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The film Guantanamera and the Cuba reader share insight to the special period of Cuba, during the embargo by the U.S. and the dissolution of the Soviet Union during 1989 and well into the 90’s. This special period was a time of economic crisis in Cuba which were exemplified in the readings of the Cuba reader and well as the film.

The film displays many instances of the special period of Cuba. Adolfo works for the state, and is shown to be a made with a huge ego and an idiot. . Gina, the character from the film had to leave her teaching job because it looked bad for her husband, who worked for the state. The movie makes fun of the incompetency of the state, and the need to compensate for it. Mariano has an engineering degree, but still opt out to become a truck driver because he made more money. We see how the movie displays lack of transportation in Cuba. The pregnant couple had trouble getting public transportation and had to hitch a ride from the taxi driver. Also, the group of people hitched rides from Mariano in one scene. Most of Mariano’s lover had a state job like train traffic controller and gas station worker. We see how the workers took their jobs with little responsibility, and how the state functioned in a chaotic state, where things were not stable. There is a clear depiction of a lack of infrastructure in the Cuban economy, and the job sectors for the educated. In the scene, where they were trying to buy bananas, they would only accept American dollars. This should a lack of trust with the Cuban government by the people. We see how people were arguing over the baked goods in one scene, which showed a lack food production.

The Cuban reader also exemplified many of the depression of the special period in Cuba. In the article, “From Communist Solidarity to Communist Solitary,” Castro tried to implement a food program, but since Cuba was lacking petroleum, they could not afford petroleum based pesticides which left a third of crops rotten by delivery. This is also exemplified in the movie, where people were fighting over food, and how bananas had over inflated prices. It also talked about the unequal division of labor in sectors. Because there were lack of people in agriculture they had to employ volunteers, which was inefficient because most middle class people were not equipped to cut sugar canes and such.

In conclusion, the film, and the Cuban reader depicted many instances of the economic crisis during the special period of Cuba.