contains multiple points of friction--from Kashmir to the Fergana Valley to northwest Kazakhstan to China's Xinjiang province. Each of these points is capable of bleeding into a larger conflict, and of strengthening WMD proliferation and terrorism. It is populated by regimes whose stability is universally suspect, and contains wealth--particularly in energy resources--that will make it increasingly important to both Asian and European consumers.

#### US/Russia relations key to Central Asian stability.

Jeffrey Mankoff, fellow and deputy director of the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program, March 21, 2013, “Work with Moscow in Central Asia,” The National Interest, <http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/work-moscow-central-asia-8242?page=1,> accessed 5/24/2013

While there is nothing wrong with efforts to build new trade and transit infrastructure across Central Asia per se, they ought to be driven by market logic rather than reflexive hostility to Russian and Chinese influence. While concern for Central Asian sovereignty had a place in the 1990s, the proliferation of trade and investment ties with a range of outside powers—led by China—has made these concerns outdated. And with threats to stability from within multiplying, Russia’s desire for a more active role in Central Asia offers an opportunity to address the problems of extremism, drugs, crime and regional rivalry—all without a major U.S. commitment that is unlikely to be forthcoming. Russia has assets on the ground, including troops Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and has proposed re-deploying its border guards along the porous Afghan-Tajik border. Russian efforts to bolster the CSTO could also provide a vehicle for multilateral security coordination among the Central Asian states, especially if Uzbekistan re-joins—which it will be more likely to do if it sees that Washington and Moscow are not engaged in a competition for influence in the region. . The U.S. should be thinking now about how to partner with Russia and the CSTO to maintain peace and security in post-2014 Central Asia. Washington cannot afford to abandon the region entirely; maintaining access to Afghanistan via Central Asia will remain important, while the United States can and should do more to encourage reform domestically. At the same time, overcoming its reflexive hostility to Russian influence will allow the United States to be more selective about its engagement and move beyond the crude geopolitical maneuvering that has characterized relations with Moscow for much of the past two decades. Washington is in no position to take the lead in securing Central Asia after 2014. It should take advantage of Moscow’s interest to work collaboratively against the region’s shared threats.

### Impact – Relations – Central Asia Cont…

#### High risk of Central Asian conflict escalation.

Jeffrey Mankoff, fellow and deputy director of the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program, March 21, 2013, “Work with Moscow in Central Asia,” The National Interest,  [<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/work-moscow-central-asia-8242>,](http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/work-moscow-central-asia-8242?page=1,) accessed 5/24/2013

The most serious threats facing Central Asia today are not external domination but internal breakdown. Though the war in Afghanistan has provided an impetus for cooperation, relations among the five Central Asian states are poor. Tensions over water and borders have the potential to spiral out of control (Uzbekistan has sealed and mined much of its borders with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, for instance, and threatened to use force to prevent the completion of a dam project it opposes in Tajikistan). Meanwhile, corruption, repression, and poor governance are widespread, fueling an upsurge in militancy across much of the region, while creating fertile soil for the spread of Islamism as an alternative to the failing status quo. Tajikistan is wracked by a low-level insurgency. Kyrgyzstan has suffered from chronic instability in recent years, including protests that overthrew governments in both 2005 and 2010 as well as pogroms against ethnic Uzbeks in late 2010. Central Asia is the main transit corridor for Afghan opium, and widespread corruption fuels the drug trade. Though largely driven from Afghanistan by U.S. military operations in 2001-02, Central Asian jihadists have increasingly re-grouped in Pakistan’s tribal areas in collaboration with the Pakistani Taliban. Many in the region fear the withdrawal from Afghanistan will exacerbate these problems.

### Impact – Relations – China

#### US/Russia relations key to avoiding conflict with China

Robert Legvold, Professor of political science at Columbia, Winter 2002, “All the way: crafting a U.S.-Russian alliance,” National Interest, findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\_m2751/is\_2002\_Winter/ai\_95841626, accessed 5/20/13

Not only are the United States and Russia directly but separately implicated in the stability of this region, but China is as well. This raises the third aspect of a U.S.-Russian alliance to enhance Eurasian stability. China will be a decisive actor in Inner Asia, not the least because it forms an integral part of the region. Unfortunately, China enters through its underdeveloped northwest territories, including Xinjiang--precisely where it feels most vulnerable. In part because of this sense of vulnerability, and in part because of the general state of Sino-American relations, China has not welcomed the arrival of American military power in Central Asia. On the contrary, while excusing a temporary deployment in the context of a war that it supports, China's leadership has opposed an extended U.S. presence there as an element of a hostile encirclement stratagem. Russia and the United States have good reason to act jointly, not only to enhance their common stake in regional stability, but to draw China into a constructive dialogue over the role all three will play in Central Asia. Russia, with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is already engaged in such an effort. Talking to the Russians about U.S. military activities in Central Asia (and Georgia) builds mutual confidence by promoting transparency, but it is not so far-fetched to imagine a far more ambitious trilateral dialogue among Russia, China, and the United States. Much as the United States and its European allies share assessments of threats at the edges of Europe, plan for coordinated action, and struggle to create the necessary machinery to carry it out, so can and should Russia and the United States do the same in Eurasia with Chinese participation when appropriate.

#### Those conflicts go nuclear

Tuhin Chakraborty, Research Associate at Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, 2010, “The Initiation & Outlook of ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Eight”, <http://www.usiofindia.org/Article/?pub=Strategic%20Perspective&pubno=20&ano=739>, accessed 5/20/13

This can be seen as a more of a conventional threat to the region. The question here is that how far this ADMM Plus Eight can go to address the conventional security threats or is it an initiative which would be confined to meetings and passing resolution and playing second fiddle to the ASEAN summit. It is very important to realize that when one is talking about effective security architecture for the Asia Pacific one has to talk in terms of addressing the conventional issues like the territorial and political disputes. These issues serve as bigger flashpoint which can snowball into a major conflict which has the possibility of turning into a nuclear conflict.

#### US/Russia relations key to contain China.

Jeffrey Mankoff, Adjunct Fellow, CSIS, June 12, 2012, “Partnership in the Pacific? Russia between China and the United States in Asia,”http://us-russiafuture.org/2012/06/12/partnership-in-the-pacific-russia-between-china-and-the-united-states-in-asia/, accessed 5/24/2013

In the long run, Russia has an interest in more direct cooperation with the United States in Asia as a means of hedging against excessive dependence on China. Meanwhile, the U.S. would benefit from having Russia as a contributor to regional stability and security, and not closely tied to China. Both sides face serious obstacles though. The U.S. is reluctant to take Russia seriously as an Asian power given its meager contribution to the regional economy and regional security. Moreover, the U.S. is deeply committed to its alliance with Japan, whose own difficult relationship with Russia is an obstacle to Moscow playing a more active security role in Asia. Russia is trapped by its more general ambivalence about the U.S., notwithstanding the Obama-Medvedev “reset,” and its wariness about alienating China. Washington’s interest in building a more resilient regional architecture to manage China’s rise, coupled with Russia’s interest in having a strategic hedge argue for greater cooperation between the two in Asia. Achieving it will require a re-thinking of fundamental assumptions on both sides, and a greater openness to change than either side has so far evinced.

### Impact – Relations – Hegemony

#### US/Russian relations key to US leadership

Nixon Center, September 2003, “Advancing American Interests and the U.S.-Russian Relationship,” <http://www.nixoncenter.org/publications/monographs/FR.htm>, accessed 5/20/13

Notwithstanding its diminished status and curtailed ambition, Russia has considerable influence in its neighborhood and a significant voice elsewhere as well. Moscow can contribute importantly to U.S. interests if it chooses to do so. Accordingly Russia can markedly decrease, or increase, the costs of exercising American leadership both directly (by assisting the United States, or not) and indirectly (by abetting those determined to resist, or not).

#### Relations key to heg – lack of cooperation tanks US foreign policy.

Anne Gearan, Diplomatic correspondent, January 13, 2013, “Sour U.S.-Russia relations threaten Obama’s foreign policy agenda,” Washington Post, <http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-13/world/36323155_1_putin-and-obama-missile-defense-russian-president-vladimir-putin>, accessed 5/24/2013

Like the United States, Russia holds a veto in the U.N. Security Council, and its membership in other diplomatic clubs confers outsize international clout to the former superpower. By saying no, Putin can stymie U.S. goals in matters far beyond his own shores — and far removed from Russia’s long-standing beef with the United States over the latter’s plans to erect a missile defense shield in Europe. U.S. leverage is limited. Obama is unlikely to either drop the missile defense plan or revisit steps that have eased commercial trade between both nations. Russia appears less swayed by the prospect of arms-control concessions than in the past.

#### Only US hegemony prevents great power war.

Robert Kagan, senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, 1/11/2012, “Not Fade Away,” The New Republic, <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/magazine/99521/america-world-power-declinism?page=0,1&passthru=ZDkyNzQzZTk3YWY3YzE0OWM5MGRiZmIwNGQwNDBiZmI&utm_source=Editors%20and%20Bloggers&utm_campaign=cbaee91d9d-Edit_and_Blogs&utm_medium=email>

The underlying assumption of such a course is that the present world order will more or less persist without American power, or at least with much less of it; or that others can pick up the slack; or simply that the benefits of the world order are permanent and require no special exertion by anyone. Unfortunately, the present world order—with its widespread freedoms, its general prosperity, and its absence of great power conflict—is as fragile as it is unique. Preserving it has been a struggle in every decade, and will remain a struggle in the decades to come. Preserving the present world order requires constant American leadership and constant American commitment.

### Impact – Relations – Prolif

#### Cooperation with Russia key to global nonproliferation regime

Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 2009 “Pressing the reset button on US-Russian relations,” <http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/090405_policy_briefing_russia_balance.pdf>, accessed 5/20/13

Third, the United States needs to lead in the recommitment to nuclear nonproliferation. More and more countries are acquiring nuclear arms, and there is a concern that if Iran, in particular, develops nuclear arms, the nonproliferation regime will have failed and no further controls will be feasible. If the United States is serious about achieving a nuclear-free world and thus fulfilling its Article 6 commitments to the NPT, there must be a substantial cut in the US nuclear arsenal. The Obama administration should also work closely with its Russian partners to promote a successful 2010 NPT review conference, in part by trying to ensure that Russia does not perceive any threats to its strategic stability. As the two leading nuclear powers, the United States and Russia have shared interests in preventing the collapse of nonproliferation efforts. Cooperation on cuts as well as defenses will send the strongest message to Tehran and is the best way to encourage Moscow to move more aggressively on sanctions against Tehran if the latter does not transparently abandon its nuclear weapons program. US collaboration with Moscow in this area could persuade Russia to become a more constructive partner in dealings with Iran. Because Russia harbors concerns about the INF treaty, it is up to Moscow to propose changes. Its objection is that the bilateral treaty prohibits the United States and Russia from having intermediary nuclear missiles even as other countries have or are developing such missiles. Russia may, therefore, propose that the INF Treaty become a multilateral treaty involving all nuclear powers. If so, the United States should be open to such a suggestion, especially if the alternative is Russia’s withdrawal from the treaty.

#### Proliferation sparks wars that escalate to great power nuclear conflict

Tim Below, Wing Commander, RAF, June 2008, “Options for US nuclear disarmament: exemplary leadership or extraordinary lunacy?,” June 2008, Thesis for School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air University Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Proliferation. Roger Molander, of RAND Corporation, asserts that “in the near future, a large number of countries are each going to develop a small number of nuclear weapons.”50 The Union of Concerned Scientists considers this to be the greatest long term danger confronting both US and international security today. Proliferation increases risk in a number of ways. First, the more states that hold nuclear weapons, the more likely it is that one will have an insufficiently mature or robust nuclear doctrine to manage its capability responsibly. Tom Sauer suggests that developing states that do not have democratic political systems present a particularly high risk because in dictatorial regimes, the military are frequently in control, and as Sagan has observed, the military appear to be more inclined to initiate preventative attacks against adversaries than civilians.52 Second, the more widely proliferated nuclear weapons become, the more theoretical opportunities may be presented for theft of nuclear material. Third, proliferation increases the risk of nuclear intervention by an established nuclear power, including the five NWSs. Stephen Younger envisages several scenarios in which currently established nuclear powers might “feel a need” to intervene with nuclear weapons in present regional conflicts, especially if WMD are being employed or threatened. Moreover, since proliferation is frequently associated with reaction to nuclear development either within a bordering nation or regional counterpart, further proliferation is in turn likely to generate a quasi-exponential expansion of similar regional scenarios.53 Ambassador Lehman envisages a scenario in which proliferation may induce a chain reaction of related regional arms races that could result in unintended and unexpected consequences far removed from the objectives of the proliferating nations, and in the United States’ specific case, a risk that the nation could get sucked into a conventional regional conflict which is subsequently escalated into nuclear warfare by its allies or their opponents.

#### US/Russia relations key to solve prolif

Christian Science Monitor, 9/27/08, “US, Russia announce breakthrough on new Iran resolution”

Of course, not all interested parties would be happy to see the US adopt a pragmatic approach to relations with Russia that puts big-picture interests over regional concerns. US allies in Eastern and Central Europe especially may shudder at the thought of the US backing off from its support of them in favor of smoother relations with Moscow. Still, the recent references by both sides to common interests - as well as a surprise fourth Security Council resolution on Iran - will reassure some that cooler heads have prevailed as the US and Russia work through new realities in their relations. "We just can't get too carried away with the sparring," says Ms. Oudraat of USIP, "because on the big issues like proliferation, energy security, even climate change, we need Russia."

## China CP

### China Solves Cuba—Economic Engagement

#### China solves economic engagement with Cuba

Xinhua, 4-10-2012, "China, Cuba sign agreements to enhance economic cooperation," http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-04/10/c\_131517105.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

Entrepreneurs from Cuba and China's Shandong province signed cooperation agreements in the fields of biotechnology and information Monday.¶ Officials from China's Lukang Pharmaceutical Company and Cuba's Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology signed an agreement calling for collaboration in the area of manufacturing and marketing biotech products.¶ Also, Cuba's Ministry of Information and Communications and China's Inspur Electronic Information Industry Co., Ltd said they wanted to develop bilateral trade.¶ During the meeting, Deputy Governor of Shandong Cai Limin said trade between Cuba and Shandong province, China's third largest province in terms of GDP, reached nearly 100 million U.S. dollars in 2011.¶ Representatives of both countries said they wanted to boost bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the fields of renewable energy, oil, biotechnology and tourism.¶ Cuba and China established diplomatic relations on Sept. 28, 1960, and have since maintained strong ties.¶ Today, China is Cuba's second largest trade partner after Venezuela, with an annual trade volume of about 2 billion dollars, according to Cuba's National Statistics Office.

#### China can better engage—non-commercial links

R. Evan Ellis, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, NDU, Washington DC, 2-2012, “The Expanding Chinese Footprint in Latin America: The Challenges for China, and Dilemmas for the US,” Ifri Center for Asian Studies, http://www.ifri.org/?page=contribution-detail&id=7014, accessed 5-15-2013

A special category of the “non-commercial” presence in Latin America is increasing number of Chinese students traveling to the region. The greatest concentration of such students are in Cuba, with an estimated 1130 in residence in Havana at the time of President Hu Jintao’s visit in November 2008, and some 5,000 Chinese students passing through Cuba between 2006 and 2011.7 Such students, learning the language and culture of the region, lay the groundwork for the next generation of Chinese government and commercial personnel to more effectively engage with the region. Despite the significance of “official” Chinese activities in Latin America, by contrast to the “state-centered” presence of the Soviet Union in Latin America during the Cold War, the most impactful part of the Chinese footprint in Latin America is arguably its growing commercial presence, to which this paper now turns.

#### China effectively economically engages Cuba—empirics

Chen Weihua et al, 6-7-2011, "China, Cuba sign host of cooperation deals," China Daily, http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-06/07/content\_12646298.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

China and Cuba strengthened their economic and political ties on Sunday by signing a dozen cooperation agreements that will provide strong financial support to the Latin American country as it embarks on economic reforms.¶ The signing of the 13 agreements, including a memorandum of understanding for bilateral economic relations over the next five years, was presided over by visiting Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping and Cuban President Raul Castro.¶ Under the agreements, China will provide interest-free loans, economic aid and equipment to repair irrigation projects.¶ The agreements also cover cooperation in digital television and telecommunications, banking supervision and financing for public health projects, as well as an oil refinery expansion project and a liquefied natural gas project.¶ The agreements "reflect the political will of both parties and governments to continue deepening their ties", Agence France-presse cited an official Cuban announcement as saying.¶ Experts said the agreements would inject more momentum into Cuba's economic reforms and enhance ties between China, Cuba and other Latin American countries.

### China Solves Cuba—Laundry List

#### China solves joint ventures

François Simon, 4-9-2013, "Cuba and China: a communist understanding?," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/09/cuba-china-communist-understanding, accessed 5-15-2013

Indeed, China has launched many bilateral deals in the past fifteen years in cultural, medical and technical fields and has taken on the Soviet’s legacy as Cuba’s main manufacturer. Bilateral trade has risen from $440 million in 2001 to $1,9 billion in 2010 (official Chinese figures), mainly due to Chinese exports. While China imports nickel, sugar, tabaco and biotechnology, Cuba mostly imports electronics and construction material. China has also repeatedly offered interest free loans and credit lines to Cuba as it opens its markets. These Chinese funds are in many cases used to buy Chinese products: in 2001, a $200 million loan was used to modernise telecommunication and $150 million to buy Chinese television sets. However the particularity of Sino-cuban trade is that it includes two communist state-controlled partners. This benefits Chinese goods directly as they are coordinated and distributed nation-wide by the Cuban government. For example China has recently exported many low consumption electronics (refrigerators, washing machines, televisions and air conditioners) which were directly put on the government and domestic markets with virtually no competition. In exchange of these official state channels for Chinese goods many joint ventures include Cuban based factories and technological transfer. The first was in 1997 with a bicycle factory using Chinese capital and expertise, followed by electric fan factories, slippers, etc. This gives China great control over its trade with Cuba, from the production to the distribution of goods and even funding.

#### China solves Cuban infrastructure

François Simon, 4-9-2013, "Cuba and China: a communist understanding?," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/09/cuba-china-communist-understanding, accessed 5-15-2013

In the past 10 years China has been modernising Cuba’s Soviet-era infrastructure, from transport to IT and communications. HuaWei and ZTE, two Chinese telecommunication equipment companies, are omnipresent in bringing up to date the Cuban internet infrastructure. HuaWei for example has been updating the very slow inland internet system and China helped build Venezuela’s underwater ALBA broadband cable to Cuba in 2011. A number of deals were made in between both countries to modernise all types of transport. From 2006 to 2008, 100 Chinese locomotives and 1000 Yutong buses were delivered. Indeed, after the end of the Soviet era, bus spare parts stopped being produced and Cuban bus mobility was reduced to 20-30%. Today though, bus transport has been restored and Cuban buses are sometimes even referred to as “Yutong” by the population. In 2011, The China Harbor Engineering Company also started work on the Santiago port project. This is important for China as it thus gains the capacity to use Cuba as a pivot for its trade in Central and South America.

#### China and Cuba can cooperate on raw materials

William M. Leogrande, is professor in the Department of Government, School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, D.C., 4-2-2013, "The Danger of Dependence: Cuba's Foreign Policy After Chavez," World Politics Review, http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/12840/the-danger-of-dependence-cubas-foreign-policy-after-chavez, accessed 5-15-2013

As China's rapid growth has transformed it into a global powerhouse, Beijing has expanded its economic and diplomatic presence in Latin America, and is now Cuba's second-largest trade partner. China provides Cuba with a range of durable goods and capital equipment, and is investing in Cuban nickel and oil production. Like China's relations with the rest of the region, its relations with Cuba are fundamentally commercial rather than ideological, aimed at securing China's access to raw materials.

### China Solves Cuba—Oil

#### Chinese investment solves Cuban energy

R. Evan Ellis, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, NDU, Washington DC, 2-2012, “The Expanding Chinese Footprint in Latin America: The Challenges for China, and Dilemmas for the US,” Ifri Center for Asian Studies, http://www.ifri.org/?page=contribution-detail&id=7014, accessed 5-15-2013

In Cuba, in June 2011, CNPC subsidiary China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering Corp was contracted to support a Cuba-Venezuela consortium in a $6 billion project to double the output of Cuba’s Cienfuegos refinery.33 To date, there are few indications that the Venezuelan, Ecuadoran, Bolivian, or Cuban governments have tried to limit the role of Chinese companies and workers in these projects funded by Chinese institutions. Moreover, as the ALBA governments’ dependence on funding from the PRC continues to increase, the associated role of Chinese construction companies and workers in these countries is likely to expand.

#### Chinese investment empirically solves Cuban oil

Associated Press, 6-10-2011, "China agrees to invest in Cuban oil refinery," The Gleaner, http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20110610/business/business95.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping toured a joint oil exploration project in Cuba near the end of a three-day visit during which the two countries signed economic accords that include the expansion of a refinery, Cuban state media said Tuesday.¶ Xi, who is widely expected to be China's next president, called the Camarioca Norte 100 exploratory well and other projects a sign of excellent relations and close economic cooperation. Chinese equipment is operating at the well, Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma said Tuesday.¶ Ministry of Basic Industry chief Tomas Benitez said Empresa de Perforacion y Extraccion de Peroleo del Centro, Cuba's leading hydrocarbons concern, is working with Chinese help on several oil exploration and exploitation projects in the country.¶ Cuba's domestic production is exclusively heavy oil with a high sulphur content, but there are high hopes for offshore Gulf reserves that could contain large quantities of lighter, sweet crude. A test well in 2004 turned up only modest deposits, however.¶ Benitez said drilling is expected to begin later this year on six deep-water exploration wells with the help of a platform built in China and scheduled to come online starting in October, according to government Web portal Cubadebate.¶ The agreement on the Cienfuegos refinery is a joint plan by China and Cuban-Venezuelan oil company Cuven Petrol SA, a division of China National Petroleum Corp and Technip Itali SA.

#### Chinese engagement solves Cuban oil production

Esteban Israel, 11-24-2010, “Cuba deal boosts China's Latin American oil plans,” Reuters, http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/11/24/cuba-china-oil-idUSN2417046320101124, accessed 5-15-2013

China is taking another great leap forward in its Latin American energy plans, raising Cuba's energy importance in the process, with a deal to lead a $6 billion refinery expansion project on the communist island, experts said this week.¶ The project, to be funded mostly by China's Eximbank, is the latest of several significant moves in the region for the Asian power as it continues to expand its global influence.¶ For Cuba, the refurbishing of its antiquated refinery in the coastal city of Cienfuegos will provide an outlet for oil it hopes to tap soon in the Gulf of Mexico, while also laying the groundwork for the island to possibly become a key oil transhipment point for the Caribbean basin.

### China Solves Mexico—Economic Engagement

#### China solves economic engagement

Nick Miroff, 4-18-2013, "Mexico and China look to trade away old rivalry," Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\_pacific/mexico-and-china-look-to-trade-away-old-rivalry/2013/04/17/d001c432-a2ec-11e2-bd52-614156372695\_story.html, accessed 5-15-2013

More often than not, the business went to China. But with labor costs rising there and Mexico pushing for new access to Chinese consumers, the rivalry is shifting, economists and trade analysts say.¶ No longer pure competitors but not quite partners, the two countries are moving toward an expanded trade relationship that could ultimately benefit the United States by boosting U.S. exports and keeping cheap imports flowing to U.S. consumers.¶ Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto’s recent trip to China, coming just four months into his term, has been viewed here as a smart overture aimed at mending ties between two nations that have often been at odds over trade issues.¶ Mexico resisted China’s entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001, and its share of the U.S. import market started slumping soon after.¶ Now that trend is in reverse. Mexico accounts for a growing portion of U.S. imports, and China’s slice of the $2.7 trillion market has narrowed. Those tendencies are likely to continue, economists say, as several new studies show that Mexican manufacturing costs are now lower than China’s when factors such as shipping and energy prices are taken into account.¶ “They started out as rivals, because there was a bull rush to China and Mexico lost out,” said Barry Lawrence, director of the Global Supply Chain Laboratory at Texas A&M University. “But Mexico is now the more competitive of the two.”¶ “That implies direct competition, but the reality is that the two will be looking at building optimal supply chains,” Lawrence said. “There will be a lot of business in China, but a lot of it will come through Mexico.”

#### China should economically engage Mexico

Catherine Cheney, On, 4-9-2013, " Mexico, China Stand to Benefit From Improved Ties," World Politics Review, http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/12857/mexico-china-stand-to-benefit-from-improved-ties, accessed 5-15-2013

Beyond trade relations, Mexico also wants to deepen its diplomatic, research and development and political links with China, Gonzalez said. But Dussel Peters said the two countries still lack a clear strategy for how to improve relations. He noted that the so-called High Level Group established in 2004 to work on the bilateral agenda (.pdf) has not met in the past three years.¶ ¶ Moving forward, Gonzalez said Mexico and China are likely to improve their economic cooperation, and that both could benefit from prioritizing their bilateral relationship. He emphasized Mexico's key geopolitical position, with its 2,000-mile border with the U.S., its ports on both the Pacific and the Atlantic and its location next to Central America and the Caribbean as a great potential asset to China.¶ "Any long-term strategy by China to expand its presence and influence around the world has to consider Mexico as a top-10 destination to achieve this in a meaningful, effective way," said Gonzalez.

#### China and Mexico should work together economically

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Jeffrey Davidow is the president of the Institute of the Americas and former assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere and ambassador to Venezuela and Mexico, 1-2011, “China, Latin America, and the United States: The New Triangle,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/LAP\_120810\_Triangle\_rpt.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China has become one of Mexico’s main competitors in the U.S.¶ market. To address this, Ley suggested, “If you cannot fight the competitor, join forces with them, and together conquer the market.” ¶ Structural economic reforms, Chinese investment in the Mexican ¶ manufacturing sector, and continued attempts to increase Mexican exports to China are necessary in order for Mexico to address the challenges and opportunities presented by China. In sum, a state policy ¶ must be present to guide bilateral relations between the two countries ¶ into a real strategic partnership.

### China Solves Mexico—Laundry List

#### China solves foreign investment and telecomm

Alberto Esenaro has expertise in high-profile corporate law with over 15 years of experience helping US and European companies doing business in Mexico and LatAm," 5-1-2013, Mexico and China: An Expanding Economic Partnership," Before You Do Business, http://beforeyoudobusiness.com/archives/787, accessed 5-15-2013

 “Mexico can be a gateway for China to enter North America, the world’s richest market. It can so be a point of access to several countries in Central America and the Caribbean.” said Peña Nieto. This could very well be of high interest to Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE, two telecoms companies who have been effectively shut out of the American telecom market, a market Chinese telecoms have been wanting to crack for quite a long time. While their products may still not get into the U.S. market, both ZTE and Huawei could become involved in the potentially lucrative Mexican telecom sector, where reforms have recently been passed to allow foreign investment.

#### China solves Mexico—multiple economic sectors

Enrique Dussel Peters, Coordinator, Center for Chinese-Mexican Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico, 12-2008, “Mexico’s Economic Relationship with China: Heading for conflict?” http://www.uea.ac.uk/polopoly\_fs/1.113470!4%20Mexico%20GENERAL.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

Why is normalizing the relationship with China relevant? There are multiple benefits. In ¶ addition to being Mexico’s second biggest trading partner and having a dynamism that ¶ exceeds that of Mexico’s other trading partners, three aspects stand out. First, it is essential ¶ that Mexico take advantage of the enormous demand for imports in China. They are an ¶ important global exporter, and will soon become the main global exporter, and their ¶ imports show the same dynamics. However, Mexico has yet to take advantage of this ¶ opportunity. Secondly, regularizing the trade and economic relationship with Mexico would ¶ be significant, faced with the possibility that imports from China and the establishment of ¶ Chinese companies in Mexico could increase the competitiveness of Mexican production. ¶ In several sectors, from agriculture to science and technology, China has products, ¶ processes and experiences that are relevant to Mexico. This opportunity should not be ¶ rejected by Mexico, which is currently replacing US imports with Asian imports, ¶ particularly from China, and should instead be actively benefited from. Third, China has ¶ undoubtedly replaced an important sector of Mexican production, both for the domestic ¶ market and exports, especially those oriented to the United States, and therefore it is ¶ imperative that preparation measures be taken in the short, medium, and long term. Since ¶ the nineties, China has become a “global player”; the potential for strategic and short, ¶ medium and long-term strategies shows great opportunities and the need to take action ¶ before the implied challenges.

#### Mexico wants Chinese economic engagement—infrastructure and trade

Alberto Esenaro has expertise in high-profile corporate law with over 15 years of experience helping US and European companies doing business in Mexico and LatAm," 5-1-2013, Mexico and China: An Expanding Economic Partnership," Before You Do Business, http://beforeyoudobusiness.com/archives/787, accessed 5-15-2013

While Mexico’s economy has been growing steadily since the implementation of NAFTA and various other free trade agreements with dozens of other countries, the general perception has been that the country’s main trading partners and investors have been the United States and Japan. However, Mexico’s partnership with manufacturing and economic powerhouse China has been gaining steam over the past few years and is showing positive signs of continued and expanding growth.¶ Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, on the evening before his visit to China, in a written interview with Xinhua, China’s top news service, spoke of his pledge to increase ties with China in a way that both countries can enjoy a win-win situation. China should and can be a “strategic partner” to the Latin American country, he said. Remarkable opportunities exist in many sectors, including infrastructure and trade.

### China Solves Mexico—Oil

#### Chinese engagement can develop Mexican oil

Alex Erquicia, 4-4-2013, "Mexico’s Peña Nieto looks to strengthen relations with China," Blouin News, http://blogs.blouinnews.com/blouinbeatbusiness/2013/04/04/mexicos-pena-nieto-looks-to-strengthen-relations-with-china/, accessed 5-15-2013

Mexico’s oil could close the gap. China is on a global drive to secure oil for its expanding economy, and continues to secure energy agreements worldwide. Peña Nieto plans to open his country’s oil industry to foreign investment, a priority in his new energy reforms expected to be implemented from the summer, to help reverse the long-term decline in the country’s oil production. China’s oil firms could be welcome partners in that endeavor, especially at Mexico’s onshore fields that are closer to the Pacific than the bulk of its current oil production in and bordering the Gulf of Mexico.¶ At the same time, Mexico’s state-owned oil giant, Pemex, is expanding abroad rapidly. This seems fertile ground for oil-for-investment deals and joint ventures.

#### Chinese investment and expertise solves

Oil & Gas Financial Journal, 4-1-2013, "Winds of Change Mexico's Hydrocarbon Renaissance," http://www.ogfj.com/articles/print/volume-10/issue-4/features/special-report--mexico/winds-of-change-mexico-s-hydrocarbon-renaissance.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Not surprisingly, some of the first multinational companies to bet on the resurgence of Mexico's oil & gas industry are coming from cash-flush China. China Oilfield Services Limited (COSL) first entered the Mexican market in 2007 when speak of an energy reform was already beginning to brew and PEMEX was heightening its offshore exploration. As the leading integrated oilfield service provider in China's offshore segment, COSL's expertise is precisely the kind of collaboration that PEMEX needs to succeed in unchartered deep waters.

#### China and Mexico can cooperate on oil

Helena Powell, 5-2-2013, "China/Latin America: Oil deal between Mexico and China could redress trade imbalance," Pulsamerica, http://www.pulsamerica.co.uk/2013/05/02/chinalatin-america-oil-deal-between-mexico-and-china-could-redress-trade-imbalance/, accessed 5-15-2013

At the beginning of April Mexican oil company Pemex signed an agreement with the second largest Chinese state-owned oil enterprise Sinopec. The deal has initially been put in place for two years and aims to strengthen trade relations between the two companies and encourage increased exports of crude oil to China.¶ The accord was signed by the directors of both companies in the presence of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.¶ The deal indicates a rapprochement between Mexico and China, who have had a chequered relationship over the last couple of years. Efforts to mend bilateral fences are being led by Peña Nieto, who visited China at the beginning of April to promote and develop Sino-Mexican relations.¶ The chief executive of Pemex, Emilio Lozoya, stated that the company would increase exports to China with immediate effect, upping supplies by 30,000 barrels a day. In addition he explained that, according to the agreement, exports could be increased to meet demand within the two year timeframe of the deal.¶ Increased oil exports will benefit both parties. For China the agreement will diversify its import sources as it overtakes the US as the world’s largest oil importer by 2014, according to a report from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In 2012 only 9% of China’s oil came from Latin America, whereas nearly 50% came from the Middle East.

### China Solves Venezuela—Economic Engagement

#### China and Venezuela have a solid economic relationship

Xulio Ríos is director of China Policy Observatory, 3-2012, “China and Venezuela: the "perfect match"?” IGADI: Instituto Galego de Análise e Documentación Internacional, http://www.igadi.org/china/2011/xr\_china\_and\_venezuela\_\_the\_\_\_perfect\_match.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

The relationship between China and Venezuela has experienced in recent years a comprehensive and rapid development, both economically and politically and in other areas. The establishment of a "strategic partnership" between the two countries in 2001 has defined a stable framework for collaboration. China and Venezuela established diplomatic relations in June 1974 but it has been with the start of the presidency of Hugo Chavez (1998) when relations have intensified dramatically. In that recognized and open impulse, that Caracas defined as a "perfect match”, it should be noted, however, some important reservations.¶ Economic cooperation¶ China calls "pragmatic" the ambitious economic relationship with Venezuela that has been built, covering areas such as energy, agriculture, high technology or infrastructure construction, with the first two sectors favored by both governments. In total, more than 300 cooperation projects have been implemented or are in progress (1). The Convention on Economic and Technical Cooperation signed in September 2000 is the driving framework of this process.

#### China has successfully engaged Venezuela in the past

Xulio Ríos is director of China Policy Observatory, 3-2012, “China and Venezuela: the "perfect match"?” IGADI: Instituto Galego de Análise e Documentación Internacional, http://www.igadi.org/china/2011/xr\_china\_and\_venezuela\_\_the\_\_\_perfect\_match.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

Moreover, in the financial order, cooperation began in 2010. Projects managed in yuan are estimated at about twenty, and it exits the political will to gradually increase that number. The signing of a financing plan between the Venezuelan government and the China Development Bank (CDB) contextualize the relationship. Both countries decided to create earlier this decade, a joint financing fund to finance projects in Venezuela with 4,000 million U.S. dollars provided by China and Venezuela providing 2,000 million. In February 2009, during the Vice President Xi Jinping's visit to Venezuela, the fund was expanded in other 6 billion additional dollars, which, according to Caracas, will provide secure funding to undertake development projects and to keep the economy growing despite the global financial crisis (4). The Bank of Economic and Social Development of Venezuela (BANDES), a state agency committed to building a bilateral social and productive development platform, manage the fund. And now it reached the figure of 12,000 million dollars. The China's contribution to projects in Venezuela reached the figure of 32 billion dollars. (5)

#### Venezuela wants Chinese economic engagement

Xulio Ríos is director of China Policy Observatory, 3-2012, “China and Venezuela: the "perfect match"?” IGADI: Instituto Galego de Análise e Documentación Internacional, http://www.igadi.org/china/2011/xr\_china\_and\_venezuela\_\_the\_\_\_perfect\_match.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

Developing economic relations with China is particularly attractive to Chavez for two main reasons. First, the rapidly industrializing China has provided a high growth economy and major financial capital endowments. This is compounded by its energy needs, which could increase by 150 percent by 2020. Caracas expects to benefit from this increase of demand. Second, the fact that China does not hold political or moral imperatives in its trade relations. China also has no history of intervention in the Western Hemisphere, and assumes no messianic vocation of advocating a particular political system. China's foreign policy promotes a stress-free environment, which considers essential to develop their businesses and investments.

### China Solves Venezuela—Laundry List

#### China solves Venezuelan infrastructure and mining

R. Evan Ellis, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, NDU, Washington DC, 2-2012, “The Expanding Chinese Footprint in Latin America: The Challenges for China, and Dilemmas for the US,” Ifri Center for Asian Studies, http://www.ifri.org/?page=contribution-detail&id=7014, accessed 5-15-2013

As of the end of 2011, for example, Venezuela had a portfolio of over $25 billion in infrastructure projects being funded by China Development Bank, all using Chinese companies and workers, including a $520 million effort for China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) to expand a new terminal in Puerto Cabello,23 a $200 million project for the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) to expand the port of Palua, and another $161 million project for China Cons-truction Corporation to dredge the Orinoco river.24 Also as part of this portfolio, the Chinese company Sinohydro is earmarked to construct the new “El Chorrin” hydroelectric facility, while other Chinese compa-nies including China Harbor Engineering corporation will build seven new thermoelectric facilities in the country, as well as upgrading an existing facility. Also in Venezuela, China Railway Engineering Corporation is building a $7.5 billion high-speed rail line across the center of the country from Tinaco to Anaco. The project will reportedly employ 7500 workers, of which a substantial number are likely to be Chinese.25 In addition, the Venezuelan mining ministry (MIBAM) has signed $727 million in contracts with four Chinese companies to perform mining-related activities: Wuhan Iron and Steel, China Railway Engineering Corporation, Metallurgical Group Corporation, and China Communications Construction Company LTD.26

#### China solves economic cooperation—loans

François Simon, 4-29-2013, "China in Venezuela: loans for oil," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/29/china-in-venezuela-loans-for-oil/, accessed 5-15-2013

Indeed, China is Venezuela’s biggest creditor. Venezuela’s difficult economic situation (growth of 6%, high inflation at 20%, budget deficit at 20%, growing public debt at 50% of GDP in 2012) means that it cannot easily borrow from global capital markets to pay for Chavez’ expensive social programs. Beijing and Caracas established a Joint Investment Fund in 2007 with an initial investment of $4 billion by China and $2 billion by Venezuela later boosted to a total of $12 billion in 2009. This fund is mainly used for investment in infrastructure, energy and agricultural projects. A study of Latin America funding by China in 2012 by Trufts University confirms another advantage of Chinese lending over the West as seen in Algeria: banks do not impose any policy condition on borrowing governments and generally have low environmental guidelines. These “tied loans” do however require equipment purchase and oil sales. For example the China Development Bank lent $500 million to PDVSA to buy machinery and equipment for oil drilling with contracts mostly awarded to Chinese-owned companies. Thereby, China serves as an alternative to international banks for financing with low rate loans, while securing access to Venezuela’s oil at a fixed low price and creating business opportunities. Beijing has lent $46,5 billion since 2008, which represents over half of the loans the country has received (95% are loans-for-oil). Thus Venezuela is becoming oil-debt dependent which is naturally a great advantage for Chinese state-owned companies in trade deal and contract negotiations.

#### China solves—tech transfers

François Simon, 4-29-2013, "China in Venezuela: loans for oil," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/29/china-in-venezuela-loans-for-oil/, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s investments are not limited to natural resources and are diversified. Many projects are under way enabling technological transfer to Venezuela. A joint venture railway company was launched in 2009 controlled at 40% by CREC (China Railways Engineering Corp). More importantly, China has built and launched Venezuela’s two satellites. The first, a geostationary telecommunication satellite called Simon Bolivar, was launched in 2008 from Sichuan in China. The controls were handed over to the Venezuelan government in 2009 after the training of Venezuelan engineers. The second, a monitoring satellite called Miranda, was recently launched in 2012 from Gansu also in China and was widely greeted in Latin America as a great technological leap. China has also launched many joint ventures in electronics with factories built in Venezuela allowing a full transfer of Chinese know-how. In 2009, Venezuela’s first cellphone company, VTELCA (Venezolana de Telecomunicaciones), was set up as a joint venture between the government and Chinese state-controlled telecommunications company ZTE. The factory produces the “Vergatario” for Venezuelan and Caribbean markets which, highly subsidised by the Venezuelan government, is sold about $7 and may well be the world’s cheapest cellphone. Most workers (housewives and labourers) come from surrounding villages and are trained and supervised by the Chinese while ZTE supplies parts and know-how. A last sector where China is operation a technological transfer is in the Agricultural sector with the establishment in 2011 of a joint venture in between PDVSA (70%) and Heilongjiang Beidahuang Nongken Group (30% – China’s largest agricultural company). Indeed, China which has a poor amount of arable land, is expanding its agricultural companies abroad to diversify its imports. In Venezuela, the company provides machinery and labourers as well as a greater variety of seeds in return of approximately 20% of the harvest. Again, China’s main priority is to secure resources and conduct business but Venezuela is thereby achieving a great technological leap.

### China Solves Venezuela—Oil

#### China can solve oil development—empirically proven

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Venezuela. The PRC has long had a close relationship with the populist regime of Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, including China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), which has been operating Venezuelan oil fields in Zulia and Anzoategui provinces for several years. The Chinese presence was important in helping the Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela Sociedad Anónima (PdVSA) to recover from the 2003 strike, when the Venezuelan president fired half of the PdVSA workforce. During 2005, CNPC signed additional agreements to develop the oilfields Zumano and the Junín 4 block in Orinoco, as part of collaboration with PdVSA to boost the nation’s petroleum output.

#### China solves oil development

Olivia Kroth, 6-17-2012, "Venezuela's cooperation with Big Sister China," English pravda.ru, http://english.pravda.ru/business/companies/17-06-2012/121403-venezuela\_china-0, accessed 5-15-2013

Since 2009, a boost in Sino-Venezuelan cooperation can be noted in agriculture, energy, housing, telecommunications, trade, transport and tourism.¶ Great energy projects have seen the light of day during the last three years, from drilling oil in Venezuela's Orinoco Basin to creating a Sino-Venezuelan company to manufacture oil tankers and an oil refinery. "Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world," says President Hugo Chávez. "All the oil China needs is here in Venezuela."¶ The Faja del Orinoco contains 520 billion barrels of crude oil. The Orinoco oil belt has been divided into blocs, where oil is extracted by Sino-Venezuelan joint ventures in which Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA keeps at least a 60 percent controlling share.¶ Officials from PDVSA meet regularly with Chinese oil industry colleagues to plan further steps of oil extraction, building petroleum platforms, oil refineries and a fleet of oil tankers.¶ Currently Venezuela exports 400.000 barrels per day to China, the aim is to reach one million in 2025.¶ Hugo Chávez speaks of "gradualness and joint development." Sino-Venezuelan projects constitute part of a "strategic long-term development plan, to be implemented in several stages until 2025," according to the Venezuelan President.

#### China can replace the US in oil development

François Simon, 4-29-2013, "China in Venezuela: loans for oil," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/29/china-in-venezuela-loans-for-oil/, accessed 5-15-2013

In the past decade but especially in the past 3 years, bilateral trade has soared more than exponentially from $500 million in 1999 to $7,5 billion in 2009 and over $20 billion in 2012 (PDVSA). China is now Venezuela’s second trading partner after the US (Venezuelan trade ministry). In 2012, 65% of oil exports went to Venezuela’s traditional oil partner, the US, through its american subsidiary Citgo ; China was in second place with 20%. These numbers clearly show China’s new interest in the world’s 10th largest oil exporter (2012). More importantly, according to the US Geological Survey and the OPEC, Venezuela holds the world’s largest oil deposits in its Orinoco Oil Belt (although mostly heavy crude which needs important refining) and contracts are up for grabs. The oil industry, which accounts for 95% of the country’s exports, is controlled by PDVSA (Petroles de Venezuela), a state owned company created in 1976. The process of nationalisation of oil resources continued in 2007, when Chavez nationalised the Orinoco Belt projects, giving the state a minimum 60% ownership in all joint ventures. In these difficult conditions for foreign investors, China has two great advantages compared to its Western counterparts which are independence from the US and money.

### China Solves Venezuela Better

#### Venezuela prefers Chinese engagement

James Suggett, 12-25-2009, "Venezuela and China Consolidate “Strategic Alliance,” Expand Bilateral Trade," VenezuelaAnalysis.com, http://venezuelanalysis.com/news/5032, accessed 5-15-2013

Since 2003, annual trade between the two countries has increased from less than a half a billion dollars to approximately $5 billion in 2008. In addition to this, China and Venezuela have signed $5 billion worth of planned Orinoco oil accords, and created a $12 billion bilateral investment fund for future projects.¶ President Chavez said the unprecedented growth in bilateral relations between Venezuela and China has the goal of creating a “balance in the world, a pluri-polar world,” in which there is no single dominant super power such as the United States. He said China “has demonstrated that it is not necessary to attack those who are weakest in order to be a great power.”

#### Chinese engagement better than the US

Xulio Ríos is director of China Policy Observatory, 3-2012, “China and Venezuela: the "perfect match"?” IGADI: Instituto Galego de Análise e Documentación Internacional, http://www.igadi.org/china/2011/xr\_china\_and\_venezuela\_\_the\_\_\_perfect\_match.htm, accessed 5-15-2013

Based on the assumed belief that both are developing countries, the second axis of the Sino-Venezuelan relationship sits on the exchange of high level visits, close cooperation in international affairs based on the application of identical criteria and the coincidence in the defence of what they regard as a basic principle of international relations: non-interference in internal affairs. His foreign policy principles are part of the promotion of a multipolar world in which nations interact in a context of fair, just, egalitarian and peaceful cooperation without precedence, as required by an ideological alignment, the schemes of imperial domination, characteristic of the capitalist system.¶ Add to this the nationalism that both countries share and that at levels of its power structure means finding political solutions that lead to the political disagreement with those who aspire to the universal shaping following political comparable models. This circumstance makes the coincidence of points of view on multilateral fora by not endorsing and sanctioning to veto decisions that drive the Western powers, especially the U.S., reaffirming an independent foreign policy that lets them to attempt to disparage any external influence.

#### Venezuela will remain Anti-American

Yulia Zamanskaya, 2-1-2013, "Venezuela without Chávez: Caracas will not only continue to strengthen its ties with Russia and Iran but will also extend its sphere of influence to China," The Voice of Russia, http://english.ruvr.ru/2013\_02\_01/Venezuela-without-Chavez-Caracas-will-not-only-continue-to-strengthen-its-ties-with-Russia-and-Iran-but-will-also-extend-its-sphere-of-influence-to-China, accessed 5-15-2013

In this sense, Venezuela's relations with Russia are likely to remain unchanged after President Chávez's death. Similarly unchanged will be Caracas' antagonism toward Washington. In Mr. Torres' words, "during almost 14 years in office, President Chávez made anti-Americanism one of the fundamental principles of Venezuela's foreign policy. Throughout his presidential term Chávez tried to undermine US influence. To this end, his greatest accomplishment was a close relationship that he forged with Iran - the country that in Washington's opinion develops nuclear weapons and sponsors international terrorism". Mr. Torres believes that Chávez's successor will maintain anti-American course and will further deepen Venezuelan relations with Iran.

### AT: Chavez’s Death Means No Cooperation

#### Maduro will work with China

Helena Powell, 4-16-2013, "China/Latin America: Maduro’s win cements Venezuelan relationship with China," Pulsamerica, http://www.pulsamerica.co.uk/2013/04/16/chinalatin-america-maduros-win-cements-venezuelan-relationship-with-china, accessed 5-15-2013

Chinese President Xi Jinping was among the first to congratulate Nicolas Maduro on his presidential win last Sunday, and government representatives are confident that the bilateral relationship will go from strength to strength. In his message to Maduro Xi praised the progress of the strategic partnership between China and Venezuela, while Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, added that the government would like to deepen this partnership.¶ Experts believe that Maduro’s election will mean continuity in Venezuela’s policy towards China. Wu Changsheng, director of the Latin American Research Center at the China Foundation for International Studies, says, ‘The two countries’ relationship could become more stable.’¶ Wu also disagreed with critics who predicted gloom and doom for Chinese investors in Venezuela after the death of Hugo Chávez. He argues the relationship will continue as before, though with even more economic cooperation to alleviate Venezuela’s severe inflation and food shortages.¶ ‘The relationship is mutually beneficial, as China needs more oil and Venezuela needs more financial support,’ he said.

#### New Venezuelan president will work with China

François Simon, 4-29-2013, "China in Venezuela: loans for oil," Dragon's Trail, http://dragonstrail.wordpress.com/2013/04/29/china-in-venezuela-loans-for-oil/, accessed 5-15-2013

Beyond these difficulties, prospects are good for China-Venezuela relations, even after Chavez’s death. Since his election, Maduro has already promised that his first trip abroad would be to China. He even said “the best tribute that we could give to our Comandante Chavez is to deepen our strategic relationship with our beloved China”. China seems evermore poised to secure new deals in Venezuela’s oil-economy and eventually buy stakes in debt-ridden PDVSA if it is denationalised. Talks have also started in 2012 to establish a free trade agreement with Mercosur. The dragon’s strategy of tied loans and loans-for-oil means it is at the same time securing resources and creating business through its investment. Although not risk-free, it is clear that Venezuela will need Chinese funds in the future and should respect the deals even in the case of a collpase of Maduro’s government. It is also establishing itself as the second power in the Caribbean region and in Latin America. China will have to be careful not to push the continent into a bipolar balance of power and not confront the US but rather build partnerships with it, so as not to hinder its “peaceful rise” global strategy.

#### Maduro will continue Chavez’s partnership with China

Daniel Wallis, 3-15-2013, “Venezuela's post-Chavez oil policy to focus on China, Russia,” Reuters, http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/15/venezuela-election-oil-idUSL1N0C69N220130315, accessed 5-15-2013

Venezuela's post-Chavez oil policy will increasingly focus on deals with China and Russia if acting President Nicolas Maduro wins an April 14 election to continue his late boss's socialist programs.¶ During his 14 years in power, Hugo Chavez nationalized most of the OPEC nation's oil industry with the aim of putting its crude reserves - the biggest in the world - at the service of his power base, Venezuela's poor majority.¶ Turning away from the United States, the traditional top buyer of Venezuelan oil, Chavez also sharply increased fuel sales to China and turned Beijing into his government's biggest source of foreign funding.¶ "We are not going to change one iota of the fundamental themes of President Chavez's policies," Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said in a recent interview with a local TV station.¶ "We have a very important strategic relationship with China, which we're going to continue deepening and cultivating. It's the same with our cooperation with Russia ... Chavez's policies are more alive than ever, and we will push ahead with them."

### China Solves Latin America

#### China solves economic engagement

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

The expansion of Chinese trade and investment with Latin America is a new economic and commercial challenge in a previously consolidated market. On the positive side, to the extent that it has contributed to regional growth and kept financial contagion from the global economic crisis at bay, China’s engagement with the region has been beneficial. An economically growing region means that the pie is expanding for everyone, including the United States. That is a global public good, which International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde acknowledged during her late 2011 travel to the region. Nonetheless, for the U.S., individual investment opportunities and market share are being lost to China, whose share of Latin American trade grew from less than 2 percent in 2000 to 11 percent in 2010.

#### China solves loans—infrastructure proves

R. Evan Ellis, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, NDU, Washington DC, 2-2012, “The Expanding Chinese Footprint in Latin America: The Challenges for China, and Dilemmas for the US,” Ifri Center for Asian Studies, http://www.ifri.org/?page=contribution-detail&id=7014, accessed 5-15-2013

The most significant source of Chinese construction companies and workers entering Latin America is the third category of projects: the billions of dollars of infrastructure work being done by Chinese companies directly for Latin American governments, tied to loans to those governments from Chinese banks. Since 2010, there has been a massive increase in such projects, as the Chinese government seems to have discovered an effective formula for leveraging their access to the ample capital of Chinese banks to meet the infrastructure needs of cash-strapped Latin American governments.

#### China and Latin America have a strong trade relationship

Sebastian Sarmiento-Saher, 3-14-2013, "China and Latin America: Big Business and Big Competition," http://thediplomat.com/china-power/china-and-latin-america-big-business-and-big-competition/, accessed 5-15-2013

Latin America’s prospects have attracted serious attention, especially from Chinese firms and policymakers keen to benefit from growing opportunities and access to raw materials in LAC. Under President Hu Jintao China deepened its ties with Latin American countries through initiatives like the 2008 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Lima, Peru. China’s new President, Xi Jinping, is also no stranger to the region after having made several state visits there as vice president.¶ According to Barbara Stallings, Chinese exports to Latin America grew substantially from U.S. $6.9 billion in 2000 to U.S. $69.7 billion in 2008; while LAC exports to China increased from U.S. $5.3 billion in 2000 to U.S. $70.3 billion in 2008. However, despite these dramatic increases of 910 percent and 1,226 percent, the United States and the EU are still ahead of China in terms of trade flows with Latin America.¶ China is quickly catching up to many of LAC’s traditional trading partners, however. Already China’s trade numbers with LAC have surpassed those of Japan, the previously dominant Asian trading partner for Latin America. What is most significant about these developments overall is how rapidly Chinese businesses and organizations have expanded their activity in the region – a trend that continues to grow.

### China Solves Better—Economic Model

#### Latin America prefers Chinese engagement

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

Many different perspectives exist on the nature and significance of Chinese initiatives in Latin America. US analysts and policymakers, as a whole, tend to view Chinese engagement in a more skeptical manner than business and political elites in Latin America. Within the region, the prospect of China as an export market and a source of investment is viewed as an important opportunity—particularly by nations of South America whose primary exports are primary products and foodstuffs. While some Latin American nations increasingly worry about competition with Chinese manufactures in domestic and developed country markets, others view China as a counterweight to the historical US dominance of the economic, financial, and political structures of the region. Within the US, Chinese initiatives in Latin America are viewed with varying degrees of skepticism or indifference. Some view Chinese engagement with Latin America as part of an orchestrated plan to lock-up key assets in an emerging global struggle for energy and other resources. Others in the believe that Chinese interest presents an opportunity for the United States to work together with China to advance the economic and social development of the region.

#### Regional countries trust China more

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

The confidence of the new generation of Chinese leadership is complimented by the political sea change that took place in Latin America following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Following 9-11, US attention and resources turned inward to focus on homeland security, and also toward the Middle East, where Afghanistan and Iraq became the focal point abroad of the Global War on Terror. The perception by Latin American leaders that the region was no longer a US priority was reinforced by their perception that their positions were not taken into consideration on a wide range of international issues from the Iraq war to immigration policy. Meanwhile, within Latin America itself, a series of elections brought left-of-center governments to power, from pragmatic socialists such as Ricardo Lagos in Chile, Ignacio “Lula” de la Silva in Brazil and Tabaré Vasquez in Uruguay--to radical populists, such as Hugo Chávez in Venezuela, and most recently, Evo Morales in Bolivia. The new Latin American leadership was less willing to accept the neo-liberal economic orthodoxy represented by the “Washington Consensus,” and more disposed to explore new types of relationships that could give their nations alternatives to the traditional US domination of the regional economy. For these leaders, regional trade blocks such as MERCOSUR, and the building of relationships with non-traditional economic partners such as China, India, and the European Union, represented new sources of leverage in the increasingly globalized economy. In short, a new generation of Chinese leaders with acute resource needs, and willing to take risks, encountered a new Latin American leadership, looking for new opportunities and economic partners.

#### Latin America prefers the Chinese economic model

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

The degree to which China captures the imagination of Latin America has less to do with the reality of trade and investment flows, and more to do with its unique combination of attributes. Like the role played by the former Soviet Union, China is increasingly a political counterweight to the United States in the global political and economic system, and--at least superficially in its rhetoric--a proponent of an ideological alternative to neoliberal capitalism. But unlike the Soviet Union, China is also rapidly transforming itself from an underdeveloped country to a large and dynamic modern economy. The nations of Latin America can identify with China’s underdeveloped roots, while being inspired by the magnitude and rapidity of its transformation. The often-mentioned size of the Chinese population and the “otherness” of its culture further add to the almost romantic appeal that China engenders.

### China Solves Better—Trust

#### Latin American countries don’t trust the US

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

As a result, there may be a tendency to be suspicious of actions that promote U.S. economic and national security interests, including trade and investment expansion, counternarcotics programs, security assistance, and even democracy promotion in relation to Cuba and elsewhere. It is within this intellectual construct that they place the growing influence of extra-regional actors and also rising regional actors such as Brazil.¶ This overwhelming bias in the policy and academic communities—a bias that does not generally inform U.S. policy in other regions—continues to put U.S. policy in the region at a disadvantage. It focuses on things we cannot fully change while neglecting initiatives that would accrue to our benefit.

#### LA countries don’t want to work with the US

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

As well, such an approach does not take into account the reality that nations such as Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela do not particularly want to have a partnership with the U.S. at this juncture and that several are busily establishing hemispheric institutions that purposefully exclude the United States and Canada. Others, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean, have little capacity for a true partnership with Washington no matter how much they and we might want one. The disparities in size, wealth and power are just too great.

#### Latin American countries prefer China—less strings attached

Eric Farnsworth is vice president of the Council of the Americas, an international business organization based in New York, 7-11-2010, “What does China's wooing of Latin America mean for all the Americas?” http://www.sunjournal.com/perspective/story/876189, accessed 5-15-2013

And all investment is not the same. U.S. investment generally brings with it anti-corruption provisions, payment of taxes, technology transfer, management expertise, labor force protections and capacity building, corporate social responsibility and hiring at the local level. Chinese investment, not as much. The U.S. also has traditionally tried to use economic and financial incentives to encourage regional reforms.¶ China, on the other hand, promises only a commercial relationship without political or policy interference. They don't particularly care if the government in power is capitalist or populist, authoritarian or democratic, corrupt or not. They don't care if the government is pro-U.S. or anti-U.S. Their emphasis is to do business in the region undisturbed.¶ Despite the potential downside for long-term regional development, Chinese investment and trade are therefore an attractive option for regional leaders, particularly those seeking a course independent of the U.S. and liberal economic orthodoxy. On the flip side, U.S. ability to promote labor and environmental protections, human rights and the rule of law is being reduced, because the region now has other options.

### AT: Perm

#### Chinese and US engagement in Latin America trades off

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Jeffrey Davidow is the president of the Institute of the Americas and former assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere and ambassador to Venezuela and Mexico, 1-2011, “China, Latin America, and the United States: The New Triangle,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/LAP\_120810\_Triangle\_rpt.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

Building a strategic relationship with China is challenging not only ¶ because of low levels of Chinese investment in the region, but also ¶ because the investment that does occur generally employs Chinese laborers and materials brought over for specific infrastructure projects.¶ While China’s lack of human rights and environmental restrictions ¶ makes it an easier commercial partner as compared to the United States ¶ and Europe, the relationship lacks the deep cultural kinship that exists ¶ between Latin America and these other two areas of the world. Within ¶ this context, Cunningham posited that the relationship between China ¶ and Latin America will remain strictly commercial, but recommended ¶ that the United States be vigilant regarding the way that increasing ¶ commercial ties can transform into political alliances. In order for the ¶ United States to maintain its privileged relationship with the region, ¶ it must compete with China at the commercial level. This consists of ¶ lowering trade barriers to Latin American exports and expanding preexisting commercial and corporate ties.

#### Both actors means loss of US leverage

Isabel Hilton, formerly Latin America editor of The Independent newspaper and is editor of www.chinadialogue.net, 2-2013, “China in Latin America: Hegemonic Challenge?” NOREF, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow\_site/storage/original/ application/26ff1a0cc3c0b6d5692c8afbc054aad9.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

The availability of Chinese funds changes the Latin American political and social landscape in a number of ways. The Pacific nations of Peru, Chile, Panama and Mexico seek Chinese money for market reasons unconnected with a po-litical project, since these countries are building societies that are more consonant with U.S. than Chinese values. In other cases, however, the availability of Chinese funds signals a loss of political leverage for the United States and permits the survival of anti-U.S. governments – in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, for instance – that wish to pursue more radical political and social models. China, however, has exercised caution at times in its readiness to deploy lending. In November 2004, when Argentina’s President Kirchner secretly requested Chinese support to pay off Argentina’s debt to the International Monetary fund (IMf), China refused, apparently to avoid a direct challenge to U.S. influence.

#### Cooperation in Latin America means future conflict

Isabel Hilton, formerly Latin America editor of The Independent newspaper and is editor of www.chinadialogue.net, 2-2013, “China in Latin America: Hegemonic Challenge?” NOREF, Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, http://www.peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow\_site/storage/original/ application/26ff1a0cc3c0b6d5692c8afbc054aad9.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

China’s presence in Latin America is unlikely to diminish and will continue to affect its regional partners for the foreseeable future. Although this undoubtedly entails a loss of U.S. influence in the region, both China and the U.S. have so far sought cooperation rather than confrontation. In the context of the Obama administration’s “pivot” to Asia, however, and the latent, long-term strategic competition between China and the United States, there is potential for increasing competition for influence in the future. An escalation of tensions between China and U.S. allies in the South China or East China Sea could prompt China to raise retaliatory tensions in the U.S. backyard. At that point, the traditional Latin American allies of the U.S. could face some uncomfortable choices.

### AT: China Bad DAs

#### Chinese influence in Latin America is inevitable

R. Evan Ellis, PhD in political science and an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., 9-21-2006, “The New Chinese Engagement With Latin America: Understanding Its Dynamics and the Implications for the Region,” Air & Space Power Journal, http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2006/3tri06/elliseng.html, accessed 5-15-2013

More China-Orientation in Business and Popular Culture. In a broader sense, expanding economic interactions with China will also impact the business and popular culture of Latin America. The promise of China as a source of commercial opportunity has already led to a boom in schools teaching mandarin Chinese. Moreover, with expanding commerce, the number of Chinese nationals in the region will continue to increase, including not only businessmen, but also tourists and long-term immigrants. This demographic trend is likely to have a variety of repercussions. On one hand, it is likely to expand the presence of Chinese culture in the region, from entertainment to foods to style. Although Latin America may continue to be dominated by US culture, the degree of that domination is likely to wane in the decades to come. On the other hand, such human and cultural intermingling is also likely to foster new social tensions. Throughout the world, in places such as Malaysia and Indonesia, differences in customs and levels of economic prosperity between Chinese immigrant communities and established ethnic groups have been a source of societal tension and ethnic violence. The violence against the Chinese ethnic community in the Venezuelan state of Carabobo during the 2004 recall referendum serves as a reminder that Chinese communities in Latin America will have social and political repercussions for the countries in which they are found.

#### China aims to keep the region stable

Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Jeffrey Davidow is the president of the Institute of the Americas and former assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere and ambassador to Venezuela and Mexico, 1-2011, “China, Latin America, and the United States: The New Triangle,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/LAP\_120810\_Triangle\_rpt.pdf, accessed 5-15-2013

By contrast, Sanborn classified agreements between China and Latin ¶ American governments as “accommodationist.” China does not belong ¶ to the EITI, and one has only to look to Venezuela and Ecuador to observe that China adapts to changing rules of the game more successfully ¶ than its Western counterparts. China is not only looking for trade opportunities, but is also interested in the stability of Latin American societies and seeks local capacities for negotiation. Sanborn specifically addressed the case of Peru and its evolving relationship with China. In ¶ Peru, mineral exploitation accounts for one-fourth of tax revenues and 6 ¶ percent of GDP, though in certain regions mineral revenue constitutes ¶ up to half of GDP. Thirty-four percent of mineral investments in Peru ¶ are from China, and Peru represents 26 percent of China’s global mergers and acquisitions (M &A). Indeed, 40 percent of oil production ¶ in Peru is owned by China investors through a partnership between ¶ China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) and the Argentine firm ¶ Pluspetrol. Eight large Chinese firms are present in Peru’s extractive industries, and while six of them are purely state-owned, there are also ¶ private Chinese investors purchasing lots. Given that China is expected ¶ to invest $7 billion in minerals over the next five years, this trend is unlikely to wane.

#### Chinese influence benefits the US

Wang Xiaoxia, 5-6-2013, "In America's Backyard: China's Rising Influence In Latin America," No Publication, http://worldcrunch.com/china-2.0/in-america-039-s-backyard-china-039-s-rising-influence-in-latin-america/foreign-policy-trade-economy-investments-energy/c9s11647/, accessed 5-15-2013

China's involvement in the Latin American continent doesn’t constitute a threat to the United States, but brings benefits. It is precisely because China has reached "loans-for-oil" swap agreements with Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador and other countries that it brings much-needed funds to these oil-producing countries in South America. Not only have these funds been used in the field of oil production, but they have also safeguarded the energy supply of the United States, as well as stabilized these countries' livelihood -- and to a certain extent reduced the impact of illegal immigration and the drug trade on the U.S.¶ For South America, China and the United States, this is not a zero-sum game, but a multiple choice of mutual benefits and synergies. Even if China has become the Latin American economy’s new upstart, it is still not in a position to challenge the strong and diverse influence that the United States has accumulated over two centuries in the region.

### China Sphere of Influence Net-Benefit

#### China and US trade off in Latin America

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

Over the same period, the U.S. went from 53 to 39 percent of Latin American trade. To paraphrase Obama, this is not ideology—it’s math. While the U.S. remains the top trading partner overall, the challenge is readily apparent. In a post–Cold War world, where global competition is as much economic as military, the inability or unwillingness to contend for markets abroad has strategic implications. Complacently watching as established markets are captured by others is inexplicable, particularly when some of those markets were originally developed by years of patient, taxpayer-financed efforts to reduce violence, build capacity and support democracy. Just when the U.S. should be reaping the reward, others are swooping in to gain the advantage.¶ From a foreign policy perspective, the story is even more compelling. The reality is this: China’s still-early but growing efforts in the Americas provide Latin American and Caribbean nations with additional trade and investment options that reduce U.S. leverage to promote open market, democratic values.

#### Chinese engagement trades off with US leadership in Latin America

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

All of this lends itself to several policy options that require active consideration. For the first time in years, the U.S. faces a multifaceted rival in the region that requires a rethink of priorities, and the implementation of a true foreign policy (rather than development policy) agenda. The U.S. must now contend for Latin America, recapturing the initiative in a region that, with China’s engagement if not instigation, has begun to dismantle the previous U.S.-led consensus.

#### US and China at odds in Latin America

Eric Farnsworth, 1-2012, “Memo to Washington: China's Growing Presence in Latin America,” Americas Quarterly, http://www.americasquarterly.org/Farnsworth, accessed 5-15-2013

Despite conventional wisdom, trade is not a dirty word in the hemisphere. In fact, recent scholarship has found that positive attitudes toward the U.S. are correlated with increased trade with the United States. One way for the U.S. to improve its regional standing would be to again promote the idea of a hemispheric trade area among willing partners. Given China’s growing regional footprint, now is the time to promote such an initiative.6¶ The contrast is real. The hemisphere has a choice. It’s time to acknowledge the stakes and get on with the important work of fighting for the soul of the hemisphere.

## Capitalism K

### 1NC Capitalism Kritik 1/2

#### U.S. policymaking is completely subordinate to the service of capital. This informs every policy decision.

Samir Amin, Director of Third World Forum in Senegal, 7/8-2003, “Against Militarization and War: Confronting the Empire,” Centre for Research on Globalisation, <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/AMI305A.html>, accessed 5-6-2013

Politically, the U.S. state is designed to serve the economy and nothing else, abolishing the contradictory and dialectical relationship between economy and politics. The genocide carried out against the Native Americans, the enslavement of the blacks, the successive waves of immigration into the United States leading to the predominance of ethnic and racial conflict, as manipulated by the ruling class, at the expense of the maturation of class consciousness-have all combined to produce the political monopoly of U.S. society by the single party of capital. Both segments of this party share the same strategic global vision, though addressing their rhetoric to different "constituencies," themselves drawn from the less than half of U.S. society that believes sufficiently in the system to bother voting. Not benefiting from the tradition by which the social democratic worker's parties and the communists marked the formation of modem European political culture, American society does not have the ideological instruments at its disposal to allow it to resist the dictatorship of capital. On the contrary, capital shapes every aspect of this society's way of thinking, and reproduces itself by reinforcing the kind of deep-seated racism that allows U.S. society to see itself as constituting a master race.

#### Engagement decisions are made by capitalist elites in response to shifting market forces; the extrinsic benefits of engagement are irrelevant to its power in shaping capitalist development.

Immanuel Wallerstein, Senior Research Scholar at Yale University, 1996, “The Inter-State Structure of the Modern World System,” in International Theory: Positivism and Beyond, eds. Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zelewski, pp. 88-89.

It matters little whether the activity is transformational (agricultural, industrial) or service (merchandising, informational, transport, financial). At given times, and under given conditions, any of these activities may be core-like or peripheral, high-profit or low-profit. What matters first and foremost is the degree to which the activity is (can be) relatively monopolized at a given point in time. The successful entrepreneurs (capitalists) discern which kinds of economic activities have the possibility in the short run of a high degree of monopolisation, and whose products have or can be induced to have a considerable demand. A successful capitalist has no intrinsic commitment to product, to place, to country, or to type of economic activity. The commitment is to the accumulation of capital. Therefore, the capitalist will shift locus of economic engagement (product, place, country, type of activity) as shifts occur in the opportunities to maximise revenues from undertakings.

### 1NC Capitalism Kritik 2/2

#### Capitalism will cause extinction and is the root cause of every crisis.

Charles Brown, Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan, 4-13-2005, "Capitalism, Exploitation, and Oppression," PEN-L, http://archives.econ.utah.edu/archives/pen-l/2005w15/msg00062.html, accessed 5-6-2013

The capitalist class owns the factories, the banks, and transportation-the means of production and distribution. Workers sell their ability to work in order to acquire the necessities of life. Capitalists buy the workers' labor, but only pay them back a portion of the wealth they create. Because the capitalists own the means of production, they are able to keep the surplus wealth created by workers above and beyond the cost of paying worker's wages and other costs of production. This surplus is called "profit" and consists of unpaid labor that the capitalists appropriate and use to achieve ever-greater profits. These profits are turned into capital which capitalists use to further exploit the producers of all wealth-the working class. Capitalists are compelled by competition to seek to maximize profits. The capitalist class as a whole can do that only by extracting a greater surplus from the unpaid labor of workers by increasing exploitation. Under capitalism, economic development happens only if it is profitable to the individual capitalists, not for any social need or good. The profit drive is inherent in capitalism, and underlies or exacerbates all major social ills of our times. With the rapid advance of technology and productivity, new forms of capitalist ownership have developed to maximize profit. The working people of our country confront serious, chronic problems because of capitalism. These chronic problems become part of the objective conditions that confront each new generation of working people. The threat of nuclear war, which can destroy all humanity, grows with the spread of nuclear weapons, space-based weaponry, and a military doctrine that justifies their use in preemptive wars and wars without end. Ever since the end of World War II, the U.S. has been constantly involved in aggressive military actions big and small. These wars have cost millions of lives and casualties, huge material losses, as well as trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars. Threats to the environment continue to spiral, threatening all life on our planet.

#### Alternative: Vote Negative to refuse to prop-up capitalism. The collective desire to move beyond capital is the only alternative to slavery and extinction.

James Herod, retired educator and anti-capitalist philosopher, 2005, Getting Free, http://site.www.umb.edu/faculty/salzman\_g/Strate/GetFre/06.htm, accessed 5-5-2013.

Thus our strategy of gutting and eventually destroying capitalism requires at a minimum a totalizing image, an awareness that we are attacking an entire way of life and replacing it with another, and not merely reforming one way of life into something else. Many people may not be accustomed to thinking about entire systems and social orders, but everyone knows what a lifestyle is, or a way of life, and that is the way we should approach it. The thing is this: in order for capitalism to be destroyed millions and millions of people must be dissatisfied with their way of life. They must want something else and see certain existing things as obstacles to getting what they want. It is not useful to think of this as a new ideology. It is not merely a belief-system that is needed, like a religion, or like Marxism, or Anarchism. Rather it is a new prevailing vision, a dominant desire, an overriding need. What must exist is a pressing desire to live a certain way, and not to live another way. If this pressing desire were a desire to live free, to be autonomous, to live in democratically controlled communities, to participate in the self-regulating activities of a mature people, then capitalism could be destroyed. Otherwise we are doomed to perpetual slavery and possibly even to extinction.

### Link – Economic Engagement

#### Engagement is part of an overall strategy of capitalist hegemony to bring outlying nations into the fold of market forces.

Ashley Smith, member of the United National Antiwar Committee steering committee, member editorial board of the ISR, July-August 2011, “Rehabilitating U.S. Intervention,” International Socialist Review, <http://www.isreview.org/issues/78/feat-imperialism.shtml>, accessed 5-1-2013

Outlining his grand strategy in the National Security Strategy and Quadrennial Defense Review, Obama aims to use multilateral institutions to incorporate and subordinate international and regional rivals. In the National Security Strategy, he argues for the U.S. to focus its “engagement on strengthening international institutions and galvanizing the collective action that can serve common interests such as combating violent extremism; stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; achieving balanced and sustainable economic growth; and forging cooperative solutions to the threat of climate change, conflict, and pandemic disease.”

#### Engagement is a tool of capitalist discipline designed to secure and manage other nations.

Ashley Smith, member of the United National Antiwar Committee steering committee, member editorial board of the ISR, July-August 2011, “Rehabilitating U.S. Intervention,” International Socialist Review, <http://www.isreview.org/issues/78/feat-imperialism.shtml>, accessed 5-1-2013

By building this international architecture to serve U.S. interests, Obama plans to police and discipline those states and non-state actors identified as U.S. enemies. Despite this multilateral strategy, he does not rule out the use of unilateral means (such as the assassination of Osama bin Laden) or bilateral agreements outside international institutions when the United States cannot get its way through multilateral action. Through this strategy of engagement, Obama hopes to secure a world order under U.S. management and in its interests.

#### Interimperialist rivalry necessitates the economic penetration of outlying nations.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, 10-1999, “Notes on Political Economy,” <http://revcom.us/a/special_postings/poleco_e.htm>, accessed 4-25-2013

There is an interconnection between deepening imperialist penetration of the Third World and intensifying geoeconomic rivalry between the major imperialist powers. This is expressed in struggle over the exact terms of and enforcement authority behind new international trade and investment agreements (like the WTO). It is also expressed in the vying strategic agendas between the U.S. and Japan in APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum).

### Link – Engagement = Assimilation

#### Foreign economic engagement is a strategy to ideologically assimilate nations into the paradigm of free markets and capitalist ideology.

Spyros Sakellaropoulos, Assistant Professor of Social Policy at Panteion University, and Panagiotis Sotiris, academic and activist who lives on the island of Crete, 2008, “American Foreign Policy as Modern Imperialism: From Armed Humanitarianism to Preemptive War,” <http://guilfordjournals.com/doi/abs/10.1521/siso.2008.72.2.208>, accessed 5-6-2013.

The United States’ open endorsement of aggressive capitalist policies, restructuring of capitalist production, attacks on the welfare state, defense of property rights (especially intellectual property rights), free trade and generally all forms of reinstatement of capital’s power over labor on a global scale was an essential part of its hegemonic role. It was not just a domestic policy. It was more a strategic choice of class interests and a social basis for an expansive internationalization of capital, the very basis of modern imperialism (Wood, 2003). And although the growth of the financial sector has been described as a sign of the structurally weak and crisis-prone character of modern capitalism in general and the U. S. economy in particular (Brenner, 2002), we think that such a view underestimates the disciplinary character of international financial deregulation and the way it induces neoliberal policies and capitalist restructuring and enhances the hegemonic role of the United States (Rude, 2004). It was not only about the lowering of trade barriers or financial liberalization. It has more to do with the removal of most forms of protection that had aimed at safeguarding less productive capitals and traditional petty bourgeois strata against international competition and at guaranteeing forms of class compromise. It was not only an open-market policy serving U. S. firms; it also offered other capitalist social formations a way out of capitalist crisis and the use of international competition as pressure for capitalist restructuring. And this can explain why non-hegemonic formations might accept a global economic and financial architecture that actually puts greater stress on their domestic economies. We can say that with this internationalization of capital and capitalist restructuring there has been some sort of objective dialectic of hegemony at work. The entire strategy of internationalization became a strategic consideration to incorporate all ex-socialist countries into the economic, political, and ideological practices of the imperialist chain by means of their adoption of free market policies, dismantling of all forms of social protection, abolition of all barriers to foreign investment and full compliance with the current American strategy (Gowan, 1990; Gowan, 1995).

#### U.S. economic engagement props up market capitalism and benefits global elites, ignoring the world’s poor.

Dinker Raval and Bala Subramanian, retired professors at Morgan State University, 11-25-2011, “Time to Refocus Knowledge Engagement,” India Abroad, p. A19.

Historically, the US has followed the concept of engagement as a positive part of its foreign policy with its adversaries. After World War II, it followed the policy of political engagement with the Soviet Union. This eventually resulted in transforming the Soviet bloc countries into aspiring democracies. President Richard Nixon's political engagements of China paid off by bringing China out of its isolation and into the world community. At the end of the 20th century, economic engagement became the policy focus to promote market economic model, after the Soviet economic model collapsed. Although the US engagement strategies paid off in mitigating many global challenges, the real strength of the US as a nation that cherishes values of individual freedom, choice and openness did not catch world's imagination. The political and economic engagement strategies, though successful, were not effective in transmitting the real image of America to the masses. A possible reason is that the benefits of these engagements reached only the powerful and elitists and not the average person. The average person remained unaware of the real America. For example, its economic engagement strategy encouraged globalization of the markets, which benefitted multinationals, but not the billions of poor at the ‘bottom of the pyramid.’

### Link – Engagement = Assimilation Cont…

#### The goal of global economic integration is fundamentally imperialist; history proves it has been a strategy of empire.

Gareth Austin, Professor of Economics at The Graduate Institute, Geneva, 2005, "Economic Imperialism," The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History, <http://www.oup.com/us/pdf/economic.history/imperialism.pdf>, accessed 4-28-2013

Much of the history of global economic integration, including the reduction of transaction costs that provided the framework for price convergence in goods and eventually in factor markets, has been the history of imperialism. In principle, the results of empire might be distinguished from those of peaceful migration and trade: but the distinction is meaningless when conquest was a precondition of foreign settlement, or for mercantilism, or where free trade was imposed by foreign guns. That the populations of Australasia and the Americas speak European languages would not have happened without the violent seizure of overseas territory. Empire has been central to both the fact and the form of integration in the global economy during the last five hundred years.

### Link – Cuba

#### Foreign investment based on capitalist economic models dooms Cuba's path towards worker ownership and economic democracy.

Keith Harrington, contributing writer and activist, 1-17-2013, "New Cuba: Beachhead for Economic Democracy Beyond Capitalism," Truthout.org, http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/13918-the-new-cuba-a-beachhead-for-economic-democracy-we-should-support, accessed 5-6-2013

In short, the worker-ownership movement could greatly benefit from a national-scale economic environment that will allow cooperative enterprises to develop according to their own particular democratic nature and exhibit their true potential, free from the profit-above-all dictates of capitalism. No country bears as much promise in this respect than contemporary Cuba. Nevertheless, for Cuba's experiment to work, all efforts should be made to steer the economy and the behavior of the country's emergent private entrepreneurial class in a direction that comports with the ethos and objectives of economic democracy. Above all, this would likely require severe restrictions, if not an outright ban, on the entry of large foreign capitalist firms or the establishment of large domestic capitalist firms. For, as economists such as Jamee Moudud of Sarah Lawrence University and many structuralist thinkers have pointed out, as jobs and tax revenues become dependent on the success of capitalist firms, societies become constrained in their ability to pursue developmental paths that do not prioritize capitalist accumulation. Accordingly, during the early years of the cooperative experiment, Cuba should seek to limit foreign direct investment to cooperative or triple-bottom-line firms as much as possible, facilitate joint-ventures between such firms and its own cooperatives and continue to seek industrial loans largely from committed social democratic partners such as Venezuela, and other "pink-tide" trade partners.

#### Cuba’s move toward market reforms is tentative; U.S. engagement is decisive.

Damien Cave, Staffwriter, 11-19-2012, “Easing of Restraints in Cuba Renews Debate on U.S. Embargo,” New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/20/world/americas/changes-in-cuba-create-support-for-easing-embargo.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0>, accessed 4-28-2013

The longstanding logic has been that broad sanctions are necessary to suffocate the totalitarian government of Fidel and Raúl Castro. Now, especially for many Cubans who had previously stayed on the sidelines in the battle over Cuba policy, a new argument against the embargo is gaining currency — that the tentative move toward capitalism by the Cuban government could be sped up with more assistance from Americans.

#### Engagement emboldens capitalist reformers in Cuba.

Damien Cave, Staffwriter, 11-19-2012, “Easing of Restraints in Cuba Renews Debate on U.S. Embargo,” New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/20/world/americas/changes-in-cuba-create-support-for-easing-embargo.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0>, accessed 4-28-2013

Even as defenders of the embargo warn against providing the Cuban government with “economic lifelines,” some Cubans and exiles are advocating a fresh approach. The Obama administration already showed an openness to engagement with Cuba in 2009 by removing restrictions on travel and remittances for Cuban Americans. But with Fidel Castro, 86, retired and President Raúl Castro, 81, leading a bureaucracy that is divided on the pace and scope of change, many have begun urging President Obama to go further and update American policy by putting a priority on assistance for Cubans seeking more economic independence from the government. “Maintaining this embargo, maintaining this hostility, all it does is strengthen and embolden the hard-liners,” said Carlos Saladrigas, a Cuban exile and co-chairman of the Cuba Study Group in Washington, which advocates engagement with Cuba. “What we should be doing is helping the reformers.”

### Link – Mexico

#### Trade between the U.S. and Mexico props up the exploitation of workers on both sides of the border and entrenches corporatism, environmental degradation, and poverty.

Mark Karlin, editor of BuzzFlash at Truthout, 7-15-2012, “The 1% Connection: Mexico and the United States, Crony Capitalism and the Exploitation of Labor Through NAFTA,” Truthout.org, http://truth-out.org/news/item/10309-the-1-connection-mexico-and-the-united-states-crony-capitalism-and-the-exploitation-of-labor-through-nafta, accessed 5-5-2013

Free trade, such as NAFTA, is a way of exploiting labor without national boundaries and ravaging the environment in pursuit of higher corporate profits. Borders only exist for poor migrants seeking money to keep themselves and their families alive. The victims of this trade policy - and its synergistic companion, crony capitalism - eke out an existence on both sides of the Mexican-United States border. In reporting on the rise in poverty despite the gross domestic product of Mexico actually increasing in the last two years, the director of Amnesty International in Mexico told The Los Angeles Times: "Behind these figures are people with stories of injustice, dispossession, discrimination and insecurity." So it also goes in the United States. There is no border wall for economic injustice.

#### U.S. economic engagement with Mexico guarantees further pro-market reforms and integrates Mexico into U.S. capitalism.

Eric Farnsworth and Michael Werz, vice president of the Council of the Americas and Americas Society, and Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, 11-30-2013, “The United States and Mexico: The Path Forward,” Center for American Progress, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2012/11/30/46430/the-united-states-and-mexico-the-path-forward/>, accessed 4-29-2013

Given this backdrop, the new Mexican president needs major political and policy successes in 2013 to consolidate power within his own party and secure congressional majorities for an ongoing economic reform process. Here, the United States has an important role to play: The two countries are intertwined in a unique way and thus the political success of Enrique Peña Nieto will, at least in part, be impacted by what happens north of the border. And the to-do list for the United States is extensive, but it is largely focused on economic policy and immigration reform. Immigration reform is increasingly likely to dominate the domestic debate once the fiscal cliff is resolved. President-Elect Peña Nieto made a strong endorsement of immigration reform at his Washington press conference with President Obama this week, stating that he fully supports President Obama’s proposal. Even though a strong majority of Americans support a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the country, it will remain a difficult legislative battle. And while aligning with a popular U.S. president who will be viewed as fighting to legalize Mexican nationals makes obvious sense, there is some risk that a failed legislative effort will trigger collateral damage to Peña Nieto’s image in Mexico. On the economic front, the success of the new Mexican administration’s economic reform and growth agenda is a core interest of the United States. A number of policy fields will be crucial to create a successful North American growth model and will elevate the transactional partnership with Mexico to a strategic relationship much like the United States enjoys with Canada.

#### Engagement solidifies Mexico as an arm of U.S. capital.

Oscar Montealegre, Contributing Editor, 1-24-2013, “U.S.-Mexico Relations: Love Thy Neighbor,” Diplomatic Courier, <http://www.diplomaticourier.com/news/regions/latin-america/1331-us-mexico-relations-love-thy-neighbor>, accessed 4-28-2013

The interconnectedness between both countries strongly conveys why the dialogue should revolve around bilateral trade and commerce agendas. For Mexico, 30 percent of GDP is dependent on exports, and 80 percent of exports are tagged to the U.S. Most importantly, one of ten Mexicans lives in the U.S., accounting for nearly 12 million Mexicans that consider the U.S. their current residence. Add in their descendants, and approximately 33 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans reside in the U.S. Let’s put this figure in perspective: Venezuela has a population of 29 million; Greece, 11 million; and Canada, 34 million. Essentially we have a ‘country’ within a country—the beauty of America—but it must be embraced instead of shunned or ignored. Economically, it is a plus for Mexico, because there is a market for Mexican products; it is also a plus for the U.S. in many areas, including soft power, diversity, direct linkages to Mexico and Latin America. A cadre of American-born and educated human capital are able to cross cultures into Mexico and Latin America to conduct business and politics.

### Link – Venezuela

#### U.S. engagement with Venezuela undermines the Bolivarian anti-capitalist movement.

Dane Bryant, management consultant and freelance writer, 9-28-2012, “Chávez or Not, It's Time to Rethink the U.S.-Venezuela Relationship,” World Politics Review, <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/12380/chavez-or-not-its-time-to-rethink-the-u-s-venezuela-relationship>, accessed 5-2-2013

This is why the second plank of Washington’s Venezuela policy must emphasize sustainable economic growth. Regardless of next week’s election outcome, any serious response to the challenges that Venezuela poses to U.S. regional interests must address the country’s socio-economic inequalities, which Chávez has depended upon for popular support throughout his political career. Solving the widespread social exclusion and poverty that fuel the Bolivarian movement, if only incrementally, will be critical if the United States is to make any inroads in what could be a vital partnership.

#### Venezuela serves as a nexus of the anticapitalist struggle in Latin America.

Jonathan Nack, Oakland-based activist and journalist, 4-13-2013, "So Much Is at Stake in Venezuela's Presidential Election," San Francisco Bay View, http://sfbayview.com/2013/so-much-is-at-stake-in-venezuelas-presidential-election/, accessed 4-28-2013

Why is Venezuela so important? Why does it lead the way? There’s no getting around it: An awful lot of it is because of the tremendous oil wealth Venezuela has. Oil is one commodity that the developed world cannot do without, that capitalists will pay dearly for; and the huge revenues the Venezuelan government derives from it form a large part of the funding for the projects and social benefits of the Bolivarian Revolution. The oil wealth is the beginning of the story, but far from the end. The late President Chavez declared many times that the Bolivarian Revolution aspires to regional liberation, to unite Latin America and the Caribbean against the powers of corporate capitalism and the U.S. empire. To give birth to something new Chavez called “Socialism for the 21st Century,” not just for Venezuela, not just in the Americas, but for the world. The words of President Chavez were matched by deeds. Many countries, first and foremost Cuba, received generous long-term deals for the purchase of Venezuelan oil on very favorable terms, even including some barter agreements. Venezuela led the formation of a new regional alliance spearheaded by leftist led governments called ALBA, The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (Spanish: Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América, or ALBA). Along with Venezuela, key member nations, Cuba, Bolivia and Ecuador, form the core of this regional block which has grown to include 10 nations.

#### Venezuela serves as an example of socially-owned wealth and alternatives to capitalism.

Roberto Jorquera, member of Revolutionary Socialist Party and organizer of Australian-Venezuela Solidarity Network brigade, 11-2008, "Revolutionary Venezuela and the Capitalist Crisis," Direct Action, http://directaction.org.au/issue6/revolutionary\_venezuela\_and\_the\_capitalist\_crisis, accessed 5-5-2013.

Though no country will be immune from the effects of the current capitalist world economic meltdown, the example of Venezuela clearly shows what is possible with an increasingly socially-owned economy directed by a government that serves the interests of working people rather than profits of capitalist corporations.

### Capitalism Bad – Totalitarianism

#### Capitalist logic culminates in total domination, violence, and war.

Istvan Mezsaros, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Sussex University, 2008, The Challenge and Burden of Historical Time, p. 116.

The military dimension of all this must be taken very seriously. It is no exaggeration to say-also in view of the formerly quite unimaginable destructive power of armaments accumulated in the second half of the twentieth century-that we have entered into the most dangerous phase of imperialism in all history. For what is at stake today is not the control of a particular, no matter how large, part of the planet, putting at a disadvantage but still tolerating the independent actions of some rivals, but the control of its totality by one hegemonic economic and military superpower, with all means-even the most extreme authoritarian and, if needed, violent military ones-at its disposal. This is what the ultimate rationality of globally developed capital requires, in its vain attempt to bring under control its irreconcilable antagonisms. The trouble is, though, that such rationality-which genuinely corresponds to the logic of capital at the present historical stage of global development-is at the same time the most extreme form of irrationality in history, including the Nazi conception of world domination, as far as the conditions required for the survival of humanity are concerned.

#### Capitalism spurs fascism and war; history proves it’s worse than totalitarian communism.

Norman Pollack, Guggenheim Fellow, and professor of history emeritus, Michigan State University, 4-15-2013, “Testing Hegemony,” Counterpunch, <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/04/15/testing-hegemony/>, accessed 5-1-2013

For me, the advanced stage of capitalism, in which militarization of its structure, values, and hierarchical social relations is the dynamic element of its mature organization, reveals an inner core of fascism, waiting to be activated through war, depression, or other cataclysmic event. With complexity comes potential destabilization. (Max Weber’s insight, as I interpret his Theory of Social and Economic Organization, is that at the heart of the rational-legal order lies the charismatic, testifying to capitalism’s fragility and need for absolute order.) From a democratic standpoint, stripped of nationalistic fervor, North Korea—returning to our analysis—cannot possibly inflict the global damage of which the United States is capable, not because of size or nuclear arsenal, but because of electing to stand on the wrong side of history.

#### Capitalism causes war and totalitarianism.

Nick Beams, National Secretary of the Socialist Equality Party (Australia), 11-10-2012, “A Major Shift in the Global Economy,” World Socialist Web Site, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2012/11/pers-n10.html>, accessed 5-1-2013.

Faced with the ongoing breakdown of the global capitalist economy, the response of the ruling class the world over is to intensify its attacks on the working class. The re-elected Obama administration has made its first item of business the institution of sweeping spending cuts, above all to social security entitlements. In Europe, the austerity programs that have brought depression-like conditions to Spain and Greece are going to be intensified. And in China, the stimulus measures of the past four years have run into the brick wall of the global downturn. The turn in the world economy poses decisive political challenges to the working class. The first step in meeting them is the recognition that the capitalist system has failed and there is not going to be a return to “normal” conditions. The “new normal” is a return to the conditions of the Great Depression—war, mass unemployment and dictatorial forms of rule.

### Capitalism Bad – War

#### Capitalism is the root cause of war.

Bill Van Auken, former Presidential candidate for the Socialist Equality Party, 4-3-2013, “The Terrible Cost of Washington’s Wars,” World Socialist Web Site, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2013/04/03/pers-a03.html>, accessed 4-30-2013.

As these layers have moved ever further to the right, the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI) alone has defended and developed a Marxist perspective on war. For over two decades, from the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, it has analyzed the explosive eruption of American militarism as a reflection of the crisis of US imperialism and its attempt to offset its historic decline by exploiting its continuing military superiority. The ICFI has further explained that the escalating imperialist violence abroad is inseparably bound up with the ever-widening social chasm separating the ruling financial oligarchy from the mass of working people at home. It follows that a genuine movement against war and colonialism can be developed only through the independent political mobilization and international unification of the working class in struggle against the root cause of war, the capitalist system. With the events unfolding in Africa, this perspective has been thoroughly vindicated.

#### The inherently predatory nature of capitalism makes war inevitable.

William T. Hathaway, Adjunct Professor of American Studies at the University of Oldenburg, 9-16-2012, "Capitalism is Always at War," Dandelion Salad, http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/capitalism-is-always-at-war-by-william-t-hathaway/, accessed 5-1-2013.

Capitalism is inherently predatory. It demands aggressive growth. It’s either dominate or go under. This drive for domination is the root cause of war, and until we eliminate it, we’re going to continue killing one another. Eliminating it requires a global struggle to bring down oligarchic capitalism and replace it with democratic socialism. Political democracy must be expanded and extended into the economic sphere. We, the people of the world, have to take control of the forces that shape our lives. This is the basis for building a society in which we can all fully develop as human beings. Once we achieve this, we’ll have a real chance at lasting peace.

#### Economic hierarchy makes war inevitable.

William T. Hathaway, Adjunct Professor of American Studies at the University of Oldenburg, 9-16-2012, "Capitalism is Always at War," Dandelion Salad, http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/capitalism-is-always-at-war-by-william-t-hathaway/, accessed 5-1-2013.

Goering was right about the democracies that existed both then and now. In these, the people’s influence in politics is regulated to ensure that only pro-capitalist parties have a chance. Corporate financing, winner-take-all elections, ballot-access laws, and slanted media coverage effectively exclude alternatives. Democracy means power is in the hands of the people. But the real power in our society — economic power — remains firmly in the hands of the rich elite, enabling them to control politics — and us — to a large degree. Capitalism is always at war. The violence, though, is often abstract: forcing us either to accept low-paying, exhausting jobs or starve; denying us adequate health care, education, and economic security; convincing us that human beings are basically isolated, autonomous units seeking self-gratification. But when this doesn’t suffice to keep their profits growing, the violence becomes physical, the cannons roar, and the elite rally us to war to defend “our” country and destroy the fiendish enemy.

### Capitalism Bad – Environment

#### The logic of capital culminates in the complete destruction of nature.

Istvan Mezsaros, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Sussex University, 2008, The Challenge and Burden of Historical Time, p. 116.

The sobering truth is that capital's universalizing tendency can never come to fruition within its own framework, for capital must decree that the barriers which it cannot transcend--namely its innermost structural limitations are the insurmountable limits of all production in general. At the same time, what should indeed be recognized and respected as an inviolable limit and vital condition of ongoing development that is, nature in all its complexity as the foundation of humanity's very existence is totally disregarded in the systematic subjugation, degradation, and ultimate destruction of nature. This is so because the ultimately blind interest of capital expansion must overrule even the most elementary conditions of human life as directly rooted in nature. Consequently on both counts, i.e., both in relation to what capital refuses to acknowledge: its own structural limits, and with regard to its incorrigibly destructive impact on nature: the vital substratum of human life itself, a conscious break must be made from the self-serving determinations of the capital system.

#### Capitalism is the root cause of all environmental destruction and is a necessary component of the drive for profits.

John Bellamy Foster, Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, 6-15-2002, “Capitalism and Ecology: The Nature of the Contradiction,” Monthly Review, http://monthlyreview.org/2002/09/01/capitalism-and-ecology, accessed 5-6-2013

Ecological degradation, like imperialism, is as basic to capitalism as the pursuit of profits itself (which depend to a large extent upon it). Nor should the environmental problem be seen largely through the economic prism in the sense that it derives its significance from the extent to which it generates economic crisis for capitalism. As Rosa Luxemburg pointed out, song birds were dying out not because they were directly part of capitalism, or its conditions of production, but simply because their habitat was destroyed in the process of the system's relentless expansion. Luxemburg rightly did not connect this phenomenon to economic crisis, but this did not stop her from raging against the destruction of what she called "these defenseless little creatures." There is no doubt that Luxemburg believed that the economy could be organized under socialism so as to lessen such destruction. But her reasons for advocating change were not in this case economic, though they were consistent with materialism. The ultimate strength of Marxist analysis has never resided chiefly in its economic crisis theory, nor even in its analysis of class struggle as such, but lies much deeper in its materialist conception of history, both human and natural--understood, as this only truly can be, as a dialectical and endlessly contingent process.

#### Capitalism destroys the environment by creating a state of addiction to commodity consumption that necessitates poverty and waste.

Joel Kovel Professor of Social Studies at Bard College, 2002, The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World? pg 66-68.

The culture of advanced capital aims to turn society into addicts of commodity consumption, a state ‘good for business’, and, pari passu, had for ecologies. The evil is doubled, with reckless consumption leading to pollution and waste, and the addiction to commodities creating a society unable to comprehend, much less resist, the ecological crisis. Once time is bound in capitalist production, the subtle attunement to natural rhythms required for an ecological sensibility becomes thwarted. This allows accumulation itself to appear as natural. People with mentalities warped by the casino complex are simply not going to think in terms of limits and balances, or of the mutual recognition of all beings. This helps account for the chorus of hosannas from presumably intelligent authorities at the nightmarish prospect of a doubling of economic product in the next 20 years. Thus capital produces wealth without end, but also poverty, insecurity and waste, as part of its disintegration of ecosystems.

### Capitalism Bad – Climate/Environment

#### Capitalism is the root cause of the climate crisis, threatening all life.

Simon Butler, contributing writer, 3-13-2013, "Capitalism Root Cause of Climate Crisis, New Book Shows," Green Left Weekly, http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/53605, accessed 5-6-2013.

Hans Baer, a Melbourne-based anthropologist and radical activist, says all of these answers are unsatisfactory, and many downright dangerous. His new book, Global Capitalism and Climate Change, probes for answers in the web of social and economic relationships that define modern life. He says the root cause of the climate emergency is capitalism — a global economic system that “systematically exploits human beings and the natural environment”. He concludes we need “a vision of an alternative world system, one based on two cardinal principles — namely social equity and justice and environmental sustainability.” Baer says environmental destruction is inherent to capitalism because it only thrives on “profit-making” and “continued economic expansion”. Unable to jump off its “treadmill of production and consumption”, the system must continue to generate ever higher levels of waste and consumption, even though this threatens life on the planet.

#### Capitalism is the root cause of environmental degradation; this is why technological fixes within the current paradigm won't solve ecological crises.

Brett Clark, assistant Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State University, and Richard York, associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, 11-1-2008, "Rifts and Shifts: Getting to the Root of Environmental Crisis," Monthly Review, http://monthlyreview.org/2008/11/01/rifts-and-shifts-getting-to-the-root-of-environmental-crises, accessed 5-1-2013

The ecological crisis is thus presented as a technical problem that can be fixed within the current system, through better ingenuity, technological innovation, and the magic of the market. In this view, the economy will be increasingly dematerialized, reducing demands placed on nature. The market will ensure that new avenues of capital accumulation are created in the very process of dealing with environmental challenges. Yet, this line of thought ignores the root causes of the ecological crisis. The social metabolic order of capitalism is inherently anti-ecological, since it systematically subordinates nature in its pursuit of endless accumulation and production on ever larger scales. Technical fixes to socio-ecological problems typically have unintended consequences and fail to address the root of the problems: the political-economic order. Rather than acknowledging metabolic rifts, natural limits, and/or ecological contradictions, capital seeks to play a shell game with the environmental problems it generates, moving them around rather than addressing the root causes.

#### The impact is linear: The more capitalism expands, the more it degrades the environment.

Brett Clark, assistant Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State University, and Richard York, associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon, 11-1-2008, "Rifts and Shifts: Getting to the Root of Environmental Crisis," Monthly Review, http://monthlyreview.org/2008/11/01/rifts-and-shifts-getting-to-the-root-of-environmental-crises, accessed 5-1-2013

Paul Sweezy explained that the capitalist economic system “is one that never stands still, one that is forever changing, adopting new and discarding old methods of production and distribution, opening up new territories, subjecting to its purposes societies too weak to protect themselves.” Thus, the tendency of capital is to violate the natural conditions that ensure nature’s vitality, undermining the base on which ecological and human sustainability depends. In part, this is because capital freely appropriates nature and its bounty—it is “purely a matter of utility.” The exploitation of nature and labor serve “as a means to the paramount ends of profit-making and still more capital accumulation.” Hence, the expansion and intensification of the social metabolic order of capital generates rifts in natural cycles and process, forcing a series of shifts on the part of capital, as it expands environmental degradation.

### Capitalism Bad – Democracy

#### Economic hierarchy renders democracy futile.

Richard D. Wolff, Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, 1-10-2013, "When Democracy Is Trumped by the Excesses of Capitalism," Truthout.org, http://truth-out.org/progressivepicks/item/13812-when-democracy-is-trumped-by-the-excesses-of-capitalism, accessed 5-5-2013.

What happens if we shift our focus from economics to politics? Politics in the United States has become utterly dependent on and corrupted by financial contributions to candidates, political parties, lobbyists, think tanks, and special committees, recently further enabled by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. The disparity of interests between capitalists and workers and the disparity of the concentrated resources they can and do devote to supporting their favored positions, politicians, and parties undermine a democratic politics.

#### Capitalism allows the rich to hijack the political process and robs the people of necessary information for a functioning democracy.

Richard D. Wolff, Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, 1-10-2013, "When Democracy Is Trumped by the Excesses of Capitalism," Truthout.org, http://truth-out.org/progressivepicks/item/13812-when-democracy-is-trumped-by-the-excesses-of-capitalism, accessed 5-5-2013.

In fact, we must question the very possibility of genuine democracy in a society in which capitalism is the basic economic system. A functioning democracy would require that all people be provided with the time, information, counsel, and other supports needed to participate effectively in decision-making in the workplace and at the local, regional, and national levels of their residential communities. The economic realities of capitalism preclude that for the overwhelming majority of workers, in stark contrast to corporate directors, top managers, their professional staff, and all those with significant incomes from property (above all, their property in shares of capitalist enterprises). Such persons also have concentrated wealth in the forms of their enterprises' surpluses and/or their personal property that they can donate to their preferred representatives among the society's major institutions, parties, and candidates.

#### Corporations have hijacked the democratic process, making capitalism outstrip democracy.

Robert B. Reich, former Secretary of Labor, 8-15-2007, "How Capitalism is Killing Democracy," Foreign Policy, http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2007/08/15/how\_capitalism\_is\_killing\_democracy, accessed 5-1-2013

Why has capitalism succeeded while democracy has steadily weakened? Democracy has become enfeebled largely because companies, in intensifying competition for global consumers and investors, have invested ever greater sums in lobbying, public relations, and even bribes and kickbacks, seeking laws that give them a competitive advantage over their rivals. The result is an arms race for political influence that is drowning out the voices of average citizens. In the United States, for example, the fights that preoccupy Congress, those that consume weeks or months of congressional staff time, are typically contests between competing companies or industries.

### Alternative Solves – Rejection Key

#### The struggle against capital must occur outside of bourgeois politics. This is the key to solving militarism and war.

Bill Van Auken, former Presidential candidate for the Socialist Equality Party, 4-3-2013, “The Terrible Cost of Washington’s Wars,” World Socialist Web Site, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2013/04/03/pers-a03.html>, accessed 4-30-2013.

The vast resources wasted and the incalculable human suffering inflicted by the bloated US military and intelligence apparatus pose the urgency of building a genuine mass movement against militarism and war. This can develop only as an independent social and political movement of the working class directed against the capitalist system.

#### Opposition to capital must be directed against the entire structure of the existing social system, requiring a rejection of all conventional politics.

Andre Damon and Joseph Kishore, contributing writer and National Secretary of the Socialist Equality Party (USA), 3-4-2013, “The Financial Aristocracy and the Growth of Working Class Struggle,” World Socialist Web Site, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2013/03/04/pers-m04.html>, accessed 4-30-2013.

The malignant character of social relations infects every political institution. The entire organism stinks of corruption. Both political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, function as direct instruments for the enrichment of the ruling class. Nothing can be changed through this political system. Social struggle is required. The working class must fight back, countering the dictates of the ruling elite through collective action. Social conflict is, indeed, inevitable. It has already begun to emerge in explosive forms in countries around the world, and the first signs of the coming eruption can be seen in the United States itself. For these struggles to succeed, however, opposition must be based on a clearly worked out political program—one that is directed against the entire structure of the existing social system

#### A unified vision is necessary to defeat capitalism

Michael A. Lebowitz, Professor emeritus of Economics at Simon Fraser University, 1-17-2013, "Capitalism, Crises, and a Socialist Alternative: In Conversation With Michael A. Lebowitz," MR Zine, http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2013/lebowitz170113.html, accessed 5-1-2013

Anti-capitalism means something different for everyone. For some people, it is opposition to big corporations; for others, it is opposition to the banks or the capitalist state or money or large-scale industry, international capital or inequality in income and wealth. Accordingly, the perceived alternative can range from breaking up the corporations to developing alternative currencies to supporting cooperatives and credit unions to putting an end to private ownership of the means of production and to returning simply to the good old days when people could anticipate a good job, a home of their own and all the amenities that their parents had. The multiplicity of views about what we don't like about capitalism (ie, anti-capitalism) was apparent in the Occupy movement. Of course people should struggle against every assault by capital and every violation of our conceptions of justice. Marx made the point well: without the struggles of workers over wages, workers would be a 'heartbroken, a weak-minded, a worn-out, unresisting mass' and would be incapable of any larger struggles. Of course, too, it is essential to try to link these struggles. However, in the absence of a positive vision, capital can and will separate and defeat those who oppose it.

### Alternative Solves – Every Act Key

#### Every refusal and act of negativity can challenge capitalism.

Charlie Post, sociology teacher in New York City and member of American Federation of Teachers, 2002, “A Critical Loon at *Empire*,” Solidarity, <http://www.solidarity-us.org/node/1195>, accessed 5-6-2013

In this world, all those who are subject to the vicissitudes of capitalist production and reproduction-whether they labor collectively in workplaces under the command of capital or are excluded from social production through unemployment, forced migration and the like-are equally part of a new revolutionary subject. According to Hardt and Negri 'the multitude has internalized the lack of place and fixed time; it is mobile and flexible, and it conceives the future only as a totality of possibilities that branch out in every direction.' (p. 380) Almost any act of 'negativity' - the refusal to work, migration from one part of the world to another, confrontations with the police, strike action - are equally powerful forms of resistance because 'the construction of Empire, and the globalization of economic and cultural relationships, means that the virtual center of Empire can be attacked from any point.'

#### Consciousness-building among all anti-capitalist social movements is the key to defeating capital.

Michael A. Lebowitz, Professor emeritus of Economics at Simon Fraser University, 1-17-2013, "Capitalism, Crises, and a Socialist Alternative: In Conversation With Michael A. Lebowitz," MR Zine, http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2013/lebowitz170113.html, accessed 5-1-2013

Defeating capital won't happen spontaneously through some kind of collective epiphany. It requires conscious effort. But any attempt to create at this point a party to defeat capital would be viewed correctly as just another vanguard sect promising to deliver socialism. It is important to start from people's conception of fairness and to understand why they are moved to struggle. However, we need to recognise the limits of guerrilla wars against capital and to learn to work together in practice to build an understanding about the nature of capitalism and the need for a socialist vision. That means finding ways to create spaces where popular movements can learn from each other -- spaces and new forms like people's assemblies at every level. We need but we're not ready to form a socialist party that can defeat capital. But we can develop a socialist project, one which listens, educates, and helps to create the basis for a new type of party which is integral to and does not stand over and above social movements.

#### A constant intellectual attack on capitalism enables the paradigm shift necessary to overthrow it.

Joel Kovel Professor of Social Studies at Bard College, 2002, The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World? pp 223-224.

Revolutions become feasible when a people decides that their present social arrangements are intolerable, when they believe that they can achieve a better alternative, and when the balance of forces between them and that of the system is tipped in their favour. None of these conditions is close to being met at present for the ecosocialist revolution, which would seem to make the exercise upon which we are about to embark academic. But the present is one thing, and the future another. If the argument that capital is incorrigibly ecodestructive and expansive proves to be true, then it is only a question of time before the issues raised here achieve explosive urgency. And considering what is at stake and how rapidly events can change under such circumstances, it is most definitely high time to take up the question of ecosocialism as a living process — to consider what its vision of society may be and what kind of path there may be towards its achievement. The present chapter is the most practical and yet also the most speculative of this work. Beaten down by the great defeats of Utopian and socialist ideals, few today even bother to think about the kinds of society that could replace the present with one of ecological rationality, and most of that speculation is within a green paradigm limited by an insufficient appreciation of the regime of capital and of the depths needed for real change. Instead, Greens tend to imagine an orderly extension of community, accompanied by the use of instruments that have been specifically created to keep the present system going, such as parliamentary elections and various tax policies. Such measures make transformative sense, however, only if seen as prefigurations of something more radical - something by definition not immediately on the horizon. It will be our job here to begin the process of drawing in this not-yet-seen. The only certainty is that the result will at most be a rough and schematic model of what actually might emerge. However uncertain the end point, the first two steps on the path are clearly laid out, and are within the reach of every conscientious person. These are that people ruthlessly criticize the capitalist system ‘from top to bottom’, and that they include in this a consistent attack on the widespread belief that there can be no alternative to it. If one believes that capital is not only basically unjust but radically unsustainable as well, the prime obligation is to spread the news, just as one should feel obliged to tell the inhabitants of a structurally unsound house doomed to collapse of what awaits them unless they take drastic measures.

### AT: Permutation

#### Hybridization guts the solvency of the alternative: The forces of capital will coopt the energy of the anti-capitalist movement, using it to solve its structural crises.

Istvan Mezsaros, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Sussex University, 2008, The Challenge and Burden of Historical Time, p. 35.

One more problem must be briefly mentioned in this context: the "hybridization" in evidence even in the capitalistically most advanced countries. Its principal dimension is the ever-greater direct and indirect involvement of the state in safeguarding the continued viability of capital's mode of social metabolic reproduction. Despite all protestations to the contrary, coupled with neoliberal fantasies about rolling back the boundaries of the state, the capital system could not survive for a week without the massive backing it constantly receives from the state. I have discussed this problem elsewhere, and therefore a brief mention should suffice here. The point is that what Marx called the "extraneous help" given by Henry VIII and others to early capitalist developments has reappeared in the twentieth century in an unimaginably massive form, from common agricultural policies and export guarantees to immense state-financed research funds and to the insatiable appetite of the military-industrial complex." `What makes the problem much worse is that no amount of it is ever enough. Capital, at the present phase of historical development, has become totally dependent on an ever-increasing provision of extraneous help. In this respect, too, we are approaching a systemic limit in that we are confronted by the chronic insufficiency of extraneous help in regard to what the state is now capable of delivering. Indeed, the structural crisis of capital is inseparable from the chronic insufficiency of such extraneous help under conditions in which the defects and failures of this antagonistic system of societal reproduction call for an unlimited supply of it.

#### Mixing the bourgeois state and the workers’ movement upholds the illusions of the capitalist state, destroying the long-term goals of the anticapitalist movement.

Michael Wainwright, former member of Socialist Party of Great Britain, 3-29-2006, "Marxism and the State," Socialist Alternative, http://www.socialistalternative.org/literature/state/ch1.html, accessed 5-1-13.

Whilst it is certainly true that our demands need to engage with, and intersect, the existing consciousness of workers if we are ever going to change it, it seems obvious to me that the demands we raise today must be consistent with our long term goals, or at least not contradict them. The problem with calls for achieving socialism through bourgeois parliamentary elections, or instituting "democratic control of the police" or demanding improvements in the working conditions of the immigration police is that they contradict the fundamental duty of socialists to inform the working-class that the capitalists' state cannot be taken over, but rather, as I quoted earlier, "It must be broken up, smashed, and replaced by a new workers' state". Rather than "revealing and undermining the state's repressive function" these demands actively encourage illusions that the capitalist state, or at least key elements of it, can be forced to serve workers' interests. We should instead be raising demands that point to the rigged nature of capitalist "democracy" and lead to the conclusion that it is necessary to shatter the bourgeois state and replace it with new working class organs of power.

#### The permutation entrenches the idea that capital is the eternal present.

Michael Wainwright, former member of Socialist Party of Great Britain, 3-29-2006, "Marxism and the State," Socialist Alternative, http://www.socialistalternative.org/literature/state/ch1.html, accessed 5-1-13.

It is crucial for Marxists to pose the difficult, and sometimes socially ostracising, reality that the capitalist state must be removed and replaced by alternative structures of working-class power. There is no other way, I suggest, of relating and connecting this fundamental necessity to our class other than to state the truth, even if that truth is one which diminishes our popularity. Marxists are not populists - we have a much harder task. That is the responsibility to maintain the link in the chain of revolutionary continuity by developing and charting a path towards Socialism armed with the distilled lessons of past class-struggles. We must stand firmly on the tradition based upon the historical legacies of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, for if we deviate from the latter then we will inevitably recede into empiricism and the eternal present.

### AT: Human Nature = Capitalism

#### The majority of history disproves the assumption that capitalism is human nature.

Jay Moore, radical historian and teacher, 4-10-2012, "Capitalism and 'Human Nature': A Rebuttal," MR Zine, http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2012/moore041012.html, accessed 5-3-2013

Anyone who has had the pleasure of delving into the study of history and anthropology, as I have, marveling at the enormous variability of human societies and cultures across time and space and trying to discern some basic commonalities and patterns (which historical materialism shows do exist), will have noted the rank fallacy of the aforementioned assumption that the modern bourgeois character type is a human universal. Most humans down through history have shown no such "propensity." Traders have existed in many, perhaps most, societies, but those who did so as a profession with the aim of enriching themselves might be looked upon with deep suspicion. Trade was mainly conducted at the societal margins. And, as David Graeber has shown in his monumental work on the political economy of "Debt," no known society has ever been based on barter. Much more prevalent until modern times was a Gift Economy in which goods circulated from person to person within a society and in which there might be no calculation of worth requiring something paid back of equal or greater value or expectation of eventual return.

#### Human nature is cooperative: Altruism is hardwired.

Shankar Vedantum, staffwriter, 5-28-2007, “If It Feels Good to Be Good, It Might Be Only Natural,” Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/27/AR2007052701056.html>, accessed 5-2-2013.

The results were showing that when the volunteers placed the interests of others before their own, the generosity activated a primitive part of the brain that usually lights up in response to food or sex. Altruism, the experiment suggested, was not a superior moral faculty that suppresses basic selfish urges but rather was basic to the brain, hard-wired and pleasurable. Their 2006 finding that unselfishness can feel good lends scientific support to the admonitions of spiritual leaders such as Saint Francis of Assisi, who said, "For it is in giving that we receive." But it is also a dramatic example of the way neuroscience has begun to elbow its way into discussions about morality and has opened up a new window on what it means to be good.

#### Empathy is hardwired in the brain through evolution.

Shankar Vedantum, staffwriter, 5-28-2007, “If It Feels Good to Be Good, It Might Be Only Natural,” Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/27/AR2007052701056.html>, accessed 5-2-2013.

Grafman and others are using brain imaging and psychological experiments to study whether the brain has a built-in moral compass. The results -- many of them published just in recent months -- are showing, unexpectedly, that many aspects of morality appear to be hard-wired in the brain, most likely the result of evolutionary processes that began in other species. No one can say whether giraffes and lions experience moral qualms in the same way people do because no one has been inside a giraffe's head, but it is known that animals can sacrifice their own interests: One experiment found that if each time a rat is given food, its neighbor receives an electric shock, the first rat will eventually forgo eating. What the new research is showing is that morality has biological roots -- such as the reward center in the brain that lit up in Grafman's experiment -- that have been around for a very long time. The more researchers learn, the more it appears that the foundation of morality is empathy. Being able to recognize -- even experience vicariously -- what another creature is going through was an important leap in the evolution of social behavior. And it is only a short step from this awareness to many human notions of right and wrong, says Jean Decety, a neuroscientist at the University of Chicago.

### AT: Growth Good

#### Growth obtained through economic engagement fails; no long-term sustainability.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, 10-1999, “Notes on Political Economy,” <http://revcom.us/a/special_postings/poleco_e.htm>, accessed 4-25-2013

For the advanced capitalist economies to maintain reasonable rates of growth, growth must also take place in the Third World. But such growth (and further restructuring) requires enormous infusions of capital, which appear to be beyond the capacities of the West. It should be emphasized that this is not only a quantitative but also a qualitative matter. Imperialist investment in the Third World leads to and heightens disarticulation. And regardless of how much capital the imperialists invest, this will not lead, over any prolonged period, to the kind of growth that will enable imperialist capital to sustain long-term expansion and profitability overall.

#### The myth of perpetual growth will cause planetary self-destruction.

Paul B. Farrell, contributing writer, 6-12-2012, "Myth of Perpetual Growth is Killing America, MarketWatch, http://articles.marketwatch.com/2012-06-12/commentary/32176488\_1\_economics-gdp-growth-myth, accessed 5-6-2013

Economists are master illusionists who rely on a set of fictions, fantasies and forecasts that emanate from a core magical mantra of Perpetual Growth that goes untested year after year. And yet it’s used to manipulate the public into a set of policies and decisions that are leading the American and the world economy down a path of unsustainable globalization and GDP growth assumptions that will self-destruct the planet.

#### Policy motivated by the growth imperative perpetuates inequality.

Alan Nasser, Professor emeritus of Political Economy and Philosophy at The Evergreen State College, 5-3-2013, "The Economics of Over-Ripe Capitalism," Counterpunch, http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/05/03/the-economics-of-over-ripe-capitalism/, accessed 5-5-2013.

Policy motivated by the myth of investment-driven growth perpetuates inequality. The Fed’s injections of liquidity have stimulated neither consumption nor investment. The prescription for reducing inequality is exactly what the classical economists recommended, wage-driven growth. We should be explicit: the demand for wage-driven growth, minus the propaganda about the need for additional investment funds, is a demand far more radical than we have been used to. We announce that profit net of depreciation is useful only for payouts to “investors”, speculation, wasteful and uninformative advertising and marketing, and payments to corporate attorneys. None of this represents a “contribution to production”.