### Inherency

#### US maintains an embargo that bars nearly all economic activity with Cuba

Guzmán, Emmy award winning journalist, 2013

(Sandra, “Jay-Z and Beyoncé's trip to Cuba isn't the problem, the embargo is,” *CNN*, May 8, Online: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/05/07/opinion/guzman-beyonce-jay-z-cuba/index.html>)

Five decades of failed policy later, our nation is being held hostage. The

AND

economy can't grow, it's because of this U.S. policy.

### 1AC—Plan Text-HB

**The United States federal government should lift the Cuban embargo.**

### Adv 1—Soft Power

#### anti-americanism is growing in latin america – extending an olive branch to cuba is necessary to re-establish regional soft power

Perez JD Yale Law School 2010 David “America's Cuba Policy: The Way Forward: A Policy Recommendation for the U.S. State Department” Harvard Latino Law Review lexis

Anti-Americanism has become the political chant de jour for leaders seeking long-

AND

throughout Latin America, and would go a long way toward creating goodwill.

#### This cooperation and influence is key to solve amazon deforestation and warming, and curb terrorist proliferation

IAD 12 (Inter-American Dialogue Policy Report, 2012) (IAD is a think tank hosting 100 leaders and experts from the US and Latin America, “Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America,” April, Online: <http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReportFINAL.pdf>)

Many of the issues on the hemispheric agenda carry critical global¶ dimensions. Because

AND

, and there is growing need for decisions about¶ priorities and objectives.

#### Amazon defo leads to extinction

Cimilte ‘09(Matthew. Janurary 9, 2009 “Amazon Deforestation Earth’s Hear and Lungs Dismembered” http://www.livescience.com/3201-amazon -earth-heart-lungs-dismembered.html)

So biodiversity keeps the world running. It has value and of itself, as

AND

end of the next century - not with a bang but a whimper.

Warming is real-newest consensus is 100%, can be stopped with international cooperation, reverse causal—sea levels will rise 5 feet if not stopped by 2100

Gillis 8-19 (Justin Gillis. New York Times Environmental Writer. “Climate Panel Cites Near Certainty on Warming” August 19, 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/20/science/earth/extremely-likely-that-human-activity-is-driving-climate-change-panel-finds.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&smid=tw-nytimes&_r=1&>)

An international team of scientists has found with near certainty that human activity is the

AND

changes in plant and animal life, probably including a wave of extinctions.

#### Now is the key time-slowing warming is key to avoid positive feedbacks

James E. **Hanson**, Head, NASA Goddard Institute, Testimony before House Select Committee on Energy Independnece and Global Warming, 6—23—**08**, www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/2008/TwentyYearsLater\_20080623.pdf

Fast feedbacks—changes that occur quickly in response to temperature change—amplify the

AND

as glaciers disappear. A major casualty in all this will be wildlife.

#### Oxygen Collapse

Brandenburg & Paxson 2K

(Both PhDs, Dead Mars, Dying Earth, pg. 246-247)

A terrible synergism of disaster is already at work. The complex system called climate

AND

the frantic call from the crow’s nest that an iceberg is dead ahead.

#### Increase proliferation in Latin America results in WMD terrorism

Anderson, 08 (10/8/2008, Curt, AP, “US officials fear terrorist links with drug lords,” <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-08-805146709_x.htm>)

MIAMI — There is real danger that Islamic extremist groups such as al-Qaida and Hezbollah could form alliances with wealthy and powerful Latin American drug lords to launch new terrorist attacks, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Extremist group operatives have already been identified in several Latin American countries, mostly involved in fundraising and finding logistical support. But Charles Allen, chief of intelligence analysis at the Homeland Security Department, said they could use well-established smuggling routes and drug profits to bring people or even weapons of mass destruction to the U.S.

"The presence of these people in the region leaves open the possibility that they will attempt to attack the United States," said Allen, a veteran CIA analyst. "The threats in this hemisphere are real. We cannot ignore them."

Added U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration operations chief Michael Braun: "It is not in our interest to let that potpourri of scum to come together

#### Nuclear terrorism means extinction

ALEXANDER(Dir. Inter-University Center for Terrorism) 2000

[Yonah, “Terrorism in the 21st Century”, Depaul Business Law Journal, p. ln

More specifically, present-day terrorists have introduced into contemporary life a new scale

AND

; the expansion of democracy; and possibly the survival of civilization itself.

#### Solves

#### A) Signal of anti-Americanism

White 13

ROBERT E. WHITE March 7,2013 He is currently president of the [Center for International Policy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_for_International_Policy) “a Chance to Rethink Relations With Cuba” New York times <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/08/opinion/after-chavez-hope-for-good-neighbors-in-latin-america.html?pagewanted=all>

ACCESSED 7/16/13 BE

Throughout his career, the autocratic Mr. Chávez used our embargo as a wedge

AND

new, warmer relationship with democratic forces seeking social change throughout the Americas.

#### C) brings us into line with the region

McKenna and Kirk ’09 (Peter McKenna and John M. Kirk are the co-authors of the recently released book, Fighting Words: Competing Voices from Revolutionary Cuba, April 17, 2009, “U.S.-Cuba relations ripe for change; If Washington wants to revitalize its role in the Americas, it must repeal Cuban embargo” from the Toronto Star, Accessed 7/17/2013 on Lexis Nexis)

At the Summit of the Americas that begins today in Trinidad and Tobago, the

AND

set U.S.-Cuba relations on a course for eventual normalization.

### adv 2—China

#### Uniqueness: China influence is up and US engagement is down – recent trips pale in comparison to policy.

Martinez ’13 (Guillermo I., Columnist, “America losing influence throughout Latin America” May 23, 2013, The Sun Sentinel, <http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2013-05-23/news/fl-gmcol-oped0523-20130523_1_drug-cartels-latin-america-pri>)-mikee

Once upon a time, as many fairy tales start, the United States was

AND

lose status as a premier world power. This is no fairy tale.

#### us influence in Latin America is key to prevent Chinese crowd in – first impact is cyber war

Perez JD Yale Law School 2010 David “America's Cuba Policy: The Way Forward: A Policy Recommendation for the U.S. State Department” Harvard Latino Law Review lexis

The absence of a strong American presence over the last eight years has also given

AND

whereby China steps in to fill the gap left by America's absence. n116

After signing a free trade agreement with Chile, China quickly displaced the United States

AND

by visiting San Jose and signing a free trade agreement in 2010. n119

China also timed the release of a new policy paper on Sino-Latin American

AND

would be needed to fully understand the scope of this rather disturbing operation.

#### cyber-attack would destroys the US economy

Vatis, 2000 (Michael, FBI, Congressional Testimony to the Subcommittee on Crime in the House and the Senate Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Oversight, Federal News Service, 2/29, l/n)

And this is not just a criminal problem; it is also a national security

AND

foreign nations, who are bent on attacking U.S. interests.

#### The perception of US economic collapse is immediate and causes war

Lieberthal and O’Hanlon ‘12

[Ken – Dir of the China Center and Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at Brookings. And Michael – Dir of Research and Senior Fellow of Foreign Policy at Brookings. “The Real National Security Threat: America’s Debt” The LA Times, 7/10/12 //GBS-JV]

Second, such a chronic economic decline would undercut what has been 70 years of

AND

much more urgent big-picture issue: restoring U.S. economic

strength. Nothing else is really possible if that fundamental prerequisite to effective foreign policy is not reestablished.

#### And while us economic downturn leads to war, Us economic security checks back for global conflict

Royal 10 (Jedediah, Director of Cooperative Threat Reduction – U.S. Department of Defense, “Economic Integration, Economic Signaling and the Problem of Economic Crises”, Economics of War and Peace: Economic, Legal and Political Perspectives, Ed. Goldsmith and Brauer, p. 213-215)

Less intuitive is how periods of economic decline may increase the likelihood of external conflict

AND

not featured prominently in the economic-security debate and deserves more attention.

players takes time. Military power can work quickly, like a storm; economic

AND

abroad cannot be adequately protected or advanced without an economic reawakening at home.

#### Second Impact: Taiwan-China’s diplomatic battle in Latin America hurts US soft power and military superiority in the straight.

Erikson & Chen, ‘7 (Daniel is a Senior Associate of US Policy at the Inter-American Dialogue. Janice is a degree candidate at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. “China, Taiwan, and the Battle for Latin America,” Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, Vol. 31:2, Summer 2007, pg. 71)

The United States has been reflexively wary of any potential Chinese incursions into a region

AND

more puzzling to its closest neighbors-and ever more pleasing to Beijing.

#### Taiwan goes nuclear

Hunkovic 9 – American Military University (Lee J., “The Chinese-Taiwanese Conflict: Possible Futures of a Confrontation between China, Taiwan and the United States of America,” http://www.lamp-method.org/eCommons/Hunkovic.pdf)

A war between China, Taiwan and the United States has the potential to escalate

AND

in which the United States and China are the two most dominant members.

#### Solves

#### A) China’s expansion is driven by lack of US engagement

Johnson 5

Stephen, senior policy analyst at Heritage Foundation, 10/24/05 – “Balancing China's Growing Influence in Latin America”, http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2005/10/balancing-chinas-growing-influence-in-latin-america

Twenty-five years into this experiment, China has the world's sixth-largest

AND

world's superpower rather than a part­ner for the region."[3]

#### B) And the *signal* of the plan is key

Ellis ‘11

[R. Evan. Assistant Professor of National Security Studies in the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University. “Chinese Soft Power in Latin America: A Case Study” Joint Force Quarterly, Vol 60. 2011. http://www.ndu.edu/press/chinese-soft-power-latin-america.html//GBS-JV]

The concept of soft power was introduced in 1990 by Harvard Professor Joseph Nye,

AND

PRC to serve as a counterweight to the United States and Western institutions¶

### Adv 3—Spills

#### Offshore oil drilling is inevitable in Cuba – lifting the embargo is key to prevent and contain spills

Forbes 12/12/2011 “U.S. Should Drop Cuba Embargo For Oil Exploration” http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2011/12/12/u-s-should-drop-cuba-embargo-for-oil-exploration/

In a few months Spanish oil company Repsol will start drilling for oil off the

AND

big incentive for Cuba to keep its own regulators on top of things.

#### US expertise is key to prevent an oil spill

Zakaria PhD in Political Science 2011 Fareed “Why our Cuba embargo could lead to another Gulf oil disaster” CNN World 9/19 http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2011/09/19/why-our-cuba-policy-could-lead-to-another-gulf-oil-spill/

But what struck me this week is that we have a new dangerous drilling zone

AND

easily protect against if we were allowed to have any dealings with Cuba.

#### The embargo limits and delays US response to spills – the plan is necessary for sustained involvement in safety and regulations across the region

Tampa Bay Times 10/18/2011 “Oil spill from drilling in Cuban waters could have limited U.S. response” http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/oil-spill-from-drilling-in-cuban-waters-could-have-limited-us-response/1197425

WASHINGTON — As exploratory oil drilling is set to begin in December off the coast

AND

countries' regulatory agencies appropriately police the operators? These are issues for debate."

#### Cuban oil spills collapse Floridian ecosystems – the plan prevents and mitigates the impact to spills

Stephens and Colvin 11 (Sarah – Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, and Jake – Vice President for Global Trade Issues at the National Foreign Trade Council, “US-Cuba policy, and the race for oil drilling”, 9/29, http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/184661-us-cuba-policy-and-the-race-for-oil-drilling)

To protect the national interest — and for the sake of Florida's beaches and the

AND

United States ought to do what it can to prepare for that eventuality.

#### Florida is a unique biodiversity hotspot

Alles 7 (David L. Professor of Biology – Western Washington University, “Biodiversity Hot Spots: The Florida Everglades”, 3-7-2007, <http://www.biol.wwu.edu/trent/alles/Everglades.pdf>)

"Biodiversity hot spots are areas where endemic species with small ranges are concentrated.

AND

these patterns. Much of the time the water is contaminated by pollutants.

#### Biod checks extinction. Solves *ecosystems* and *checks next pathogen*

Mittermeier ‘11

(et al, Dr. Russell Alan Mittermeier is a primatologist, herpetologist and biological anthropologist. He holds Ph.D. from Harvard in Biological Anthropology and serves as an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has conducted fieldwork for over 30 years on three continents and in more than 20 countries in mainly tropical locations. He is the President of Conservation International and he is considered an expert on biological diversity. Mittermeier has formally discovered several monkey species. From Chapter One of the book Biodiversity Hotspots – F.E. Zachos and J.C. Habel (eds.), DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-20992-5\_1, # Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2011. This evidence also internally references Norman Myers, a very famous British environmentalist specialising in biodiversity. available at: http://www.academia.edu/1536096/Global\_biodiversity\_conservation\_the\_critical\_role\_of\_hotspots)

Extinction is the gravest consequence of the biodiversity crisis, since it is¶ irreversible

AND

we are to move deliberately toward a global goal of reducing biodiversity loss.¶