# Round 5---NDCA

# 1NC

## 1NC—vs. Jesuit FP

### 1

#### Normalizing economic relations causes US domination of Cuba’s rice market.

Jamel Jackson, 10-21-2011, associate editor, USA Rice Federation, non-profit organization, global advocate for the U.S. rice industry, “USA Rice President and CEO Betsy Ward Highlights Embargo Impacts on U.S. and Cuba,”http://ww.usarice.com/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1616&itemid=328

Ward underscored how opening agricultural trade between the U.S. and Cuba would benefit both countries. "Under normal commercial relations we believe that Cuba could become, overnight, the **largest market** for U.S. grown rice in the world," Ward said. "The lifting of sanctions will generate jobs in rural America and it would enable Cuba to buy high quality rice from a nearby supplier, reducing shipping time, storage and transportation costs." Prior to the 1962 embargo, Cuba was the top export destination for U.S.-grown rice. In 2000, Congress passed legislation that permitted U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba and rice sales to the island nation totaled 635,000 MT between 2002 and 2006. However, this legislation codified restrictions on other commercial activities and maintained existing U.S. restrictions on imports from Cuba. A rule tightening in 2005 crippled U.S. exports to Cuba and there have been no U.S. rice sales since 2008. Cubans consume nearly 1 million metric tons of rice annually, which is among the highest consumption rates in the Americas. Sixty percent of the rice consumed in Cuba is imported from other countries.

#### Cuba is a key rice market for Vietnam—but the US would crowd them out.

Chantal Pohl Nielsen, 10-24-2004, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics, “Vietnam’s Rice Policy: Recent Reforms and Future Opportunities,” <https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/download/1080.pdf>

The explanation behind the observation that the United States, Pakistan and Thailand seem able to capture large shares of the value of world rice trade is a reflection of several issues. These countries have a much longer experience in international rice trade than e.g. Vietnam, and have therefore established a reputation of stable and good quality supplies. Recurring issues in the description of the challenges facing Vietnamese rice exports are precisely unreliable supplies and (a reputation of) low quality.2 Clearly these are issues of which Vietnamese officials are well aware and efforts are being made to improve the quality of rice destined for exports. Given that around 20% of Vietnamese rice production is now sold in foreign markets (Nielsen 2002) and that rice exports in recent years have been the second or third largest generator of foreign exchange to the country, increasing the value of rice exports must definitely be a clear priority. Vietnam’s major export markets within the region are Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (Table 1). Sales to Iraq, Iran and Cuba are also important to Vietnamese rice exports. Iraq is a demander of high-quality long grain rice and Vietnam is the main supplier to this country. Cuba is a demander of low-quality long grain rice, and here Vietnam and China are the main suppliers. Former political ties to Eastern Europe are also evident in the structure of Vietnamese exports. Sales to the EU account for only a very small share of total Vietnamese rice exports.

#### Rice exports are key to the Vietnamese economy.

Kenneth B. Young et al, 4-xx-2002, with Eric J. Wailes, Gail L. Cramer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Arkansas; Nguyen Tri Khiem, Can Tho University, “Vietnam’s Rice Economy: Developments and Prospects,” arkansasagnews.uark.edu/968.pdf

Vietnam’s food crop sector, comprising more than 85% rice, is most important sector of the economy. The food sector contributed about 70% of the total agricultural GDP from 1989-95 (Khiem et al., 1996). More than 70% of the rural population depends on food production for their primary source of income. On the average, the value of gross agricultural output - including animal and fishery products - contributes 49% of GDP and 42% of current export earnings. Rice alone contributed half of all employment and one sixth of national income in 1990 and about 25% of the total export value from 1994 to 1996.

#### Vietnamese economic collapse collapses ASEAN.

Roger Mitton, 12-13-2010, writer for the Phnom Penh Post, “Economic reform vital for teetering Vietnam,” <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/columns/economic-reform-vital-teetering-vietnam>

Now we have Vietnam, where the warnings of impending catastrophe grow ever louder. Last week, Stewart Newnham, an Asian currency strategist at Morgan Stanley, told a conference in Ho Chi Minh City that due to the weak economy and deteriorating balance of payments deficit Vietnam’s dong was in “extreme trouble”. Its previous devaluation in August occurred amid fears that increased imports might cause Vietnam to fall short of capital to fund the burgeoning trade deficit, now running at US$10.66 billion. Newnham’s warning came two days after the International Monetary Fund cautioned that Vietnam’s reserves were at dangerously “low” levels and covered less than two months of imports. Tomorrow, the European Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi will discuss “The Future of the Vietnam Dong” and members will mull whether the currency will be devalued for a third time this year and how long the foreign reserves might last. Make no mistake, it is serious. Not only for Vietnam, but for neighbours like Cambodia and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. If Vietnam’s economy crashes, the waves will wash over the region and threaten ASEAN, just as the banking crises in Greece and Ireland financially rocked the European Union. And despite the largesse of the Asian Development Bank, which will announce tomorrow a multi-billion rescue package for Vietnam, a more radical and lasting solution is needed. Thankfully several brave voices in Vietnam itself have already identified the essential and inter-related steps that need to be taken. The first is that the hierarchy of the ruling communist regime must be revamped. By great good fortune that will happen next month at the party’s five-yearly congress when all senior members will face re-election. Of the VCP’s topmost troika, it is already known that the doddery party boss Nong Duc Manh and the nice but ineffective President Nguyen Minh Triet will step down. What now seems likely, and it is real bombshell in the context of Vietnamese politics, is that Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung will be forced out. Recently humiliated in the National Assembly where he faced a no-confidence motion, Dung had to apologise for the way Vinashin, the state-owned shipbuilding group, ran up debts of US$4.4 billion when helmed by one of his lackeys. Dung’s probable replacement will be Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung, hardly a pocket dynamo but at least someone who understands economics. He will need that understanding in spades, because Vietnam’s other urgent need is for a second doi moi, or economic reformation. It will have to be just as revolutionary as the first doi moi in 1986, which partially opened the country to free-market practices, and “A second doi moi!” is the new clarion call now heard all over Vietnam these days. Unless that call is heeded soon, Vietnam’s leaders risk facing the same fate as their counterparts did in Romania, Poland and East Germany not so long ago.

#### ASEAN’s key to solve environmental collapse

Swajaya, 6-07-2012, Ngurah Swajaya, Indonesia’s permanent representative to Asean, served as special adviser to the president of the Bali international conferences on climate change in 2007 and the chair of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2001, “Rio+ 20: An Opportunity for Asean to Stand Up And Play a Major Role in Shaping Earth’s Future,” Jakarta Globe, June 7, <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/archive/rio-20-an-opportunity-for-asean-to-stand-up-and-play-a-major-role-in-shaping-earths-future/>)

It may indeed be the last chance for the international community to push the reset button to ensure that the more than 7 billion people in the world today can be fed, clothed and sheltered without further damaging the environment. That’s because 20 years after the first Earth Summit, the world’s environment continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, while the socioeconomic plight of some 80 percent of humankind remains bleak. Most of the world’s production is consumed by a small percentage of the world’s population. The gap between the haves and have-nots continues to widen in the face of uncertainties and the threat of a double-dip depression triggered by the euro-zone crisis. Efforts to reinvigorate commitment to Rio Agenda 21 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 did not bring much progress. The Bali Climate Conference of 2007 yielded encouraging results, but subsequent global negotiations on climate change were all inconclusive. The Living Planet Report 2012 issued by the WWF and Global Footprint Network shows a global decline in freshwater supply by 37 percent, with tropical freshwater supply diminishing by a whopping 70 percent. Since 1970, the report says, humankind’s yearly consumption has exceeded what the Earth can renew. Years ago, it was already predicted that the Mekong River in Southeast Asia would be one of 10 river systems to dry up when Himalayan glaciers are lost due to climate change. Those are some of the grim facts that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations must face. The third-largest economy in Asia, Asean is expected to grow at an average of 4 to 5 percent in the next two to three decades. The Asian Development Bank Institute has predicted that, assuming a modest annual growth, by 2030 Asean’s per capita GDP will double or triple its 2010 growth. But that growth will entail massive use of fossil fuels and equally massive greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, the study indicates, 50 percent of Asean people will live in cities, resulting in the further deterioration of air quality and depletion of drinking water supplies. Given this backdrop, Asean is called upon to take bold steps to collectively contribute, as a regional community of nations, to the solution of the global challenges of climate change and sustainable development, for the following reasons: First, given Asean’s explosive growth in the next two decades, sustainable development is not an option, but an imperative. Second, Asean countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines are highly experienced in forging global consensus on sustainable development. Third, the global political landscape is not what it was a decade ago, when there was a clear divide between the developed and developing world. Fourth, Asean’s commitment to sustainable development is enshrined in various important Asean documents, including the Asean Charter. Fifth, by virtue of the Bali Concord III, Asean has solemnly committed itself to contribute to the solution of global problems. For several years now, Asean has been pursuing a policy of sustainable development. It strives for high and inclusive economic growth without jeopardizing the ecology. Through various arrangements, Asean countries are cooperating among themselves and with dialogue partners to address climate change through sustainable forestry management, the promotion of energy security and energy efficiency, initiatives to make extractive industries more eco-friendly, protecting biodiversity and, in general, promoting a green economy. At the Rio+20, Asean can advocate such cooperative undertakings and also help build global political consensus toward meaningful outcomes beyond political rhetoric. This is a role for Asean that Indonesia championed during its tenure as Asean chair last year. And Asean has the opportunity to realize it in the upcoming Rio+20 — and thereby help save humankind from the dangerous follies of pollution.

#### Environmental justice is a prerequisite to solving structural violence

Kishan Khoday and Leisa Perch, International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, May 2012 “Green Equity: Environmental Justicefor more Inclusive Growth,” http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPolicyResearchBrief19.pdf

While social movements have succeeded in incorporating environmental elements into mainstream systems of law and justice as noted above, these innovations in many ways remain at the periphery of the core development process. In addition to above noted progress on the normative front, a central focus for environmental justice movements is also on systemic change at the core of development, to move beyond forms of political-economy that create and reinforce problems of ecological change and social injustice to forms that can prevent them. Structural violence “because it is so readily ignored by a hard-charging capitalism” exacerbates the vulnerability of ecosystems and of people who are poor, disempowered” (Nixon, 2011).

### 2

#### Text: Thus Vikram and I advocate the United States federal terrocrats should lift its sanctions on Cuba.

#### “Government” doesn’t exist – the word is a lie that hides individual responsibility and legitimizes physical violence.

Frederick Mann, B.A., Communications @ Sanford University; Founder, Terra Libra, 1998, “‘The Nature of Government’.”

Human Nature and "Government" If we regard "government" as a "human institution" created by human beings and consisting of human beings, then an inquiry about the "nature of government" can reasonably start with an inquiry about "human nature." It seems reasonable that some aspects of "human nature" will be reflected in the "nature of government." Our enquiry could start with two reports. A very important aspect of human nature is that many of us present our good traits to others, while hiding our bad traits. This also applies to people who present themselves as "helpers." Whenever people present themselves as "helpers" to you, it's prudent to be careful -- particularly if they ask you to pay a lot for the "help." If they attempt to compel you to accept their "help," whether you ask for it or not, then you may want to be doubly careful. And if they attempt to force you (at gunpoint or otherwise) to pay for their "help," you may want to become suspicious about their real intentions. See #TL15A: THE GOOD AND THE BAD. / In his book 'Why Government Doesn't Work,' Harry Browne writes: “Government” dominates our lives; it is at the center of most news and most public discussion. And yet no one person in a hundred can explain what we mean by "government," and no school or textbook bothers to provide a precise definition." / "The distinctive feature of government is coercion -- the use of force and the threat of force to win obedience. This is how government differs from every other agency in society. The others persuade; government compels." / "So what is government? Very simply, it is an agency of coercion." / "Of course, there are other agencies of coercion -- such as the Mafia. So to be more precise, government is the agency of coercion that has flags in front of its offices." / "Or, to put it another way, government is society's dominant producer of coercion. The Mafia and independent bandits are merely fringe competitors -- seeking to take advantage of the niches and nooks neglected by government." / If "government" is an agency of coercion, it may be worthwhile to explore what we mean by "coercion." What if many people tend to be blind to subtle forms of coercion? What if some forms of coercion are perpetrated in disguised and indirect ways? See WHY YOU MUST RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND COERCION (about two-thirds down the page in the right-hand column). / Some people argue that because human nature is inherently evil, therefore "government" is necessary to control people to curb their evil behavior. This is a fallacious argument. It's like saying you must appoint a fox to guard the hens. If people are evil, then a "government" consisting of people will ipso facto also be evil. For more on this issue, see Human Nature, Anarchy, and Capitalism by Kelley L. Ross, Ph.D. It seems reasonable to me that the evil in the Mafia is greater than the evil in the general population. Why should anyone expect "government" to be any different? / "By far the most numerous and most flagrant violations of personal liberty and individual rights are performed by governments... The major crimes throughout history, the ones executed on the largest scale, have been committed not by individuals or bands of individuals but by governments, as a deliberate policy of those governments... that is, by the official representatives of governments, acting in their official capacity." -- John Hospers / See Government Death Machines..., Death by Government and American Holocaust: The Genocide of the Native American Peoples and the Theft of Their Land. Maybe the main differences are that "government" evil tends to occur on a much wider scale than Mafia evil, and that people in "government" are better at disguising their evil than the Mafiosi. / "As nightfall does not come at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there's a twilight where everything remains seemingly unchanged, and it is in such twilight that we must be aware of change in the air, however slight, lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness." -- William O. Douglas ("Supreme Court Justice") / "Man can hardly recognize the devils of his own creation." -- Albert Schweitzer / "There are always a few, better endowed than others, who feel the weight of the yoke and cannot restrain themselves from attempting to shake it off... These are in fact the men who, possessed of clear minds and far-sighted spirit, are not satisfied, like the brutish mass, to see only what is at their feet, but rather look about them, behind and before, and even recall the things of the past in order to judge those of the future, and compare both with their present condition. These are the ones who, having good minds of their own, have further trained them by study and learning. Even if liberty had entirely perished from the earth, such men would reinvent it. For them slavery has no satisfactions, no matter how well disguised." --Etienne de la Boetie ('The Discourse of Voluntary Servitude') / Here are some more articles on and references to human nature and politics: # Taoism and Libertarianism by Wolf Logan # Six Myths About Libertarianism by Murray N. Rothbard # Rain, Kropotkin and Y2K -- Reel Human Nature by L. Reichard White # WHY I'M A LIBERTARIAN by Mack Tanner # The Untamed Rabble by Noam Chomsky # A Reader's Guide to Libertarian Theory by Julian Sanchez # Human Nature and the Free Society by Edmund A. Opitz / "Government" as "Legal Plunder" / "Everyone wants to live at the expense of the State. They forget that the State lives at the expense of everyone." -- Frederic Bastiat / "Legal plunder can be committed in an infinite number of plans for organizing it: tariffs, protection, benefits, subsidies, encouragements, progressive taxation, public schools, guaranteed jobs, guaranteed profits, minimum wages, a right to relief, a right to the tools of labor, free credit, and son on, and so on. All these plans as a whole - with their common aim of legal plunder - constitute socialism." -- Frederic Bastiat / "When plunder is organized by law for the profit of those who make the law, all the plundered classes try somehow to enter - by peaceful or revolutionary means - into the making of laws." -- Frederic Bastiat / "Sometimes the law defends plunder and participates in it... Sometimes the law places the whole apparatus of judges, police, prisons, and gendarmes at the service of the plunderers, and treats the victim - when he defends himself - as a criminal. In short, there is legal plunder." -- Frederic Bastiat / "All government, in its essence, is organized exploitation, and in virtually all of its existing forms it is the implacable enemy of every industrious and well-disposed man." -- H.L. Mencken / "Once a right to collective looting has been substituted for the right of each person to have whatever he has produced, it is not at all surprising to find the official dispensers deciding that it is right for them to loot the loot - for a "worthy" purpose, of course. Then we have the loot used by the insiders to buy votes so that they may stay in power; we have political pork barrels and lobbying for the contents; we have political patronage for political loyalty - even for loyalty to immoral conduct." -- F.A. Harper / "Thievery and covetousness will persist and grow, and the basic morals of ourselves, our children, and our children's children will continue to deteriorate unless we destroy the virus of immorality that is embedded in the concept of the Welfare State; unless we come to understand how the moral code of individual conduct must apply also to collective conduct, because the collective is composed solely of individuals." -- F.A. Harper / "There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him." -- Robert Heinlein ('The Moon is a Harsh Mistress') / "The law was made for one thing alone, for the exploitation of those who don't understand it, or are prevented by naked misery from obeying it." -- Bertold Brecht (The Threepenny Opera) / # 'The Law' by Frederic Bastiat # The Proper Role of Government by Ezra Taft Benson # The Anatomy of the State by Murray N. Rothbard # 'THE ECONOMIC RAPE OF AMERICA' # Shakedown : How the Government Screws You from A to Z by James Bovard # Asset Forfeiture # FEAR (Forfeiture Endangers American Rights) / More Definitions of Government / "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a dangerous servant and fearful master." -- George Washington / "Governments are triumphant monopolies of murder, robbery, swindling and all that is atrocious and detestable. Ever since the beginning, they have forced mankind to kill or prepare and hold themselves in readiness to kill each other by the thousands and even millions at a time, and by the cruelest and most destructive means that spite can devise." -- Calvin Blanchard (1865) / "The state represents violence in a concentrated and organized form. The individual has a soul, but as the state is a soulless machine, it can never be weaned from violence to which it owes its very existence." -- Mahatma Gandhi / "A government, at bottom, is nothing more than a gang of men, and as a practical matter most of them are inferior men. Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping and unintelligent. Indeed, it would not be far wrong to describe the best as the common enemy of all decent citizens." -- H.L. Mencken / "All governments are comprised of two layers: A large number of bureaucrats at the bottom, and a small number of politicians at the top. Politicians are persons who are invested with an above average AIQ (Aggressiveness/Intelligence Quotient - see Chapt. 09.04: War; Chapt. 06.01: Intelligence). The combination of their aggressiveness with their relatively high intelligence enables politicians to prod the general population into compliance with their wishes and desires. Some governments may be more aggressive than others, but all governments have in common the ability and the willingness to use force, or the threat of force, to perpetuate their existence and to bring about compliance with the wishes of its leadership. The secondary and progressively lower layers of government consist of large numbers of "public servants" who act as the bureaucratic executives of the dominant layer of government...Two hundred years ago, the French philosopher Rousseau formulated the basic principle of interaction between man and his governments: "The less government, the better off its citizenry." This simple but axiomatic statement remains the ultimate foundation of individual freedom. Human beings are only free to the extent that governments are inefficient. The desirability of governments is not a black and white situation. The advantages and disadvantages of a particular government revolve around many shades of grey. In his seminal work, "The Wealth of Nations", Adam Smith set forth three, and only three, legitimate functions of any government: 1.) The judiciary, 2.) the protection of the country against foreign enemies, and 3.) the infrastructure, such as highways and bridges. To these factors we could add the "safety net" as a modern, enlightened contribution of government." -- Walter E. Requadt / See also: # #TL06 - DISCOURSE ON VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE # #TL07: THE CONSTITUTION OF NO AUTHORITY. # Lies Our Forefathers Told Us by Victor Milan / A Classic Description of the State "There are still peoples and herds somewhere, but not with us, my brothers: here there are states. The state? What is that? Well then! Now open your ears, for now I shall speak to you of the death of peoples. The state is the coldest of all cold monsters. Coldly it lies, too; and this lie creeps >>>from its mouth; 'I, the state, am the people.' It is a lie! It was creators who created peoples and hung a faith and a love over them: thus they served life. It is destroyers who set snares for many and call it the state: they hang a sword and a hundred desires over them. Where a people still exists, there the people do not understand the state and hate it as the evil eye and sin against custom and law. I offer you this sign: every people speaks its own language of good and evil: its neighbor does not understand this language. It invented this language for itself in custom and law. But the state lies in all languages of good and evil; and whatever it says, it lies - and whatever it has, it has stolen. Everything about it is false; it bites with stolen teeth. Even its belly is false. Confusion of the language of good and evil; I offer you this sign of the state. Truly, this sign indicates the will to death! Truly, it beckons to the preachers of death! Many too many are born: the state was invented for the superfluous! Just see how it lures them, the many-too-many! How it devours them, and chews them, and re-chews them! ... It would like to range heroes and honorable men about it, this new idol! It likes to sun itself in the sunshine of good consciences - this cold monster! It will give you everything if you worship it, this new idol: thus it buys for itself the luster of your virtues and the glance of your proud eyes. It wants to use you to lure the many-too-many. Yes, a cunning device of Hell has here been devised, a horse of death jingling with the trappings of divine honors! Yes, a death for many has here been devised that glorifies itself as life: truly a heart-felt service to all preachers of death! I call it the state where everyone, good and bad, is a poison-drinker: the state where everyone, good and bad, loses himself: the state where universal slow suicide is called - life." / This is how Friedrich Nietzsche described "the state" in his classic Thus Spoke Zarathustra, in 1884. Typically, in the history classes taught in the last generation in "government schools" in America, when Nietzsche is discussed, he is depicted as the forefather of Hitler's Nazi ideology. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nietzsche was probably the most penetrative philosopher and psychologist there has ever been. He saw right through the falsehoods on which "government" rests. Fifty years before Hitler came to power he was already disgusted at what he saw happening in Germany. He predicted that Germany would suffer a horrible calamity. He was so disgusted that he renounced his German roots and became a Swiss citizen. The Nazis did take some of Nietzsche's statements out of context and used them as slogans. But to teach that Nietzsche inspired the Nazis is pure brainwashing. Nietzsche clearly saw what a destructive disaster "the German state" was and expressed his view in unequivocal terms. Maybe that's why "government monopoly schoolteachers" try so hard to discredit him. / Nietzsche's is a pretty good description, but I doubt that it's communicable to but a few. Although Nietzsche did make it to the front page of Time magazine with his pronouncement "God is dead," he never got anywhere with "the state is dead." Nevertheless, he did indicate that "everything the state says is a lie" and "everything it has it has stolen." He did indicate that "the state" is an idol and an instrument of death. He also pointed out the "confusion of the language of good and evil." / Digging Deeper In #FFP05: HARRY BROWNE'S FREEDOM PRINCIPLES you can find Harry Browne's four "Government Traps," to which I've added 11 more: / \* Government Trap #1: The belief that governments perform socially useful functions that deserve your support. / \* Government Trap #2: The belief that you have a duty to obey laws. / \* Government Trap #3: The belief that the government can be counted upon to carry out a social reform you favor. / \* Government Trap #4: The fear that the government is so powerful that it can prevent you from being free. / \* Government Trap #5: The belief that government people can do anything better than other people. Government people don?t have any special magical powers. / \* Government Trap #6: The belief that governments will produce beneficial results. Because government people essentially collect their income at the point of a gun, they don?t have to produce anything worthwhile to survive. In fact, their incentive is to make all problems worse so they can demand more taxes to "solve" the problems. / \* Government Trap #7: The belief that government represents the people. Governments consist of individuals. Individuals always represent themselves. To think otherwise is a delusion. / \* Government Trap #8: The belief that government can conjure up resources from thin air. Everything government has, was essentially stolen at the point of a gun. / \* Government Trap #9: The belief that government provides protection. Just look at the crime statistics. / \* Government Trap #10: The belief that certain activities or functions must be done by government. Government consists of people. These people don't have any special magical powers. / \* Government Trap #11: The belief that government must or can control people. Because only individuals control the energy that animates their bodies, it’s really impossible for anyone to control anyone else. However, people can relinquish self-control by choice or unwittingly. / \* Government Trap #12: The belief that you have to do something about solving the problem of government. You are best off solving your own problems. In addition, you may also want to persuade a few others to solve their own problems. If enough people solved their own problems, the problem of government will disappear. / \* Government Trap #13: The belief that government exists as a volitional entity. When having to deal with "government," you always have to deal with individual human beings. Realizing this helps make you much more effective in warding off any attempts by individual government people to violate your freedom. Rather than having to handle "the government," you have to handle one or a few specific individuals. / \* Government Trap #14: The belief that the government?s constitution is a valid, legal contract. All the government constitutions I know of are fraudulent hoaxes. For a contract to be valid it must be entered into knowingly, intentionally, and explicitly. Have you ever signed any so-called "constitution" of any supposed "country?" What if all coercive political systems are fraudulent hoaxes? See #TL07: The Constitution of No Authority . / \* Government Trap #15: The belief that government can make laws. In the final analysis, the noises and scribbles that emanate from the mouths and pens of government officials are just noises and scribbles. The power you ascribe to these noises and scribbles is your choice. See #TL07H: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DEEP STUPIDITIES. / Most people, including libertarians, anarchists, and other freedom lovers, take it for granted that there is an entity called "government" or "state" that can do things. / "The State is the great fictitious entity by which everyone expects to live at the expense of everyone else." -- Frederic Bastiat / "Traditional anarchists want to abolish the "State." In planning their strategies and in doing their thinking about this they rarely question the existence or fundamental nature of their enemy. This situation wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for the fact that their mistaken beliefs often lead them into counterproductive political strategies. Thus we observe the ludicrous sight of self-named anarchists joining political parties (usually the Libertarian Party) in order to hasten the end of the system. The idea seems to be: We can remove it by being absorbed by it!" -- Dr. Max More (writing as Max T. O'Connor) -- #TL07D: DEEP ANARCHY -- AN ELIMINATIVIST VIEW OF "THE STATE" / Ernst Cassirer wrote an important book 'The Myth of the State.' I've compiled a report with extracts from 'The Myth of the State' and 'An Essay on Man' (also be Cassirer) -- see #TL071: ERNST CASSIRER AND "PRIMEVAL STUPIDITY". My report may shed further light on what kind of "creatures" (mythological?) "government" and "state" are. / Description of "Government" First, I'm going to provide my comprehensive primary description (or definition, if you like) of "government." Then I'll elaborate further on aspects of this description. I'll also cover some secondary descriptions of "government." It'll also be necessary to explain certain thinking skills that are necessary to grasp the descriptions. Finally, a few important related topics and arguments will be briefly covered, as well as the benefits of understanding and applying the information in this article. / Primary Description of "Government" "Government" is a granfalloon, a scam, a hoax, a fraud, a swindle, a theatrical tragicomedy, and a form of parasitism or cannibalism kept in place by certain fraud-words, by superstition, by idolatry, by gullibility, by lack of thinking skills, by brainwashing, by mass hallucination, by terror, and by violence -- also characterized by compulsive lying, economic rape and value destruction, serial killing, war mongering, mass murder, quackery of the deadliest kind, primitive "alpha-ape" behavior, and the abuse of hierarchical systems. / "Government" is a "Granfalloon" In his book Cat's Cradle, Kurt Vonnegut coined the word "granfalloon" to describe abstract concepts like "nation," "state," "country," "government," "society," "IBM," etc. He wrote, "To discover the substance of a granfalloon, just prick a hole in a toy balloon." In his book The Incredible Secret Money Machine, Don Lancaster explains: / "A granfalloon is any large bureaucratic figment of people's imagination. For instance, there's really no such thing as the Feds or the General Veeblefeltzer Corporation. There are a bunch of people out there that relate to each other, and there's some structures, and some paper. In fact, there's lots and lots of paper. The people sit in the structures and pass paper back and forth to each other and charge you to do so. / All these people, structures, and paper are real. But nowhere can you point to the larger concept of "government" or "corporation" and say, "There it is, kiddies!" The monolithic, big "they" is all in your mind." [emphasis added] / A granfalloon is the lumping together of many diverse elements into an abstract collection, and to then think and speak as if the abstract collection is one single entity capable of performing actions. This phenomenon leads people to say things like "the government runs the country." I hope you realize (or will soon) just how absurd the previous sentence is. / "Government" Consists of Individual Human Beings The human brain is an abstracting device. We might call the first level of abstraction the "concrete abstract." Consider the concept "table." The concept or word corresponds to and represents a physical object "table." However, the concept "table" is more general than the object "table" - because the concept "table" can be applied to any of a large number of objects with flat surfaces and (usually) four legs; whereas the physical object "table" is one specific object. / Our next level of abstraction we might call the "collective abstract" - for example, "furniture." It's very useful to lump together a number of diverse but related objects and use the abstract word or concept "furniture" to represent all of them. It makes thinking and communicating more efficient. Instead of saying, "Clean the chairs, the tables, the shelves, the mirrors, the cupboards, etc.," you can simply say, "Clean the furniture." It's much more efficient. But with the increase in efficiency comes a potential lack of distinction... / "Government" can be described as a collection of individuals, pieces of paper, buildings, weaponry, etc. Let's take a look at what becomes possible when we think in terms of individual human beings, instead of the monolithic collective abstract "government" - a two-sentence refutation of all the arguments for "government": / \* "Government" consists of individual human beings - or people. / \* When people say "government is necessary to do X (whatever)," or "only government can do X," or "government must do for people what they can't do for themselves" - what they're really saying is: "people are necessary to do X," or "only people can do X," or "people must do for people what they can't do for themselves." / Compare this to all the books containing lengthy chapters on why "the free market" is better at providing X (whatever) than "the government" is. Once you develop the ability to think in terms of individual human beings, it takes just two sentences to demolish all the arguments for "government." / This is a demonstration of the comparative power of individualistic thinking as opposed to collectivist thinking. / Unfortunately, for most people - including many freedom lovers - it seems impossible to grasp the above refutation because they are locked into the habit of thinking, talking, and writing about "government" as a volitional entity. They say "government does this and that" - as if "government" is some kind of living, breathing entity capable of performing actions - collectivist thinking. Sometimes it seems that when you say to these people, "Look at anything that "government" supposedly does, like running a school, and you'll find that all the work is being done by individual human beings," - individualist thinking - they can't hear you. They seem so brainwashed with the notion that "government does things," that their brains automatically shut out anything to the contrary. / We are dealing with a particular mental process here: when the mind is confronted with a thought that is dangerous to the way its knowledge has been organized hitherto, it tends to either "wipe out" the thought, or distort it into something more acceptable - as George Orwell wrote in Nineteen-Eighty-Four: "Crimestop means the faculty of stopping short, as though by instinct, at the threshold of any dangerous thought... crimestop, in short, means protective stupidity." / "Government" is a Scam, a Hoax, a Fraud, and a Swindle Nietzsche wrote that everything the state says is a lie. Of course, it's really individuals who lie when they call themselves "the state" or "the government." Throughout history, people have used all kinds of trickery to legitimize calling themselves "the King" or "the government" - for example, "the divine right of Kings to rule" and in "modern" days, "the Constitution." Some of this trickery is described in Build Freedom Report #TL06: Discourse on Voluntary Servitude. / The issue of the validity or legality of the so-called "Constitution" is covered in Report #TL07: The Constitution of No Authority. The essence of that report is that the so-called "Constitution" was never signed or adopted by anybody to make it a valid legal contract or agreement. That means that the so-called "U.S.A." has been a scam, hoax, fraud, and swindle from the outset. / It also means that all the politicians and bureaucrats, calling themselves "presidents," "secretaries," "judges," "generals," "congressmen," etc., have been liars and impostors masquerading as "government" (so-called). / The people who signed the pretended "U.S. Constitution," called themselves "We The People... " They were lying. They signed it as individuals. And they never signed it in any way to make it a binding contract. / It's a basic legal principle that for a contract to be valid, it needs to be knowingly, intentionally, and explicitly signed by all the parties involved. For something like a "U.S. Constitution" to be valid, it would have to be knowingly, intentionally, and explicitly signed by every single person involved. / On the same grounds, every political system in the world, I know of, is a fraud and a hoax. In his pamphlet, No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority, attorney (one of the good ones) Lysander Spooner wrote in 1870: / "The constitution has no inherent authority or obligation. It has no authority or obligation at all, unless as a contract between man and man. And it does not so much as even purport to be a contract between persons now existing. It purports at most, to be only a contract between persons living eighty years ago... we know, historically, that only a small portion of the people then existing were consulted on the subject, or asked, or permitted to express either their consent or dissent in any formal manner. Those people, if any, who did give their consent formally, are all dead now... and the constitution, so far as it was their contract, died with them. They had no natural power or right to make it obligatory upon their children... they did not even attempt to bind them. That is to say, the instrument does not purport to be an agreement between anybody but "the people" then existing; nor does it... assert any right, power, or disposition, on their part, to bind anybody but themselves... / The constitution itself, then, being of no authority, on what authority does our government practically rest? On what ground can those who pretend to administer it, claim the right to seize men's property, to restrain them in their natural liberty of action, industry and trade, and to kill all those who deny their authority to dispose of men's properties, liberties and lives at their pleasure or discretion?" [emphasis added] / Reading Spooner's pamphlet was an assault on my whole knowledge structure. It triggered a process of questioning many concepts such as "constitution" (so-called) - what does this word represent in reality? If Spooner was right, then it represented but an empty fraud. It also meant that words did not necessarily correspond with reality. There were "fraud-words" which served only to mislead. And if there is no valid "constitution," then what does the word "country" mean? What does it really represent? Similar questions followed about ''government," "state," "king," "law," etc. In the Introduction by James J. Martin to Spooner's No Treason, I read: / "Since late Neolithic times, men in their political capacity, have lived almost exclusively by myths [more appropriate: "fraudulent fabrications "or "murderous misrepresentations!"] And these political myths have continued to evolve, proliferate, and grow more complex and intricate, even though there has been a steady replacement of one by another over the centuries. A series of entirely theoretical constructs, sometimes mystical, usually deductive and speculative, they seek to explain the status and relationships in the community... / It is the assault upon the abstract and verbal underpinnings of this institution which draws blood, so to speak... those who attack the rationale of the game... are its most formidable adversaries." [emphasis added] / Spooner attacked words and phrases like "the government," "our country," "the United States," "member of congress," "King," "constitution of the United States," "nations", "the people," "emperor," "divine right," "president," "monarch," "ambassador," "national debt," "senator," "judge," etc. He indicated that these were all fraud-words designed to dupe the gullible. In a letter to Thomas F. Bayard, Spooner wrote: / "In practice, the constitution has been an utter fraud from the beginning. Professing to have been 'ordained and established' by we, the people of the United States, it has never been submitted to them, as individuals, for their voluntary acceptance... very few of them have ever read, or even seen it; or ever will read or see it. Of its legal meaning (if it can be said to have any) they really know nothing; and never did. Nor ever will know anything." / Spooner indicated that the people who masqueraded as the so-called "government" could be more accurately described as fraudulent impostors or a "secret band of thieves, robbers and murderers." Rick Maybury wrote as follows in an article, "Profiting from the Constitutional Convention," published in the November, 1984 issue of an investment newsletter, World Market Perspective: / "On March 10, 1783, at the town of Newburgh, New York, a group of generals met to plan a military coup. The generals offered the leadership to an officer the troops had respected and admired for many years... for several days the officer pondered whether or not he would accept the offer to become military dictator of America... finally, on March 15, 1783, he announced his decision to decline. His name was George Washington... / ... the First Constitutional Convention which commenced on May 14, 1787 had George Washington presiding. This is the convention that created our current constitution. The procedures and results of this convention have long been held to be legal, ethical, constitutional, patriotic and in every other way proper... it was held in secret. It had a hidden agenda. It was surrounded by clandestine meetings in which numerous deals were struck. The delegates intended to draw vast amounts of new power into the hands of the federal government and they violated every restriction their legislatures tried to impose on them. The First Constitutional Convention was actually a military coup. The history books do not describe it this way, but that is what it was... / It may have been the slickest, smoothest, most well-lubricated coup any nation has ever experienced. To this day, most Americans do not understand what was really done to them. They look back on it all and smile wistfully." / "Government Officials" as Compulsive Liars Is it possible to become a senior "government official" without being a compulsive liar? / "If you tell a big enough Lie, and keep on repeating it, in the end people will come to believe it." -- Josef Goebbels / "But the state lies in all languages of good and evil; and whatever it says, it lies - and whatever it has, it has stolen. Everything about it is false; it bites with stolen teeth. Even its belly is false." -- Friedrich Nietzsche / "In time of war, the truth is so precious it must be attended by a bodyguard of lies." -- Winston Churchill / If you do a Google.com search for "government lies" you'll get about 5,000 results. A Google search for +government +"big lie" yields over 14,000 results. / Is there anything "government officials" don't lie about? Someone should make a list of major issues and then research what lies "government officials" have been telling about those issues. I would be surprised if there is even one major issue they don't routinely lie about. / See also "Automatic Lying: The Hallmark of Professional Value Destroyers." / "Government" as Economic Rape and Value Destruction The "legal plunder" aspect of "government" has been pointed out above under "Government" as "Legal Plunder," with a reference to 'The Economic Rape of America.' / Neo-Tech includes the important distinction between value producers or value creators on the one hand, and value detroyers on the other. To fully grasp this distinction and its wide-ranging implications, I recommend perusal of the "Neo-Tech Advantages" and "War of Two Worlds: Value Producers versus Value Destroyers.". / 'The State' by Franz Oppenheimer is a classic on the origin and development of "the state" (and "government"). As far as I know, Oppenheimer was the first to make the distinction between the economic means to survival versus the political means -- a distinction closely related to Neo-Tech's distinction between value producers and value destroyers. / "The State, completely in its genesis, essentially and almost completely during the first stages of its existence, is a social institution, forced by a victorious group of men on a defeated group, with the sole purpose of regulating the dominion of the victorious group over the vanquished, and securing itself against revolt from within and attacks from abroad. Teleologically, this dominion had no other purpose than the economic exploitation of the vanquished by the victors." -- Franz Oppenheimer ('The State') / "Taking the State wherever found, striking into its history at any point, one sees no way to differentiate the activities of its founders, administrators, and beneficiaries from those of a professional-criminal class." -- Albert Jay Nock / This also applies to the "American Fleecing Fathers" -- see #TL070: The "Constitutional Delusion." / "A close examination of history indicates that only a coercive theory can account for the rise of the state. Force, and not enlightened self-interest, is the mechanism by which political evolution has led, step by step, from autonomous villages to the state... No primitive state known to history originated in any other manner. ...Everywhere we find some warlike tribe of wild men breaking through the boundaries of some less warlike people, settling down as nobility and founding the State." -- Franz Oppenheimer ('The State') / "The moment when the first conqueror spared his victim in order to exploit him in productive work, was of incomparable historical importance. It gave birth to nation and state, to right and the higher economics, with all the developments and ramifications which have grown which will hereafter grow out of them." -- Franz Oppenheimer ('The State') / "Government" is a Theatrical Tragicomedy My Webster's defines tragicomedy as "a drama or a situation blending tragic and comic elements." The theme that "government" is theater is expounded by Ferdinand Mount's excellent book The Theater of Politics - in the Introduction Max Lerner writes, "politics is shot through with the theatric, and can be understood best only if we view the exchange between political actor and political audience as theater... the element of theater on the American scene has gone beyond politics and pervaded the entire society. It has become history-as-theater." / Let me suggest that when you watch TV, listen to the radio, or read the newspaper and the topic is politics, either people are getting hurt or killed (tragedy), or some political actor is openly joking or pretending to be serious (comedy). Alexis de Tocqueville in his Recollections wrote about the 1848 French Revolution: / "The whole time I had the feeling that we had staged a play about the French Revolution... Though I foresaw the terrible end to the piece well enough, I could not take the actors very seriously; the whole thing seemed a vile tragedy played by a provincial troupe." / Some quotes from Mount's The Theater of Politics follow: / \* "... [T]he political confidence trick, whether monarchic or presidential, oligarchic or democratic, whether necessary or unnecessary, is at any rate effective, because most people are foolish and gullible." / \* "Is political history the record of a mass of mugs being taken for a series of rides?" / \* "We see the politician rather as an actor who takes on a part; and we judge him according to whether he plays well or badly." / \* "The theory is comforting: they are our hired servants. The practice is humiliating; we are their wayward wards, to be comforted, cajoled, bullied, but never to be treated as equals, never to be told more of the truth than suits their present purposes, and too often to be told off-white lies." / \* "He [Churchill] is, as all political actors must be, the analyst of humbug, the humbugger and the humbugged all in one." / \* From Edmund Burke's Reflections on the French Revolution, describing political rhetoric: "... a theatrical, bombastick, windy phraseology of heroick virtue, blended and mingled up with a worse dissoluteness, and joined to a murderous and savage ferocity, forms the tone and idiom of their language and their manners... Statesmen, like your present rulers, exist by everything which is spurious, fictitious, and false; by everything which takes the man from his house, and sets him in a stage, which makes him up an artificial creature, with painted theatrick sentiments, fit to be seen by the glare of candle-light, and formed to be contemplated at a due distance... If the system of institution recommended by the assembly is false and theatrick it is because their system of government is of the same character." / Words Have Consequences Of course, words in themselves don't have consequences, but whenever a word is used, there are consequences. When you talk to a person, depending on the words you use, that person may become happy, sad, or angry. Words have consequences. / If words have consequences, then it's obvious that different words have different consequences. It's also obvious that we can observe the consequences of the words we use. We can become aware of the consequences. We can experiment and learn to use different words to produce different consequences. / Also note that when the politicians and bureaucrats want your money, they don't immediately point their guns at you. They send you words on paper or by phone. In general, they only come after you with their guns if you repeatedly don't give them money. Because most people obey the words of politicians and bureaucrats, they don't have to use their guns all that often. / In Build Freedom we talk a lot about Freedom Technology: the practical knowledge, methods, and skills to live free. A major aspect of Freedom Technology is to learn how to use the right words to counter the words of the politicians and bureaucrats, and to escape having to give them money - without being jailed or shot. / Let me suggest to you that the destructive power of the politician, the bureaucrat, and the lawyer stems much more from their words than from their guns... Take away their words, and what happens? How can we take away their words? / Self-Referencing Syntax In order to grasp the nature of "government" (so-called), it may be necessary to master certain thinking skills that enable you to handle self-referencing syntax. English - and probably languages in general - isn't particularly suited for handling self-referencing. / Consider the sentence: "government" consists of individual human beings. The reason the word "government" is in quotation marks may indicate that the author questions the validity of the term. To emphasize the challenge to the validity of the term or concept "government," the author may say: so-called "government." / When I say - So-called "government" consists of individual human beings - the sentence includes self-referencing syntax. The sentence says that part of itself is invalid - the concept of "government." / There is also a problem with the use of "quotation marks." They are used for at least a dozen different purposes. The reader has to figure out from the context for what purpose quotation marks are being used. In his book How To Read A Page, I.A. Richard wrote: / "We all recognize - more or less unsystematically - that quotation marks serve varied purposes: / 1. Sometimes they show merely that we are quoting and where our quotation begins and ends. / / 2. Sometimes they imply that the words within them are in some way open to question and are only to be taken in some special sense with reference to some special definition. / / 3. Sometimes they suggest further that what is quoted is nonsense or that there is really no such thing as the thing they profess to name. / / 4. Sometimes they suggest that the words are improperly used. The quotation marks are equivalent to 'the so-called.' / / 5. Sometimes they only indicate that we are talking of the words as distinguished from their meanings... / / 6. There are many other uses... " / Questioning Words or Concepts Most people take it for granted that there is some kind of one-to-one relationship between words and the things represented by those words. They assume that because practically everybody uses a word like "government," therefore there's such a thing as "government." / In order to develop an accurate description of the "nature of government," it's absolutely vital to make a distinction between the word and the thing it supposedly represents. The word is a noise that comes out of your mouth (or some squiggles on paper). The thing is something you can touch or feel - or discern otherwise. This is why semanticists are fond of saying, "Whatever you say something is, it's not that." You see, the thing is what it is - and what you say it is, is a noise coming out your mouth. / Just because we use the word "government" doesn't automatically mean there's a thing "government." For the previous sentence to make any sense to you, you must be able to question words or concepts. You must be able to recognize that "government" is an abstract concept. In contrast, "table" could be called a "concrete concept" - even though the concept "table" is an abstraction of the thing "table." There's a word in my Webster's for construing (regarding) a conceptual entity as a real existent: hypostatization. / I speculate that for most people their consciousness is rooted in a number of basic concepts, and that "government" is one of these basic concepts. When their "government" concept is challenged it's as if their entire consciousness is threatened and they run a mile. / Later I'll refer to "statist fraud words." Some years ago I had dinner with a libertarian intellectual friend in the Atomium Restaurant in Brussels. We had an extensive discussion about libertarianism. Every time he used a statist fraud word such as "government," "country," "nation," "prime minister," "law," etc., I challenged that word. I asked him what he meant by it. I asked him for a referent. (The referent is the thing the word refers to. In the case of "table," it's the physical object with a flat top and four legs.) After about 20 minutes of my onslaught, my friend became sick and had to run to the restroom to puke his guts out! He blamed me. I speculate that challenging people's basic concepts may threaten, not only their consciousness, but also their metabolism! / Two Tribes Consider two different isolated tribes somewhere in the jungles of South America. Call them Tribe 1 and Tribe 2. Each has its unique language with its own structure. The language of tribe 1 (language 1) tends to be very literal. A man who fishes, for example, is called "man-who-fishes." The same man, while sleeping, is called "man-who-sleeps"; while talking, "man-who-talks"; while running, -"man-who-runs"; while eating, man-who-eats"; while writing, "man-who-writes"; while making a chair, "man-who-makes-chair"; while giving orders, "man-who-gives-orders"; etc. In language 1, distinctions are made between different kinds of words: "Thing-words," "Do-words," "How-words," "Story-words," "Funny-words," "order-words," "Panic-words," "What-words," "Who-words," "Why-words," "When-words," "Where-words," etc. Abstractions are rare in language 1. To the people of tribe 1, any word that doesn't refer to something physically perceivable, is highly suspect. Their test for reality is physical. / The language of Tribe 2 (Language 2) is very different. A man who obtains his wherewithal mostly by fishing, is called "fisherman." (This system of nomenclature would seem absurd to the people of Tribe 1 - how can you call someone a "fisherman" when he is not fishing, but sleeping?) Language 2 contains many abstractions - like "happiness." People from Tribe 2 can talk for hours about "happiness." (To someone from Tribe 1, this would be incomprehensible - they only talk about "woman-who-is-happy" while she is happy, and "woman-who-is-sad" while she is sad. The notion that you could separate "happiness" from a real person being happy, and talk about "happiness" as if it existed by itself, would be completely unthinkable to someone from Tribe 1.) / To the people from Tribe 2, any word being used is automatically assumed to be part of existence, otherwise people wouldn't use it. (To someone from Tribe 1, the word "existence" would be a meaningless absurdity, because in their mentality only particular objects exist.) In Tribe 2, the test for reality is agreement. If other people agree with a word and the way it seems to be used, then that word is automatically accepted as valid and useful. They suffer from hypostatization. / One day a strange man arrives at the place where the people of Tribe 1 live. They ask him: "Who you?" He: "I King". They: "your name King?". He: "No; my name John." They: "Why call self King if name John?" He: "I special person, agent of God." They: "You look different but not special; who God?" He: "God creator of world." They: "Where God?; How create world?" He: "God everywhere; God all-powerful." They: "How we see God?" He: "Can't see God." They: "You speak crazy." He: "No; I special; I show you." Whereupon the stranger performs various tricks like apparently making objects appear and disappear. They: "You clever man-who tricks." He: "I special; I King." They: "You speak funny; you clever John-who-tricks." He: "I King; my word law." They: "What law? - special word?" He: "Yes; my word law - you must obey." They: "Ah! You mean order-word!" He: "Yes; I King; I make law." They: "No; you speak order-word?" He: "Yes; I special". They: "What special? - Anybody speak order-word?" He: "You not understand." They: "No." / Eventually John-the-stranger gives up trying to convince the people of Tribe 1 that he has a "special status" and that his words are different from the words of anyone else - so he leaves, to search for more gullible and impressionable victims elsewhere... / For many days and nights he trudges through the jungle before discovering the people of Tribe 2. They: "Who you?" He: "I King." They: "Your name King?" He: "No, my name John." They: "Why call self King if name John?" He: "I special person, agent of God." They: "You look different; what God?" He: "God creator of world." They: Where God?; How create world?" He "God everywhere; God all-powerful." They: "Show special?" Whereupon the stranger performs various tricks like apparently making objects appear and disappear. They: "You King, agent of God." He: "Yes, my word law." They: "What law?" He: "Law special word of God through me; you must obey." Whereupon the people of Tribe 2 bow down and kiss the feet of John - they do not habitually test abstractions against reality, so they readily accept John-the-stranger as their "King" and his word as "law." Thereafter all he has to do to control and dominate them, is to open his mouth... / "Government" is a Form of Parasitism or Cannibalism The reason why people call themselves "government" is because it provides them with advantages - if they can get away with it. In the case of tribe 1, John-the-stranger called himself "King," but the people didn't buy it, so he left. However, the gullible people from tribe 2 believed him, so they became his "subjects" - meaning he could live off their effort - like a parasite. / The "state" (so-called) has its origin in a gang of looters making an agreement with a tribe: "We'll protect you from other gangs if you give us part of the food you produce." ("Government" is a Mafia-like protection racket.) / It's much easier to live off the values produced by others than to create your own values. Being a parasite is easier than being a producer. Being a value destroyer is easier than being a value creator. Now if we take it a step further, and regard the fruit of our labor as part of ourselves, then we're talking about cannibalism. That's why the American Declaration of Independence talks about "eating out our substance." "Government" is a form of cannibalism. / "Government" is also a form of "self-cannibalism." It continuously eats out its own substance, eventually destroying itself. It may start off only moderately destructive - like after the American Revolution - but gradually (but sometimes with big jumps) it becomes monstrously degenerate and destructive - like in modern America. / See also the earlier section on "Government" as "Legal Plunder." In this context it may be worth examining the role of lawyers -- see THE WORST PROFESSIONAL SCREWMASTERS. For the roles of bankers, tax collectors, etc., see the rest of THE ECONOMIC RAPE OF AMERICA. / In the Grandfarther Economic Report, Michael Hodges identifies "Five Core Threats" to the USA: / 1. Government dominance of the economy; / / 2. Declining quality of education; / / 3. Increasing debt dependence; / / 4. Growing international indebtedness; / / 5. Growing dependence on foreign oil. / Here are some of his findings: # Federal spending has been growing EIGHT times faster than the economy. # State and local government has been growing 2-3 times faster than the economy. # In the year 2000, complying with government regulation cost $977 billion -- 13% of the economy. # Recent claims of government surpluses are false. # The so-called social security and medicare "trust funds" contain no funds. The money is spent as it comes in and is replaced by "government IOUs to itself." / "Government" is Kept in Place by Certain Fraud-Words Politicians and bureaucrats use mostly words to impose their will upon others - even when physical violence is involved, they use words to attempt to justify their actions.

#### This turns the case. Replacing “government” with “terrocrat” avoids the link.

Frederick Mann, B.A., Communications @ Sanford University; Founder, Terra Libra, 1998, “‘The Nature of Government’.”

"But to tear down a factory or to revolt against a government... is to attack effects rather than causes; and as long as the attack is upon effects only, *no change is possible.* The true system, the real system, is our present construction of systematic thought itself, rationality itself. And if a factory is torn down but the rationality which produced it is left standing, then that rationality will simply produce another factory. If a revolution destroys a systematic government, but the systematic patterns of thought that produced that government are left intact, then those patterns will repeat themselves in the succeeding government..." [emphasis added] / Frank Herbert illustrates the same principle in his book The White Plague: "There's a lust for power in the Irish as there is in every people, a lusting after the ascendancy where you can tell others how to behave. It has a peculiar shape with the Irish, though. It comes of having lost our ancient ways - the simpler laws, the rath and the family at the core of society. Romanized governments dismay us. They always resolve themselves into widely separated ascendants and subjects, the latter being more numerous than the former, of course. Sometimes it's done with great subtlety as it was in America, the slow accumulations of power, law upon law and all of it manipulated by an elite whose monopoly it is to understand the private language of injustice. Do not blame the ascendants. Such separation requires docile subjects as well. This may be the lot of any government, Marxist Russians included. There's a peculiar human susceptibility you see when you look at the Soviets, them building an almost exact copy of the Czarist regimes, the same paranoia, the same secret police, the same untouchable military, and the murder squads, the Siberian death camps, the lid of terror on creative imagination, deportation of the ones who cannot be killed off or bought off. It's like some terrible plastic memory sitting there in the dark of our minds, ready on the instant to reshape itself into primitive patterns the moment the heat touches it." [emphasis added] / Let me suggest to you that *the "terrible plastic memory" consists of concepts like "government,"* "state," "nation," "king," "president," "law," etc. The tragedy of organizing human affairs into structures called "government" will be resolved when the underlying structures of words, and the thoughts that stem from the words, are changed. In The Virtue of Selfishness Ayn Rand wrote: / "If some men do not choose to think, but survive by imitating and repeating, like trained animals, the routine sounds and motions they learned from others, never making an effort to understand... they are the men who march into the abyss, trailing after any destroyer who promises them to assume the responsibility they evade: the responsibility of being conscious." / "Government" is Kept in Place by Brainwashing My book Wake Up America! The Dynamics of Human Power includes a chapter titled "Are our Schools Concentration Campuses for Mind Destruction?" in which I describe "education" in some detail. / Ayn Rand's The New Left: The Anti-Industrial Revolution, contains a chapter, "The Comprachicos." Comprachico is a Spanish word meaning "child-buyer." The comprachicos were a nomadic association, notorious in the seventeenth century. They bought and sold children - special children, children turned into deformed freaks, used in freak shows to amuse the public. At an early age they placed a young child in a porcelain pot with a grotesque form. As the child's body grew, it had to assume the shape of the pot. The result was a deformed freak for people to laugh at. / Rand uses the practice of the comprachicos as an analogy to describe American "education." She refers to our "educators" as "the comprachicos of the mind." Children's minds are forced to assume the shape of a grotesque "intellectual pot." Rand describes the result: / "The students' development is arrested, their minds are set to respond to slogans, as animals respond to a trainer's whistle, their brains are embalmed in the syrup of altruism as an automatic substitute for self-esteem... They would obey anyone, they need a master, they need to be told what to do. They are ready now to be used as cannon fodder - to attack, to bomb, to burn, to murder, to fight in the streets and die in the gutters. They are a trained pack of miserably impotent freaks, ready to be unleashed against anyone." [emphasis added] / In every part of the world, the monsters who masquerade as "government," do their utmost to achieve monopoly control of the so-called "education system" - they try to make it compulsory so all children will be subjected to government brainwashing. The result is that practically every victim is degraded into an unthinking follower... or unthinking rebel. / "Government" is Kept in Place by Mass Hallucination My Webster's definition of hallucination includes the following: / \* Perception of objects with no reality; / \* A completely unfounded or mistaken impression or notion. / We could also describe hallucination as "seeing" or "perceiving" what's not there - or "seeing" or "perceiving" more than exists in reality. / Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) could be described as the science of representational systems. In our brains we have "neural patterns" or "models" that attempt to represent reality. For example, in my brain I have a "picture" of a table. If someone asks me to draw a picture of a table, I access the "picture" or "model" in my head, from which I then draw a table. These "pictures," "models," or "neural patterns" are called representational systems. They include intellectual, emotional, visual, auditory, and other sensory data. / Our representational systems are more or less "useful." To the extent that we use them to predict accurately and produce desirable results, we regard them as useful. NLP people have identified three major ways in which our representational systems differ >>>from reality: / \* Generalization - e.g., the representational system called "furniture" - or the "intellectual" neural pattern: "all women are the same." / \* Distortion - e.g., "the color of my car is blue" - the physicist tells us this is a distortion; it's more accurate to say that my car's outer surface reflects light with the wavelength we call "blue," while absorbing light with other wavelengths. / \* Deletion - e.g., "Tom is a wonderful, generous, happy, healthy individual" - Tom has many other attributes, some of which have been ignored or "deleted" from my representational system. / \* I've identified a very important fourth way in which our representational systems differ from reality: / \* Addition - e.g., "John-the-stranger is a King, therefore he has special powers; and the words that come out of his mouth are special and therefore are the law which must be obeyed." John is really an ordinary man. By representing him as a "King" in our representational systems, we have added something to what exists in reality. Similarly, John's words are ordinary like those of the rest of us, and when we represent some of his words as "the law" in our representational systems, we have added something to what occurs in reality. / The essence of hallucination is "seeing" or "perceiving" what doesn't really exist or occur. The phenomenon of addition, as described above, is simply hallucination. To have a neural patterns or mental models that say "the government runs the country," "government makes law," "Slick Willy is President of the U.S.A.," all constitute hallucination. / It's these forms of hallucination that keep "government" in place. Because practically all humans suffer from similar political hallucinations, they tend to all agree with each other about certain fundamental political concepts and notions - such as "government," "state," "country," "nation," "constitution," "king," "president," "law," etc. If anybody questions or challenges these concepts or notions, they tend to think he's crazy. The phenomenon is mass hallucination. / Here is one of my favorite sentences: "The notion of "law" (so-called) is an hallawcinotion" - it sounds even better in French: "La notion de la "loi" (soi-disant) est une halloicinotion." How's that for self-referencing?! / "Government" is Kept in Place by Terror and by Violence Ultimately, political power comes from the barrel of the gun - as Mao said. The last resort of the monsters who masquerade as "government" is terror and violence. That's why they need the IRS, the ATF, the FBI, the CIA, etc. They have to threaten, terrorize, punish, and kill to retain their coercive power. Make examples out of those who question, threaten, or challenge their so-called "authority." / That's why it's appropriate to call them "territorial gangsters" or "territorial criminals" or "terrocrats" - monsters who use fraud, coercion, and violence to claim "jurisdiction" over a certain area, and the people who happen to be in that area. The monsters do so in order to control and dominate, and to live like parasites or cannibals off the values created by their victims. The foregoing is another very useful definition of "government!"

### 3

#### Economic engagement must be quid-pro-quo

Shinn 96 [James Shinn, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia at the CFR in New York City and director of the council’s multi-year Asia Project, worked on economic affairs in the East Asia Bureau of the US Dept of State, “Weaving the Net: Conditional Engagement with China,” pp. 9 and 11, google books]

In sum, conditional engagement consists of a set of objectives, a strategy for attaining those objectives, and tactics (specific policies) for implementing that strategy. The objectives of conditional engagement are the ten principles, which were selected to preserve American vital interests in Asia while accommodating China’s emergence as a major power. The overall strategy of conditional engagement follows two parallel lines: economic engagement, to promote the integration of China into the global trading and financial systems; and security engagement, to encourage compliance with the ten principles by diplomatic and military means when economic incentives do not suffice, in order to hedge against the risk of the emergence of a belligerent China. The tactics of economic engagement should promote China’s economic integration through negotiations on trade liberalization, institution building, and educational exchanges. While a carrots-and-sticks approach may be appropriate within the economic arena, the use of trade sanction to achieve short-term political goals is discouraged. The tactics of security engagement should reduce the risks posed by China’s rapid military expansion, its lack of transparency, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and transnational problems such as crime and illegal migration, by engaging in arms control negotiations, multilateral efforts, and a loosely-structured defensive military arrangement in Asia.8 [To footnotes] 8. Conditional engagement’s recommended tactics of tit-for-tat responses are equivalent to using carrots and sticks in response to foreign policy actions by China. Economic engagement calls for what is described as symmetric tit-for-tat and security engagement for asymmetric tit-for-tat. A symmetric response is one that counters a move by China in the same place, time, and manner; an asymmetric response might occur in another place at another time, and perhaps in another manner. A symmetric tit-for-tat would be for Washington to counter a Chinese tariff of 10 percent on imports for the United States with a tariff of 10 percent on imports from China. An asymmetric tit-for-tat would be for the United States to counter a Chines shipment of missiles to Iran with an American shipment of F-16s to Vietnam (John Lewis Gaddis, Strategies of Containment: A critical Appraisal of Postwar American National Security Policy. New York: Oxford University Press, (1982). This is also cited in Fareed Zakaria, “The Reagan Strategy of Containment,” Political Science Quarterly 105, no. 3 (1990), pp. 383-88).

#### Violation – the aff unilaterally engages with Cuba – it’s not quid pro quo

#### Vote negative – LIMITS – there are a near infinite range of “one exception” affs – conditionality forces to find significant deals that Cuba will accept

#### GROUND – unconditional engagement denies us “say no” and backlash arguments which are a crucial part of the engagement debate.

### 4

#### [CP TEXT: The United States federal government should loosen its economic sanctions on Cuba. This should include a complete lifting of medical sanctions on Cuba. The United States should not lift its economic sanctions on Cuba.]

#### That’s sufficient to solve their advantage—it’s completely based off of medical technology with Cuba.

### Hypocrisy

#### Economic engagement, in all forms, serves to expand the US empire

James Petras, Bartle Professor (Emeritus) of Sociology at Binghamton University, New York, 12-30-11, “Imperialism and the “Anti-Imperialism of the Fools,”  
 <http://petras.lahaine.org/?p=1886>

There is a long history of imperialist “anti-imperialism”, officially sponsored condemnation, exposés and moral indignation directed exclusively against rival imperialists, emerging powers or simply competitors, who in some cases are simply following in the footsteps of the established imperial powers. English imperialists in their heyday justified their world-wide plunder of three continents by perpetuating the “Black Legend”, of Spanish empire’s “exceptional cruelty” toward indigenous people of Latin America, while engaging in the biggest and most lucrative African slave trade. While the Spanish colonists enslaved the indigenous people, the Anglo-american settlers exterminated [indigenous people]….. In the run-up to World War II, European and US imperial powers, while exploiting their Asian colonies condemned Japanese imperial powers’ invasion and colonization of China. Japan, in turn claimed it was leading Asia’s forces fighting against Western imperialism and projected a post-colonial “co-prosperity” sphere of equal Asian partners. The imperialist use of “anti-imperialist” moral rhetoric was designed to weaken rivals and was directed to several audiences. In fact, at no point did the anti-imperialist rhetoric serve to “liberate” any of the colonized people. In almost all cases the victorious imperial power only substituted one form colonial or neo-colonial rule for another. The “anti-imperialism” of the imperialists is directed at the nationalist movements of the colonized countries and at their domestic public. British imperialists fomented uprisings among the agro-mining elites in Latin America promising “free trade” against Spanish mercantilist rule ;they backed the “self-determination” of the slaveholding cotton plantation owners in the US South against the Union;they supported the territorial claims of the Iroquois tribal leaders against the US anti-colonial revolutionaries … exploiting legitimate grievances for imperial ends. During World War II, the Japanese imperialists supported a sector of the nationalist anti-colonial movement in India against the British Empire. The US condemned Spanish colonial rule in Cuba and the Philippines and went to war to “liberate” the oppressed peoples from tyranny….and remained to impose a reign of terror, exploitation and colonial rule… The imperial powers sought to divide the anti-colonial movements and create future “client rulers” when and if they succeeded. The use of anti-imperialist rhetoric was designed to attract two sets of groups. A conservative group with common political and economic interests with the imperial power, which shared their hostility to revolutionary nationalists and which sought to accrue greater advantage by tying their fortunes to a rising imperial power. A radical sector of the movement tactically allied itself with the rising imperial power, with the idea of using the imperial power to secure resources (arms, propaganda, vehicles and financial aid) and, once securing power, to discard them. More often than not, in this game of mutual manipulation between empire and nationalists, the former won out … as is the case then and now. The imperialist “anti-imperialist” rhetoric was equally directed at the domestic public, especially in countries like the US which prized its 18th anti-colonial heritage. The purpose was to broaden the base of empire building beyond the hard line empire loyalists, militarists and corporate beneficiaries. Their appeal sought to include liberals, humanitarians, progressive intellectuals, religious and secular moralists and other “opinion-makers” who had a certain cachet with thelarger public, the ones who would have to pay with their lives and tax money for the inter-imperial and colonial wars. The official spokespeople of empire publicize real and fabricated atrocities of their imperial rivals, and highlight the plight of the colonized victims. The corporate elite and the hardline militarists demand military action to protect property, or to seize strategic resources; the humanitarians and progressives denounce the “crimes against humanity” and echo the calls “to do something concrete” to save the victims from genocide. Sectors of the Left join the chorus, finding a sector of victims who fit in with their abstract ideology, and plead for the imperial powers to “arm the people to liberate themselves” (sic). By lending moral support and a veneer of respectability to the imperial war, by swallowing the propaganda of “war to save victims” the progressives become the prototype of the “anti-imperialism of the fools”. Having secured broad public support on the bases of “anti-imperialism”, the imperialist powers feel free to sacrifice citizens’ lives and the public treasury ,to pursue war, fueled by the moral fervor of a righteous cause. As the butchery drags on and the casualties mount, and the public wearies of war and its cost, progressive and leftist enthusiasm turns to silence or worse, moral hypocrisy with claims that “the nature of the war changed” or “that this isn’t the kind of war that we had in mind …”. As if the war makers ever intended to consult the progressives and left on how and why they should engage in imperial wars.! In the contemporary period the imperial “anti-imperialist wars” and aggression have been greatly aided and abetted by well-funded “grass roots” so-called “non-governmental organizations” which act to mobilize popular movements which can “invite” imperial aggression. Over the past four decades US imperialism has fomented at least two dozen “grass roots” movements which have destroyed democratic governments, or decimated collectivist welfare states or provoked major damage to the economy of targeted countries. In Chile throughout 1972-73 under the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende, the CIA financed and provided major support – via the AFL-CIO–to private truck owners to paralyze the flow of goods and services .They also funded a strike by a sector of the copper workers union (at the El Tenient mine) to undermine copper production and exports, in the lead up to the coup. After the military took power several “grass roots” Christian Democratic union officials participated in the purge of elected leftist union activists. Needless to say in short order the truck owners and copper workers ended the strike, dropped their demands and subsequently lost all bargaining rights! In the 1980’s the CIA via Vatican channels transferred millions of dollars to sustain the “Solidarity Union” in Poland, making a hero of the Gdansk shipyards worker-leader Lech Walesa, who spearheaded the general strike to topple the Communist regime. With the overthrow of Communism so also went guaranteed employment, social security and trade union militancy: the neo-liberal regimes reduced the workforce at Gdansk by fifty percent and eventually closed it, giving the boot to the entire workforce.. Walesa retired with a magnificent Presidential pension, while his former workmates walked the streets and the new “independent” Polish rulers provided NATO with military bases and mercenaries for imperial wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2002 the White House, the CIA , the AFL-CIO and NGOs, backed a Venezuelan military-business – trade union bureaucrat led “grass roots” coup that overthrew democratically elected President Chavez. In 48 hours a million strong authentic grass roots mobilization of the urban poor backed by constitutionalist military forces defeated the US backed dictators and restored Chavez to power .Subsequently oil executives directed a lockout backed by several US financed NGOs. They were defeated by the workers’ takeover of the oil industry. The unsuccessful coup and lockout cost the Venezuelan economy billions of dollars in lost income and caused a double digit decline in GNP. The US backed “grass roots” armed jihadists to liberated “Bosnia” and armed the“grass roots” terrorist Kosova Liberation Army to break-up Yugoslavia.Almost the entire Western Left cheered as, the US bombed Belgrade, degraded the economy and claimed it was “responding to genocide”. Kosova “free and independent” became a huge market for white slavers, housed the biggest US military base in Europe, with the highest per-capita out migration of any country in Europe. The imperial “grass roots” strategy combines humanitarian, democratic and anti-imperialist rhetoric and paid and trained local NGO’s, with mass media blitzes to mobilize Western public opinion and especially “prestigious leftist moral critics” behind their power grabs. The Consequence of Imperial Promoted “Anti-Imperialist” Movements: Who Wins and Who Loses? The historic record of imperialist promoted “anti-imperialist” and “pro-democracy” “grass roots movements” is uniformly negative. Let us briefly summarize the results. In Chile ‘grass roots’ truck owners strike led to the brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet and nearly two decades of torture, murder, jailing and forced exile of hundreds of thousands, the imposition of brutal “free market policies” and subordination to US imperial policies. In summary the US multi-national copper corporations and the Chilean oligarchy were the big winners and the mass of the working class and urban and rural poor the biggest losers. The US backed “grass roots uprisings” in Eastern Europe against Soviet domination, exchanged Russian for US domination; subordination to NATO instead of the Warsaw Pact; the massive transfer of national public enterprises, banks and media to Western multi-nationals. Privatization of national enterprises led to unprecedented levels of double-digit unemployment, skyrocketing rents and the growth of pensioner poverty.The crises induced the flight of millions of the most educated and skilled workers and the elimination of free public health, higher education and worker vacation resorts. Throughout the now capitalist Eastern Europe and USSR highly organized criminal gangs developed large scale prostitution and drug rings; foreign and local gangster ‘entrepeneurs’ seized lucrative public enterprises and formed a new class of super-rich oligarchs Electoral party politicians, local business people and professionals linked to Western ‘partners’ were the socio-economic winners. Pensioners, workers, collective farmers, the unemployed youth were the big losers along with the formerly subsidized cultural artists. Military bases in Eastern Europe became the empire’s first line of military attack of Russia and the target of any counter-attack. If we measure the consequences of the shift in imperial power, it is clear that the Eastern Europe countries have become even more subservient under the US and the EU than under Russia. Western induced financial crises have devastated their economies; Eastern European troops have served in more imperial wars under NATO than under Soviet rule; the cultural media are under Western commercial control. Most of all, the degree of imperial control over all economic sectors far exceeds anything that existed under the Soviets. The Eastern European ‘grass roots’ movement succeeded in deepening and extending the US Empire; the advocates of peace, social justice, national independence, a cultural renaissance and social welfare with democracy were the big losers. Western liberals, progressives and leftists who fell in love with imperialist promoted “anti-imperialism” are also big losers. Their support for the NATO attack on Yugoslavia led to the break-up of a multi-national state and the creation of huge NATO military bases and a white slavers paradise in Kosova. Their blind support for the imperial promoted “liberation” of Eastern Europe devastated the welfare state, eliminating the pressure on Western regimes’ need to compete in providing welfare provisions. The main beneficiaries of Western imperial advances via ‘grass roots’ uprisings were the multi-national corporations, the Pentagon and the rightwing free market neo-liberals. As the entire political spectrum moved to the right a sector of the left and progressives eventually jumped on the bandwagon. The Left moralists lost credibility and support, their peace movements dwindled, their “moral critiques” lost resonance. The left and progressives who tail-ended the imperial backed “grass roots movements”, whether in the name of “anti-stalinism”, “pro-democracy” or “anti-imperialism” have never engaged in any critical reflection; no effort to analyze the long-term negative consequences of their positions in terms of the losses in social welfare, national independence or personal dignity. The long history of imperialist manipulation of “anti-imperialist” narratives has found virulent expression in the present day. The New Cold War launched by Obama against China and Russia, the hot war brewing in the Gulf over Iran’s alleged military threat, the interventionist threat against Venezuela’s “drug-networks”,and Syria’s “bloodbath” are part and parcel of the use and abuse of “anti-imperialism” to prop up a declining empire. Hopefully, the progressive and leftist writers and scribes will learn from the ideological pitfalls of the past and resist the temptation to access the mass media by providing a ‘progressive cover’ to imperial dubbed “rebels”. It is time to distinguish between genuine anti-imperialism and pro-democracy movements and those promoted by Washington, NATO and the mass media.

#### Turn—the embargo prevents US economic domination of the region.

William M. Leogrande, and Julie M. Thomas, 2002 (Professor of Government in the School of Public Affairs @ American University, and Participant in a Ph.D. Dissertation at the School of Public Affair @ American University, “Cuba’s Quest for Economic Interdependence”, Journal of Latin American Studies, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 325-363; JSTOR :)

If there is one bright spot in the current landscape of Cuba's economic travails, it is the fact that Cuba has not (yet) fallen back into a dependent economic relationship with the United States. That, of course, is because of the US economic embargo - a politically motivated sanction that ironically has become the principal bulwark against US economic domination of post-Cold War Cuba. No doubt the embargo hinders Cuban economic growth by preventing US direct foreign investment on the island, by discouraging investment from other sources, and by increasing Cuban transportation costs for things it must sell farther from home. In the absence of the embargo, there is little doubt that trade with the United States would quickly grow to dwarf trade with every other trade partner, tourists from the United States would dwarf the numbers from Canada and western Europe, and investment from US firms (including Cuban-American firms) would dwarf investments from elsewhere.

#### Alt causes to Cuban medical failure

Yoani Sanchez, 6-05-2011, award-winning Cuban blogger, Huffington Post, “Cuba's Much Lauded Health Care System No Longer Has Even Aspirin to Give Us,” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yoani-sanchez/cubas-much-lauded-health-_b_871434.html>

It's been almost two years since I've been seen at a hospital. The last time was in that November of beatings and kidnapping when my lower back was in very bad shape. I learned a hard lesson on that occasion: given the choice between the Hippocratic oath and ideological fidelity, many physicians prefer to violate the privacy of their patients -- often compared to the secrets of the confessional -- rather than to oppose, with the truth, the State that employs them. The examples of this pouring forth on official television in recent months have strengthened my lack of confidence in the Cuban public health system. So I am healing myself with plants that grow on my balcony, I exercise every day to avoid getting sick, and I've even bought myself a Vademécum -- a Physician's Desk Reference -- should I need to self-prescribe at some point. But despite my "medical revolt," I haven't failed to observe and investigate the growing deterioration of this sector. Among the recent hospital cuts, the most notable have to do with resources for diagnostics. The doctors receive greatly reduced allocations for X-rays, ultrasounds and MRIs which they must distribute among their patients. Anecdotes about fractures that are set without first being X-rayed, or abdominal pains that become complicated because they can't do a scan, are so common we're no longer surprised. Such a situation is also vulnerable to patronage, where those who can offer a gift, or surreptitiously pay, obtain better medical care than do others. The cheese given to the nurse and the indispensable hand soap that many offer the dentist noticeably accelerate treatment and complement the undervalued salaries of those medical professionals. A thermometer is an object long-missing from the shelves of pharmacies operating in local currency, while the hard currency stores have the most modern digital models. Getting a pair of glasses to alleviate near-sightedness can take months through subsidized State channels, or twenty-four hours at Miramar Optical where you pay in convertible pesos. Nor do the bodies who staff the hospitals escape these contrasts: we can consult the most competent neurosurgeon in the entire Caribbean region, but he doesn't have even an aspirin to give us. These are the chiaroscuros that make us sick, and exhaust patients, their families, and the medical personnel themselves. And that leave us feeling defrauded by a conquest -- long brandished before our faces -- that has crumbled, and they won't even let us complain about it.

#### Turn—normalizing relations causes US consumerism to overrun Cuban cultures and environments.

Cornelia Dean, 2007 (NYTimes, News Source, “Conserving Cuba, After the Embargo”, http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0 :)

Through accidents of geography and history, Cuba is a priceless ecological resource. That is why many scientists are so worried about what will become of it after Fidel Castro and his associates leave power and, as is widely anticipated, the American government relaxes or ends its trade embargo. Cuba has avoided much environmental degradation in recent decades, but now hotel developments are seen extending into the water in Cayo Coco. More Photos > Cuba, by far the region’s largest island, sits at the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Its mountains, forests, swamps, coasts and marine areas are rich in plants and animals, some seen nowhere else. And since the imposition of the embargo in 1962, and especially with the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, its major economic patron, Cuba’s economy has stagnated. Cuba has not been free of development, including Soviet-style top-down agricultural and mining operations and, in recent years, an expansion of tourism. But it also has an abundance of landscapes that elsewhere in the region have been ripped up, paved over, poisoned or otherwise destroyed in the decades since the Cuban revolution, when development has been most intense. Once the embargo ends, the island could face a flood of investors from the United States and elsewhere, eager to exploit those landscapes. Conservationists, environmental lawyers and other experts, from Cuba and elsewhere, met last month in Cancún, Mexico, to discuss the island’s resources and how to continue to protect them. Cuba has done “what we should have done — identify your hot spots of biodiversity and set them aside,” said Oliver Houck, a professor of environmental law at Tulane University Law School who attended the conference. In the late 1990s, Mr. Houck was involved in an effort, financed in part by the MacArthur Foundation, to advise Cuban officials writing new environmental laws. But, he said in an interview, “an invasion of U.S. consumerism, a U.S.-dominated future, could roll over it like a bulldozer” when the embargo ends.

#### Exodus turn—normalizing relations causes health-care workers to leave Cuba en masse—collapses Cuban medicine.

Laurie Garrett, [7-8]-xx-2010, senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, “Castrocare in Crisis: Will Lifting the Embargo on Cuba Make Things Worse?” <http://www.ihavenet.com/Latin-America-Cuba-Castrocare-in-Crisis-LG.html>

According to Steven Ullmann of the University of Miami's Cuba Transition Project, if Washington lifts its embargo, Cuba can expect a mass exodus of health-care workers and then the creation of a domestic health system with two tiers, one private and one public. The system's lower, public tier would be at risk of complete collapse. Ullmann therefore suggests "fostering this [public] system through partnerships and enhanced compensation of personnel." He also argues that officials in both governments should "limit out-migration of scientific brainpower from the country." Properly handled, the transition could leave Cuba with a mixed health-care economy -- part public, part locally owned and private, and part outsourced and private -- that could compensate Cuban physicians, nurses, and other health-care workers enough to keep them in the country and working at least part time in the public sector. The only U.S. policy currently in place, however, encourages Cuban physicians to immigrate to the United States. In 2006, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security created a special parole program under which health-care workers who defect from Cuba are granted legal residence in the United States while they prepare for U.S. medical licensing examinations. An estimated 2,000 physicians have taken advantage of the program. Although few have managed to gain accreditation as U.S. doctors, largely due to their poor English-language skills and the stark differences between Cuban and U.S. medical training, many now work as nurses in Florida hospitals. The Castro government, meanwhile, is in a seemingly untenable position. The two greatest achievements of the Cuban Revolution -- 100 percent literacy and quality universal health care -- depend on huge streams of government spending. If Washington does eventually start to normalize relations, plugging just a few holes in the embargo wall would require vast additional spending by the Cuban government. The government would have to pay higher salaries to teachers, doctors, nurses, and technicians; strengthen the country's deteriorating infrastructure; and improve working conditions for common workers. To bolster its health-care infrastructure and create incentives for Cuban doctors to stay in the system, Cuba will have to find external support from donors, such as the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development. But few sources will support Havana with funding as long as the regime restricts the travel of its citizens. In the long run, Cuba will need to develop a taxable economic base to generate government revenues -- which would mean inviting foreign investment and generating serious employment opportunities. The onus is on the Castro government to demonstrate how the regime could adapt to the easing or lifting of the U.S. embargo. Certainly, Cuban leaders already know that their health triumphs would be at risk. The United States, too, has tough responsibilities. How the U.S. government handles its side of the post-embargo transition will have profound ramifications for the people of Cuba. The United States could allow the marketplace to dictate events, resulting in thousands of talented professionals leaving Cuba and dozens of U.S. companies building a vast offshore for-profit empire of medical centers along Cuba's beaches. But it could and should temper the market's forces by enacting regulations and creating incentives that would bring a rational balance to the situation. For clues about what might constitute a reasonable approach that could benefit all parties, including the U.S. medical industry, Washington should study the 2003 Commonwealth Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health Workers. The health ministers of the Commonwealth of Nations forged this agreement after the revelation that the United Kingdom's National Health Service had hired third-party recruiters to lure to the country hundreds of doctors and nurses from poor African, Asian, and Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth, including those ravaged by HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. In some cases, the recruiters managed to persuade as many as 300 health-care workers to leave every day. Although the agreement is imperfect, it has reduced abuses and compensated those countries whose personnel were poached. Cuba's five decades of public achievement in the health-care sector have resulted in a unique cradle-to-grave community-based approach to preventing illness, disease, and death. No other socialist society has ever equaled Cuba in improving the health of its people. Moreover, Cuba has exported health care to poor nations the world over. In its purest form, Cuba offers an inspiring, standard-setting vision of government responsibility for the health of its people. It would be a shame if the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba killed that vision.

#### Turn—the embargo prevents sex tourism and the further objectification of Afro-Cuban women.

Daniel Greenfield, 3-17-2013, “US Embargo on Cuba Prevents Child Sex Tourism,” <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2013/dgreenfield/us-embargo-on-cuba-prevents-child-sex-tourism/>

Here’s one more reason why Hollywood lefties are so upset about the American embargo on Castro’s Socialist paradise. It makes it hard for the Roman Polanskis and Woody Allens to do what they do. An odd combination of Washington’s trade embargo on Cuba and tough U.S. laws on sex tourism has kept down the number of U.S. travelers who fly to the island to abuse underage girls and boys. Yet U.S. child-sex tourism to an island just 90 miles off the coast of Florida falls far short of the levels of exploitation by Canadians and Spaniards found by a joint investigation by the Toronto Star and the El Nuevo Herald. “When we talk about hotbeds of activity, [Cuba] is not one that comes up,” said one ICE official familiar with child-sex tourism cases.

#### Return to the legal normal authorizes violent international aggression

Agamben, 5. Giorgio Agamben, famous philosopher, The State of Exception, pg. 85

It is perhaps possible at this point to look back upon the path trav- eled thus far and draw some provisional conclusions from our investi- gation of the state of exception. The juridical system of the West appears as a double structure, formed by two heterogeneous yet coordinated el- ements: one that is normative and juridical in the strict sense (which we can for convenience inscribe under the rubric potestas) and one that is anomic and metajuridical (which we can call by the name auctoritas).¶ The normative element needs the anomic element in order to be ap- plied, but, on the other hand, auctoritas can assert itself only in the val- idation or suspension of potestas. Because it results from the dialectic between these two somewhat antagonistic yet functionally connected elements, the ancient dwelling of law is fragile and, in straining to main- tain its own order, is always already in the process of ruin and decay. The state of exception is the device that must ultimately articulate and hold together the two aspects of the juridico-political machine by instituting a threshold of undecidability between anomie and nomos, between life and law, between auctoritas and potestas. It is founded on the essential fiction according to which anomie (in the form of auctoritas, living law, or the force of law) is still related to the juridical order and the power to suspend the norm has an immediate hold on life. As long as the two el- ements remain correlated yet conceptually, temporally, and subjectively distinct (as in republican Rome’s contrast between the Senate and the people, or in medieval Europe’s contrast between spiritual and temporal powers) their dialectic—though founded on a fiction—can nevertheless function in some way. But when they tend to coincide in a single per- son, when the state of exception, in which they are bound and blurred together, becomes the rule, then the juridico-political system transforms itself into a killing machine.¶ 6.10 The aim of this investigation—in the urgency of the state of ex- ception “in which we live”—was to bring to light the fiction that governs this arcanum imperii [secret of power] par excellence of our time. What the “ark” of power contains at its center is the state of exception—but this is essentially an empty space, in which a human action with no re- lation to law stands before a norm with no relation to life.¶ This does not mean that the machine, with its empty center, is not effective; on the contrary, what we have sought to show is precisely that it has continued to function almost without interruption from World War One, through fascism and National Socialism, and up to our own time. Indeed, the state of exception has today reached its maximum worldwide deployment. The normative aspect of law can thus be obliter- ated and contradicted with impunity by a governmental violence that— while ignoring international law externally and producing a permanent state of exception internally—nevertheless still claims to be applying the law.¶ Of course, the task at hand is not to bring the state of exception back within its spatially and temporally defined boundaries in order to then reaffirm the primacy of a norm and of rights that are themselves ulti- mately grounded in it. From the real state of exception in which we live, it is not possible to return to the state of law [stato di diritto], for at issue now are the very concepts of “state” and “law.” But if it is possible to attempt to halt the machine, to show its central fiction, this is because between violence and law, between life and norm, there is no substantial articulation. Alongside the movement that seeks to keep them in rela- tion at all costs, there is a countermovement that, working in an inverse direction in law and in life, always seeks to loosen what has been artifi- cially and violently linked. That is to say, in the field of tension of our culture, two opposite forces act, one that institutes and makes, and one that deactivates and deposes. The state of exception is both the point of their maximum tension and—as it coincides with the rule—that which threatens today to render them indiscernible. To live in the state of ex- ception means to experience both of these possibilities and yet, by always separating the two forces, ceaselessly to try to interrupt the working of the machine that is leading the West toward global civil war.

### Framing

#### The affirmative’s preemptive logic is based off of constructing the other as an enemy, which not only excludes people from the community but also results in endless wars and violence.

Jabri, 6 Professor of International Politics and the Director of the Centre for International Relations at the King’s College London [Vivienne, “War, Security and the Liberal State” Security Dialogue http://sdi.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/37/1/47]

The practices of warfare taking place in the immediate aftermath of 11 September 2001 combine with societal processes, reflected in media representations and in the wider public sphere, where increasingly the source of threat, indeed the source of terror, is perceived as the cultural other, and specifically the other associated variously with Islam, the Middle East and South Asia. There is, then, a particularity to what Agamben (1995, 2004) calls the ‘state of exception’, a state not so much generalized and generalizable, but one that is experienced differently by different sectors of the global population. It is precisely this differential experience of the exception that draws attention to practices as diverse as the formulation of interrogation techniques by military intelligence in the Pentagon, to the recent provisions of counter-terrorism measures in the UK, to the legitimizing discourses surrounding the invasion of Iraq. All are practices that draw upon a dis-course of legitimization based on prevention and pre-emption. Enemies constructed in the discourses of war are hence always potential, always abstract even when identified, and, in being so, always drawn widely and, in consequence, communally. There is, hence, a ‘profile’ to the state of exception and its experience. Practices that profile particular communities, including the citizens of European states, create particular challenges to the self-understanding of the liberal democratic state and its capacity, in the 21st century, to deal with difference. While a number of measures undertaken in the name of security, such as proposals for the introduction of identity cards in the UK or increasing surveillance of financial transactions in the USA, might encompass the population as a whole, the politics of exception is marked by racial and cultural signification. Those targeted by exceptional measures are members of particular racial and cultural communities. The assumed threat that underpins the measures highlighted above is one that is now openly associated variously with Islam as an ideology, Islam as a mode of religious identification, Islam as a distinct mode of lifestyle and practice, and Islam as a particular brand associated with particular organizations that espouse some form of a return to an Islamic Caliphate. When practices are informed by a discourse of antagonism, no distinctions are made between these various forms of individual and communal identification. When communal profiling takes place, the distinction between, for example, the choice of a particular lifestyle and the choice of a particular organization disappears, and diversity within the profiled community is sacrificed in the name of some ‘precautionary’ practice that targets all in the name of security.9 The practices and language of antagonism, when racially and culturally inscribed, place the onus of guilt onto the entire community so identified, so that its individual members can no longer simply be citizens of a secular, multicultural state, but are constituted in discourse as particular citizens, subjected to particular and hence exceptional practices. When the Minister of State for the UK Home Office states that members of the Muslim community should expect to be stopped by the police, she is simply expressing the condition of the present, which is that the Muslim community is particularly vulnerable to state scrutiny and invasive measures that do not apply to the rest of the citizenry.10 We know, too, that a distinctly racial profiling is taking place, so that those who are physically profiled are subjected to exceptional measures. Even as the so-called war against terrorism recognizes no boundaries as limits to its practices – indeed, many of its practices occur at transnational, often indefinable, spaces – what is crucial to understand, however, is that this does not mean that boundaries are no longer constructed or that they do not impinge on the sphere of the political. The paradox of the current context is that while the war against terrorism in all its manifestations assumes a boundless arena, borders and boundaries are at the heart of its operations. The point to stress is that these boundaries and the exclusionist practices that sustain them are not coterminous with those of the state; rather, they could be said to be located and perpetually constructed upon the corporeality of those constructed as enemies, as threats to security. It is indeed the corporeal removal of such subjects that lies at the heart of what are constructed as counter-terrorist measures, typified in practices of direct war, in the use of torture, in extra-judicial incarceration and in judicially sanctioned detention. We might, then, ask if such measures constitute violence or relations of power, where, following Foucault, we assume that the former acts upon bodies with a view to injury, while the latter acts upon the actions of subjects and assumes, as Deleuze (1986: 70–93) suggests, a relation of forces and hence a subject who can act. What I want to argue here is that violence is imbricated in relations of power, is a mode of control, a technology of governmentality. When the population of Iraq is targeted through aerial bombardment, the consequence goes beyond injury and seeks the pacification of the Middle East as a political region. When legislative and bureaucratic measures are put in place in the name of security, those targeted are categories of population. At the same time, the war against terrorism and the security discourses utilized in its legitimization are conducted and constructed in terms that imply the defence or protection of populations. One option is to limit policing, military and intelligence efforts through the targeting of particular organizations. However, it is the limitless construction of the war against terrorism, its targeting of particular racial and cultural communities, that is the source of the challenge presented to the liberal democratic state. In conditions constructed in terms of emergency, war permeates discourses on politics, so that these come to be subject to the restraints and imperatives of war and practices constituted in terms of the demands of security against an existential threat. The implications for liberal democratic politics and our conceptions of the modern state and its institutions are far-reaching,11 for the liberal democratic polity that considers itself in a state of perpetual war is also a state that is in a permanent state of mobilization, where every aspect of public life is geared towards combat against potential enemies, internal and external.

# 2NC

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### AT: Counter-interp

#### Here’s proof – they allow tons of random unilateral measures

CSG 13 [Cuba Study Group, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, comprised of business and community leaders of Cuban descent who share a common interest and vision of a free and democratic Cuba, “Restoring Executive Authority Over U.S. Policy Toward Cuba,” Feb 2013, http://www.cubastudygroup.org/index.cfm/files/serve?File\_id=45d8f827-174c-4d43-aa2f-ef7794831032]

4. Additional Steps the U.S. President Can Take to Promote Change in Cuba¶ While we wait for Congress to act, the Executive Branch should exercise its licensing authority to further safeguard the flow of contacts and resources into the Island, encourage independent economic and political activity, and further empower the Cuban people. To that end, the Cuba Study Group proposes that the President pursue the following measures:¶ i) Modify Remittance and Export Limitations: Increase the $3,000 limit on remittances that can be carried to Cuba by authorized travelers and expand the types of goods that travelers may legally take to Cuba to support micro entrepreneurs. Fewer limitations in these areas will make it easier for U.S. travelers to provide seed capital and in-kind contributions for start-ups.¶ ii) Authorize Travel by General License for NGOs and Allow Them to Open Cuban Bank Accounts: Regulations enacted on January 28, 2011 allow U.S. full- and part-time university staff to travel to Cuba by general license. These regulations also allow U.S.-based academic institutions to open accounts in Cuban banks with funds to support their educational programs in Cuba. A similar license for foundations and NGOs whose mission involves support for micro and small businesses would also help support this growing segment of civil society.¶ iii) Establish New Licenses for the Provision of Services to Cuban Private Entrepreneurs: The President could build on existing authorizations that allow U.S. persons and institutions to pay individual Cuban scholars musicians and artists for their work. New licenses could extend to additional groups, such as artisans or farmers, and authorize a greater scope of activities such as recording, publication, distribution, etc.¶ iv) Authorize Imports of Certain Goods and Services to Businesses and Individuals Engaged in Certifiably Independent Economic Activity in Cuba: The President could authorize the importation of limited types of Cuban-origin goods and services under general or specific licenses, particularly when such authorizations could be justified as providing support for the Cuban people or democratic change in Cuba. For example, the President could authorize imports from private producers or allow U.S. persons to directly engage and hire Cuban professionals.¶ v) Authorize Export and Sale of Goods and Services to Businesses and Individuals Engaged in Certifiably Independent Economic Activity in Cuba: Amend existing licensing policy to establish a presumption of approval for specific items deemed to support the U.S.-stated policy goal of promoting independent economic activity on the Island. Since 2000, legislation has allowed the export of a broad range of agricultural products and a limited range of medicines and medical devices. This should be expanded to include other inputs in demand by indepen - dent businesses, including—but not limited to—good such as art supplies, food preparation equipment, bookkeeping materials, and basic electronic equipment and software required for retail sales and business administration.¶ vi) Authorize the Sale of Telecommunications Hardware in Cuba : Current U.S. regulations, as amended by the Obama administration in 2009, allow for donations of some telecommunications equipment, thereby recognizing that these goods by themselves do not violate the embargo. The next step should be to allow for the sales of those same goods inside the Island. Along with those provisions, changes should also allow for the provision of general travel licenses for research, marketing and sale of those goods.¶ vii) Authorize the Reestablishment of Ferry Services to Cuba : Current U.S. regulations allow both “aircraft and vessels” to serve Cuba as an exception to the U.S. embargo against the Island. The use of chartered aircrafts to transport Cuban-Americans and other licensed U.S. travelers to and from Cuba has long been authorized by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The next step should be to reestablish safe and secure chartered ferry services to transport the same categories of passengers to and from Cuba. Ferry service offers an affordable alternative to airline travel to Cuba and would allow an increase in the amount of goods that Cuban-Americans and other licensed travelers may legally take to Cuba to support their families and micro entrepreneurs.¶ viii) Simplify the Provision of Controlled Commodities, such as Computers and Laptops Direct the Department of Commerce to provide more detailed guidance for individuals to determine whether or not controlled commodities, such as laptops and printers, qualify under the general export waiver.¶ ix) Allow Licensed U.S. Travelers Access to U.S.-Issued Debit, Credit, and Pre-Paid Cards and Other Financial Services While on Authorized Travel in Cuba: Currently, U.S. travelers to Cuba have no access to U.S. bank accounts, credit cards, debit cards or other basic financial services. With few exceptions, U.S. travelers are forced to carry cash with them to Cuba. Allowing U.S. travelers access to electronic payment systems would help ensure their safety and security while being on the Island. Moreover, authorizing new electronic payment systems would facilitate the Administration’s goal of promoting people-to-people contacts and facilitating private economic activity by safeguarding the transfer of money from U.S. residents to relatives and independent entrepreneurs on the island.¶ x) Review Cuba’s Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism: Cuba’s status on the State Department’s list of state sponsors of terrorism has been subject to debate for more than a decade. The President should order a comprehensive, apolitical review to determine whether this designation reflects the reality of Cuba today.¶ xi) Develop an expanded bilateral agenda with a range of specific topics of mutual interest : Agenda should include topics such as the resolution of property claims to help foster an environment of dialogue, problem- solving and trust building— thereby helping to set the stage for an eventual normalization of relations.

### AT: QPQs don’t work

#### Cuba QPQs are predictable in the literature

Haass 00 – Richard Haass & Meghan O’Sullivan, Brookings Institution Foreign Policy Studies Program, “Terms of Engagement: Alternatives to Punitive Policies”, Survival, 42(2), Summer, p. 15-16

Rather than maintaining the status quo, the US should simultaneously pursue two forms of engagement with Cuba. First, it should actively seek out Castro’s willingness to engage in a conditional relationship and to chart a course towards more satisfactory relations. It should attempt to strike a dialogue with Castro in which reasonable benefits are offered to him in return for reasonable changes. Rather than accentuating the desire for a regime change or immediate democratic elections, US policy-makers should make lesser goals the focus of their policy, as the more ambitious the demands, the less likely Castro is to enter into a process of engagement. For instance, the release of political prisoners and the legitimisation of political parties might be offered in exchange for the selected lifting of elements of the embargo. Regardless of Castro’s reaction to such an approach, benefits would accrue to the United States. If Castro accepted this dialogue, US policy would be seen as pushing forward real political liberalisation on the island; if Castro rejected these attempts, America would still ease tensions with its European allies by demonstrating it was willing to take a more flexible line towards Cuba.

## Vietnamese Rice DA

### 2NC I—ASEAN—Violence

#### Violence Impact

Sarah Kendzior, 2-19-2013, writer and analyst who studies digital media and politics in authoritarian states, PhD in anthropology from Washington University, work has been published by Al Jazeera, The Atlantic, Slate, Radio Free Europe and numerous academic journals, “The Curse of Stability in Central Asia,” <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/02/19/the_curse_of_stability_in_central_asia>

Central Asia has a reputation for volatility. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the region has been referred to as a "hotbed" of destabilization, instability, violence, Islamic extremism, and other nefarious qualities that once led Zbigniew Brzezinski to dub it "the Eurasian Balkans." International observers cite Central Asia's crumbling infrastructure, brutal dictatorships, and remittance economies as evidence of the region's imminent demise. They watch as it hits new lows on indexes for corruption and repression. No regime with such problems can survive, they argue reasonably.

### AT: Ag Add-On

#### Agribusinesses turn—the plan causes Cuban farming to be flooded by US companies—destroys their organic agriculture model.

Gonzalez ‘03 (Carmen G. Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, Seattle University School of Law, Summer 2003, SEASONS OF RESISTANCE: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN CUBA, p. 729-33)

Notwithstanding these problems, the greatest challenge to the agricultural development strategy adopted by the Cuban government in the aftermath of the Special Period is likely to be external – the renewal of trade relations with the United States. From the colonial era through the beginning of the Special Period, economic development in Cuba has been constrained by Cuba’s relationship with a series of primary trading partners. Cuba’s export-oriented sugar monoculture and its reliance on imports to satisfy domestic food needs was imposed by the Spanish colonizers, reinforced by the United States, and maintained during the Soviet era. It was not until the collapse of the socialist trading bloc and the strengthening of the U.S. embargo that Cuba was able to embark upon a radically different development path. Cuba was able to transform its agricultural development model as a consequence of the political and economic autonomy occasioned by its relative economic isolation, including its exclusion from major international financial and trade institutions. Paradoxically, while the U.S. embargo subjected Cuba to immense economic hardship, it also gave the Cuban government free rein to adopt agricultural policies that ran counter to the prevailing neoliberal model and that protected Cuban farmers against ruinous competition from highly subsidized agricultural producers in the United States and the European Union. Due to U.S. pressure, Cuba was excluded from regional and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.n413 Cuba also failed to reach full membership in any regional trade association and was barred from the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). However, as U.S. agribusiness clamors to ease trade restrictions with Cuba, the lifting of the embargo and the end of Cuba’s economic isolation may only be a matter of time. It is unclear how the Cuban government will respond to the immense political and economic pressure from the United States to enter into bilateral or multilateral trade agreements that would curtail Cuban sovereignty and erode protection for Cuban agriculture.n416 If Cuba accedes to the dictates of agricultural trade liberalization, it appears likely that Cuba’s gains in agricultural diversification and food self-sufficiency will be undercut by cheap, subsidized food imports from the United States and other industrialized countries. Furthermore, Cuba’s experiment with organic and semi-organic agriculture may be jeopardized if the Cuban government is either unwilling or unable to restrict the sale of agrochemicals to Cuban farmers – as the Cuban government failed to restrict U.S. rice imports in the first half of the twentieth century. Cuba is once again at a crossroads – as it was in 1963, when the government abandoned economic diversification, renewed its emphasis on sugar production, and replaced its trade dependence on the United States with trade dependence on the socialist bloc. In the end, the future of Cuban agriculture will likely turn on a combination of external factors (such as world market prices for Cuban exports and Cuba’s future economic integration with the United States) and internal factors (such as the level of grassroots and governmental support for the alternative development model developed during the Special Period). While this Article has examined the major pieces of legislation that transformed agricultural production in Cuba, and the government’s implementation of these laws, it is important to remember that these reforms had their genesis in the economic crisis of the early 1990s and in the creative legal, and extra-legal, survival strategies developed by ordinary Cubans. The distribution of land to thousands of small producers and the promotion of urban agriculture were in response to the self-help measures undertaken by Cuban citizens during the Special Period. As the economic crisis intensified, Cuban citizens spontaneously seized and cultivated parcels of land in state farms, along the highways, and in vacant lots, and started growing food in patios, balconies, front yards, and community gardens. Similarly, the opening of the agricultural markets was in direct response to the booming black market and its deleterious effect on the state’s food distribution system. Finally, it was the small private farmer, the neglected stepchild of the Revolution, who kept alive the traditional agroecological techniques that formed the basis of Cuba’s experiment with organic agriculture. The survival of Cuba’s alternative agricultural model will therefore depend, at least in part, on whether this model is viewed by Cuban citizens and by the Cuban leadership as a necessary adaptation to severe economic crisis or as a path-breaking achievement worthy of pride and emulation. The history of Cuban agriculture has been one of resistance and accommodation to larger economic and political forces that shaped the destiny of the island nation. Likewise, the transformation of Cuban agriculture has occurred through resistance and accommodation by Cuban workers and farmers to the hardships of the Special Period. The lifting of the U.S. economic embargo and the subjection of Cuba to the full force of economic globalization will present an enormous challenge to the retention of an agricultural development model borne of crisis and isolation.

#### Global sustainable ag now!

Altieri & Toledo ‘11 (Miguel A. Altieri & Victor Manuel Toledo The agroecological revolution in Latin America: rescuing nature, ensuring food sovereignty and empowering peasants The Journal of Peasant Studies Volume 38, Issue 3, 2011 Taylor & Francis Online pages 587-612)

Agro-ecology is providing the scientific, methodological and technological basis for a new ‘agrarian revolution’ worldwide (Altieri 2009, Wezel and Soldat 2009, Wezel et al. 2009, Ferguson and Morales 2010). Agro-ecology-based production systems are biodiverse, resilient, energetically efficient, socially just and comprise the basis of an energy, productive and food sovereignty strategy (Altieri 1995, Gliessman 1998). Agroecological initiatives aim at transforming industrial agriculture partly by transitioning the existing food systems away from fossil fuel-based production largely for agro-export crops and biofuels towards an alternative agricultural paradigm that encourages local/national food production by small and family farmers based on local innovation, resources and solar energy. This implies access of peasants to land, seeds, water, credit and local markets, partly through the creation of supportive economic policies, financial incentives, market opportunities and agroecological technologies.

### 2NC L—AT: Cuba Not Key

#### Cuba’s key—it’s one of the largest markets for Vietnamese rice.

Muhammad Iqbal, 12-17-2011, writer at Business Recorder, Pakistan’s Premier Financial Daily, “Cuba buys Vietnam rice,” <http://www.brecorder.com/markets/commodities/18-markets-commodities/39168-cuba-buys-vietnam-rice.html>

ANOI: Deferred payments of up to one-and-a-half years have been key to keeping Cuba among Vietnam's largest rice buyers in recent years, a Vietnamese state-run newspaper reported on Saturday. Vietnam allows Cuba to pay for its rice imports from between 360 days and 540 days late, making the Southeast Asian nation Cuba's top rice supplier, officials were cited by the Vietnam Economic Times newspaper as saying at a government meeting on Friday. The cash-strapped Cuban government has embarked on a programme to cut import costs by increasing food production and it hopes to slash imports of the staples rice, beans and powdered milk by 50 percent by 2013. But the island imported 404,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice between January and October this year, up 16 percent from a year ago, while the import value jumped 44.6 percent to $215.8 million, Vietnam's Agriculture Ministry data show. Cuba has been the third-largest buyer of Vietnamese rice after Indonesia and the Philippines this year. In 2010, it bought 472,300 tonnes of Vietnamese rice, up 5 percent from the previous year, according to Vietnamese customs data.

#### High demand—Cuba is a key market for Vietnamese rice.

Merco Press, 7-20-2011, MercoPress, “Cuba imports 60% of rice consumption, the basic diet; main supplier Vietnam,” <http://en.mercopress.com/2011/07/20/cuba-imports-60-of-rice-consumption-the-basic-diet-main-supplier-vietnam>

Cuba in 2011 will have to import almost double the rice it produces for consumption on the island, calculated at more than 600,000 tons. Vietnam is Cuba’s main rice provider, according to government sources. Cuba’s 11.2 million citizens each consume an average of 5 kilograms of uncooked rice monthly, or 60 kilograms per year. Cuban citizens receive monthly allocations of rice on their government-issued ration cards which they can purchase at subsidized prices. Juventud Rebelde emphasized that half the local demand for rice is met by purchases in foreign markets, and thus several of the country’s institutions have been mobilized to “consolidate” a program to increase its cultivation using some 50 varieties of the grain that can be grown in the island’s different ecosystems for maximum output. In addition, the daily noted that Cuba for years has depended on the international market to meet its rice needs, particularly after the implosion of socialism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, when the island lost its major export and import markets for capital goods, consumables and services, a situation that resulted in the “significant and rapid” reduction in state production of rice and other items.

### 2NC L—AT: Rice Not K2 Vietnam

#### Rice exports to Cuba are key to Vietnam.

Vietrade, xx-xx-2011 (Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency, “Rice,” <http://www.vietrade.gov.vn/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=952&Itemid=239>)

Rice plays the most important role among agricultural commodities in Vietnam in terms of food security, rural wages and employment, and export revenues. Rice is planted on half of all agricultural land and involves nearly 80% of the farm population. Vietnam is easily one of the largest exporters of rice in the world. In 2009, Vietnam's rice exports reached a 20-year record high with the total rice export volume reaching 6 million tons, up 28% from 2008 and exceeded the set target by 1 million tons. In the first 6 months, the country exported 3.4 million tonnes, earning export revenue of US$1.7 billion. Vietnam is second only to Thailand as the world's largest rice exporter. Major importers of Vietnamese rice include the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, Cuba and Africa.

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## Case

### 2NC T—Top Level

#### The plan causes the collapse of the Cuban health care industry by both causing a brain drain and creating an explosion of medical tourism—our evidence assumes all their link turns and is comparative—keeping the embargo is the better option.

Laurie Garrett, [7-8]-xx-2010, senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, “Castrocare in Crisis: Will Lifting the Embargo on Cuba Make Things Worse?” <http://www.ihavenet.com/Latin-America-Cuba-Castrocare-in-Crisis-LG.html>

Overlooked in these dreamy discussions of lifestyle improvements, however, is that Cuba’s health-care industry will likely be radically affected by any serious easing in trade and travel restrictions between the United States and Cuba. If policymakers on both sides of the Florida Straits do not take great care, the tiny Caribbean nation could swiftly be robbed of its greatest triumph. First, its public health network could be devastated by an exodus of thousands of well-trained Cuban physicians and nurses. Second, for-profit U.S. companies could transform the remaining health-care system into a prime destination for medical tourism from abroad. The very strategies that the Cuban government has employed to develop its system into a major success story have rendered it ripe for the plucking by the U.S. medical industry and by foreigners eager for affordable, elective surgeries in a sunny climate. In short, although the U.S. embargo strains Cuba’s health-care system and its overall economy, it may be the better of two bad options.