# Cuba 1AC—Vashon FK

#### PLAN: The United States federal government should fully lift the embargo on Cuba

**Advantage 1: LA Relations**

**The US isn’t working towards better Latin American relations now**

**Lehmann, Radio 5/30**

(Catalina, Talk Radio News Service, Officials: Obama Has Yet To Improve U.S.-Latin America Relations, <http://www.talkradionews.com/us/2013/05/30/officials-obama-has-yet-to-improve-u-s-latin-america-relations.html>, May 30th 2013, EB)

Latin America, particularly South America, has experienced unprecedented political change in the past 15 years said officials who discussed the issue during a briefing held by the Center for Economic Policy and Research.

……...

Despite the differences between the governments of Latin America and the U.S., the experts who spoke today all expressed belief that there is still time for the Obama administration to forge a better relationship with its southern neighbors.

**Ending the embargo would send a clear signal to all of LA that the US wants closer, improved relations.**

**White, Senior fellow at the Center for International Policy, 13**

**(Robert E., New York Times, 3/7/13, “After Chávez, a Chance to Rethink Relations With Cuba,”** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/08/opinion/after-chavez-hope-for-good-neighbors-in-latin-america.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/08/opinion/after-chavez-hope-for-good-neighbors-in-latin-america.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)**, accessed 6/24/13, CF)**

FOR most of our history, the United States assumed that its security was inextricably linked to a partnership with Latin America.

…..

But the clumsy mix of covert action and porous boycott succeeded primarily in bringing shame on the United States and turning Mr. Castro into a folk hero

**Iranian basing in Latin America is establishing networks to sponsor, foster and execute terrorist attacks for decades.**

**Levitt, director of the Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 6/14**

**(Matthew, 6/14/13, Tico Times, “Iran agents in Latin America,”** [**http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Iran-agents-in-Latin-America\_Friday-June-14-2013**](http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Iran-agents-in-Latin-America_Friday-June-14-2013)**, accessed 6/30/13, IC)**

But that's not all.

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Iran has run intelligence networks in the United States' backyard to "sponsor, foster and execute terrorist attacks" for decades.

**Terrorist attack prompts nuclear response, drawing Russian retaliation and leading to a global nuclear war**

**Morgan, Hankuk University Professor of Foreign Studies, 9**

(Dennis, Professor @ Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea, “World on fire: two scenarios of the destruction of human civilization and possible extinction of the human race,” Futures, November, Science Direct, 6-31-13)

In a remarkable website on nuclear war, Carol Moore asks the question ‘‘Is Nuclear War Inevitable??’’.

…..

To a life of unimaginable misery and suffering in a nuclear winter.

**LA relations spill over over to broader relations – solves democracy, warming, and prolif**

**Shifter 12** - President of the Sol M. Linowitz Forum Intern-American Dialogue

Michael, "Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America" Inter-American Dialogue Policy Report -- April -- www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReportFINAL.pdf

There are compelling reasons for the United States and Latin America to ¶ pursue more robust ties

…..

. Hemispheric affairs require urgent attention—both ¶ from the United States and from Latin America and the Caribbean

**Failure to move towards democracy sacrifices billions of lives. authoritarian regimes are history's number one killer – This outweighs every impact in the round.**

Rudy **Rummel**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, “Why Foster Global Freedom,” **2009**, January 10. http://democraticpeace.wordpress.com/2009/01/10/page/2/

Today, billions of human beings are still subject to impoverishment, exposure, starvation, disease, torture, rape, beatings, forced labor, genocide, mass murder, executions, deportations, political violence, and war.

…..

such absolute power unleashes internal violence, murders millions, and produces the bloodiest wars. In short, power kills; absolute power kills absolutely.

**Proliferation snowballs and puts everyone on hair trigger – every small crisis will go nuclear.**

**Sokolski**, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, serves on the U.S. congressional Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, ‘**9** (Henry, Avoiding a Nuclear Crowd, Policy Review June & July, http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/46390537.html)

At a minimum, such developments will be a departure from whatever stability existed during the Cold War.

….

In short, we may soon see a future that neither the proponents of nuclear abolition, nor their critics, would ever want.

**Scientific Consensus Based on Climate Models and Observational Data That Warming is Real and Anthropogenic**

By Joe **Romm** on **13**, 2012 at 12:29 pm OE ROMM is a Fellow at American Progress and is the editor of Climate Progress “Meteorological Society: Warming Is ‘Unequivocal’, We’re The ‘Dominant Cause’, We Need ‘Rapid Reduction’ Of CO2”

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/08/28/757991/meteorological-society-warming-is-unequivocal-were-the-dominant-cause-we-need-rapid-reduction-of-co2/

The American Meteorological Society has updated and strengthened its statement on global warming

….

Observations show increases in globally averaged air and ocean temperatures, as well as widespread melting of snow and ice and rising globally averaged sea level.

**Warming causes extinction - a preponderance of evidence proves it's real, anthropogenic, and outweighs other threats**

**Deibel 7** (Terry, "Foreign Affairs Strategy: Logic of American Statecraft," Conclusion: American Foreign Affairs Strategy Today)

Finally, there is one major existential threat to American security (as well as prosperity) of a nonviolent nature, which, though far in the future, demands urgent action

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It is a threat not only to the security and prosperity to the United States, but potentially to the continued existence of life on this planet.

## Advantage 2 is Science Diplomacy

#### Science cooperation solves Latin American relations, disaster preparedness, tropical diseases, biotechnology and biodiversity

Pastrana & Clegg, 08. Foreign Secretary of the Academia de Ciencias de Cuba, Foreign Secretary of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the School of Biological Sciences, University of California (Sergio, Michael, “U.S.-Cuban Scientific Relations”. 7/3/13. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/322/5900/345.full?ijkey=3aK7XuLHCJLJ.&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>. KJ)

In a few years, the two oldest national academies of science in the world outside of Europe—those of the United States and Cuba—will celebrate their 150th anniversaries.

…..

The U.S. embargo on Cuba has hindered exchanges for the past 50 years. Let us celebrate our mutual anniversaries by starting a new era of scientific cooperation.

**Environmental cooperation between US and Cuba spills over into the region, creating a paradigm for global sustainability**

**Conell, Research associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 9**

**(Christina, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be an Environmental Duo?“,** [**http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/**](http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/)**, 6/25/13, AZ)**

Sustainability through Collaboration¶ In many parts of the country communism has inadequately acted as a seal to preserve elements of Cuba’s past as the centralized government prohibited private development by not giving special permission.

….

Cuba’s extreme lack of development provides an unspoiled arena for the execution of exemplary sustainable environmental protection practices.¶

### Scenario 1 is Oil Spills

**Oil rig count is increasing in the SQ—the risk of a detrimental spill is going up, even if in the past there was no threat, there is now**

**OGJ, The Oil & Gas Journal is a leading petroleum industry weekly publication with a worldwide coverage, 5/31**

**(Oil and Gas Journal, 5/31/13, “US drilling rig count climbs 9 units to 1,771,” http://www.ogj.com/articles/2013/05/us-drilling-rig-count-climbs-9-units-to-1-771.html, 6/26/13, ND)**

The US drilling rig count was up 9 units during the week ended May 31

….

Seven rigs were considered unclassified, an increase of 1 unit from a week ago.¶

**The Embargo prevents cooperation on oil spills**

**Stephens, executive director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas focused on U.S.-Cuba relations, 11**

**(Sarah, 3/14/11, Los Angeles Times, “Like Oil and Water in the Gulf,” http://articles.latimes.com/2011/mar/14/opinion/la-oe-stephens-cuba-oil-20110314, 6/26/13, ND)**

Thanks to the U.S. embargo against Cuba — a remnant of the Cold War — the risks to the United States begin the moment the first drill bit pierces the seabed.

….

Nor should this policy or the political dynamic that sustains it prevent the U.S. from addressing both the challenges and benefits of Cuba finding meaningful amounts of oil in the Gulf of Mexico.¶

**Offshore oil development threatens mutual environments, oil spills could destroy the ecosystem, including coral reefs and fisheries.**

**Conell, Research Associate for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 09**

**(Christina, 6-12-09, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be an Environmental Duo?,” http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/, 6/26/13, ND)**

The recent discovery of oil and natural gas reserves in the Florida straits in Cuban waters has attracted foreign oil exploration from China and India, both eager to begin extraction.

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Consequently, it is in the mutual interests of the U.S. and Cuba to develop a cooperative relationship that will foster tourism and growth in a sustainable manner.

#### Marine ecosystems are critical to the survival of all life on earth- the impact is extinction

Craig ‘3 (Robin Kundis Craig, Associate Professor of Law, Indiana University School of Law, 34 McGeorge L. Rev. 155)

Biodiversity and ecosystem function arguments for conserving marine ecosystems also exist, just as they do for terrestrial ecosystems, but these arguments have thus far rarely been raised in political debates

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Ethics as well as enlightened self-interest thus suggest that the United States should protect fully-functioning marine ecosystems wherever possible - even if a few fishers go out of business as a result.

**US Cuba cooperation is key to sustain biodiversity – the alternative results in ecosystem degradation and overfishing**

**PR Newswire 13**

**(“United States Scientists Visit Cuba to Discuss Overfishing, Coral Reefs, Ocean Energy and Ocean Issues”,http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/united-states-scientists-visit-cuba-to-discuss-overfishing-coral-reefs-ocean-energy-and-ocean-issues-65763572.html, 6/24/13, AZ)**

RALEIGH, N.C., Oct. 23 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Environmental Defense Fund will send a team of experts to Havana, Cuba, on Sunday to discuss ways to eliminate overfishing.

…

Because of the prevailing currents and Cuba's proximity, preserving its marine resources is critically important to the economies of coastal communities in both countries.

**Overfishing kills food security**

**Koster, operator of overfishing.org, 2011**

**(Pepijin, 2/1/2011, “Why is Overfishing a Problem?” Online:** <http://overfishing.org/pages/why_is_overfishing_a_problem.php> FG)

In the first chapter we already discussed that globally fishing fleets are at least two to three times as large as needed to take present day catches of fish and other marine species

….

It is happening now. If things go unchecked, we'll have a sea full of little horrible things that nobody wants to eat. We might end up with a marine junkyard dominated by plankton.”

**Food insecurity causes global instability, war, and billions of deaths, threatening extinction.**

**Winnail**, Ph.D., M.P.H, FROM THE WORLD AHEAD, September-October **1996**, http://www.kurtsaxon.com/foods004.htm

As a result grain prices are the highest on record. Worldwatch Institute's president, Lester Brown, writes,

….

If this happens on a global scale, we will be in deep trouble. This precarious situation is also without historical precedent!

### Scenario 2 is Biotrrrrrrrrr

**1. Biotechnology solves bioterror**

**Bailey, Science Correspond for Reason Magazine, 1** [Ronald, award-winning science correspondent for Reason magazine and Reason.com, where he writes a weekly science and technology column. Bailey is the author of the book Liberation Biology: The Moral and Scientific Case for the Biotech Revolution (Prometheus, 2005), and his work was featured in The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2004. In 2006, Bailey was shortlisted by the editors of Nature Biotechnology as one of the personalities who have made the "most significant contributions" to biotechnology in the last 10 years. 11/7/1, “The Best Biodefense,” Reason, <http://reason.com/archives/2001/11/07/the-best-biodefense>]

But Cipro and other antibiotics are just a small part of the arsenal that could one day soon be deployed in defending America against biowarfare

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America’s best biodefense is a vital and profitable pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.

**6. Terrorists can and will obtain and use bioweapons – Syria proves**

**Blair 12** (Charles P., Senior Fellow for State and Non-State Threats at Federation of American Scientists, "Fearful of a nuclear Iran? The real WMD nightmare is Syria," 3/1/12, www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/op-eds/fearful-of-nuclear-iran-the-real-wmd-nightmare-syria slim\_)

As possible military action against Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program looms large in the public arena, far more international concern should be directed toward Syria and its weapons of mass destruction.

….

Must come together and begin planning to avert a dispersion of Syrian chemical or biological weapons that would threaten everyone, of any political or religious persuasion, in the Middle East and around the world.

**7. Bioterrorism is comparatively the most likely extinction scenario**

**Matheny, Johns Hopkins Health Policy and Management professor, 7**

(Jason, Department of Health Policy and Management, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, 2007, Risk Analysis vol. 27 iss 5,“Reducing the Risk of Human Extinction”, <http://users.physics.harvard.edu/~wilson/pmpmta/Mahoney_extinction.pdf>, pg. 1337, accessed 7/1/13, JZ)

We already invest in some extinction countermeasures

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Current U.S. biodefense efforts are funded at $5 billion per year to develop and stockpile new drugs and vaccines, monitor biological agents and emerging diseases, and strengthen the capacities of local health systems to respond to pandemics.

**8. This means you disregard other impacts – they are unfortunate but endurable**

**Bostrom 2** (Nick Bostrom, Professor in the Faculty of Philosophy & Oxford Martin School, Director of the Future of Humanity Institute, and Director of the Programme on the Impacts of Future Technology at the University of Oxford, recipient of the 2009 Eugene R. Gannon Award for the Continued Pursuit of Human Advancement, holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the London School of Economics, “Existential Risks: Analyzing Human Extinction Scenarios and Related Hazards,” Journal of Evolution and Technology, Volume 9, Number 1, 2002,http://www.nickbostrom.com/existential/risks.html)

Existential risks are distinct from global endurable risks.

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Existential disasters have major adverse consequences for the course of human civilization for all time to come.