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Resolved: We affirm the resolution; The United States should lift its embargo against Cuba.

Weighing Mechanism: Out of the greatest outcomes for the majority of citizens, both in Cuba and the United States, this round should be assessed by the means of Utilitarianism. In order for the negation to win this debate they must be able to prove that by lifting the embargo, the majority of citizens of both countries will be benefited. (24 sec)

Despite Cuba not meeting the requirements, it’s the US job to fulfill duties other countries can’t stand up and do.

## Contention 1: Health

**Cuba is famous for its state of the art health care and health research work**, and for the help it provides to other poor countries in health care, including the training of thousands of doctors. **However, there are things that Cuba cannot do in the health care field, because of the ever-vigilant OFAC snoops.**

**Cuba cannot acquire certain types of advanced health care, diagnostic and surgical equipment, or has had to pay extra for equipment that lacks the 10 percent of U.S. origin materials or parts which makes the blockade kick in**. Cuban health care professionals are forbidden from attending some international health meetings and seminars, because part of the expenses of these activities are being paid by U.S. institutions or non-governmental organizations, who could be fined.

Cuba is supposed to be able to buy some food from the United States, but cannot do so on normal credit terms other countries are afforded, which drives up the costs.  Naturally, Cuba is not allowed to sell its products in the United States, **even medical innovations that would be helpful to U.S. people.** <http://fpif.org/3-big-benefits-for-americans-to-ending-the-cuba-embargo/>

**Impact: Better healthcare for US Citizens:**

Cuban researchers have been conducting world-class medical research on vaccines and preventive medicines and are eager to establish collaborations with American scientists.[1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4605162/#bib1) For several decades, Cuba’s Finlay Institute has successfully developed and produced inexpensive vaccines against hepatitis B virus (HBV), meningococcal meningitis, leptospirosis, and dengue virus that have been used worldwide. In 1989, Cuba produced a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, based on the outer membrane vesicles of specific outbreak strains, to prevent childhood meningitis. The vaccine has been widely used throughout Latin America, but not within the US. The US Food and Drug Administration approved its first serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, which was manufactured by a subsidiary of Pfizer, in 2014. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4605162/

With vaccines becoming cheaper, they will be more accessible to the lower income households allowing for a healthier society in total.

Impact: Cuba is given supplies while US gains economic benefits

A June 2000 report by the Stern Group projected that the U.S. could export $105 million worth of food and agricultural products and $6 million in medical supplies to Cuba within the first year of partial liberalization, and $1 billion worth of food and agricultural products and $600 million in medical supplies per year in an unrestricted trade scenario. https://www.wola.org/sites/default/files/downloadable/Cuba/past/A%20Time%20for%20Change.pdf

## Contention 2: Inefectiveness

### Subpoint A: No Military Threat

<https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/no-embargo-harms-cubans-gives-castro-excuse-policy-failures-regime>

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A 1998 U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency report concluded that, “**Cuba does not pose a significant military threat to the U.S. or to other countries in the region.**” The report declared Cuba’s military forces “residual” and “defensive.” Some officials in the Bush administration charge that Castro’s government may be supplying biological-weapons material to rogue states and terrorists abroad, but the evidence is not conclusive. And even if it were true, maintaining a comprehensive trade embargo would be a blunt and ineffective lever for change**. The Cuban embargo already is tighter than U.S. economic sanctions against Iraq, even though Iraq is a far greater security threat.**

### Subpoint B: Economic Failure

If the goal of U.S. policy toward Cuba is to help its people achieve freedom and a better life, the economic embargo has **failed completely. Its economic effect is to make the people of Cuba worse-off by depriving them of lower-cost food and other goods that could be bought from the United States**. It means less independence for Cuban workers and entrepreneurs, who could be earning dollars from American tourists and fueling private-sector growth. Meanwhile, Castro and his ruling elite enjoy a comfortable, insulated lifestyle by extracting any meager surplus produced by their captive subjects.

Citations:

1. 5 The list of 53 prisoners reportedly had been drawn up by the Obama Administration and included those jailed for having peacefully exercised their rights of freedom of expression and assembly. David Adams, Matt Spetalnick, and Lesley Wroughton, “How Prisoners Names Were Drawn Up in U.S.-Cuba Secret Talks,” Reuters News, January 12, 2015.
2. 16 AI defines prisoners of conscience as those jailed because of their political, religious, or other conscientiously held beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth, sexual orientation, or other status, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence.
3. 17 AI, “Prisoners of Conscience Released in Cuba,” January 9, 2015.
4. 18 AI, “Government Critics Under House Arrest,” December 15, 2014.
5. 19 AI, “Political Dissident Must Be Released,” April 2, 2015; “El Régimen Excarcela al Opositor Ciro Alexis Casanova Pérez,” Diario de Cuba, June 11, 2015.