

# Cuban International Relations

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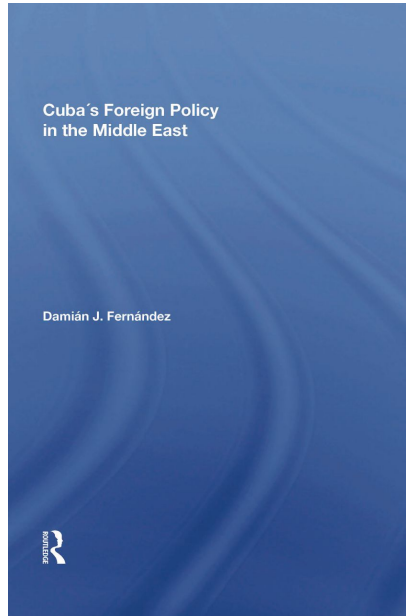
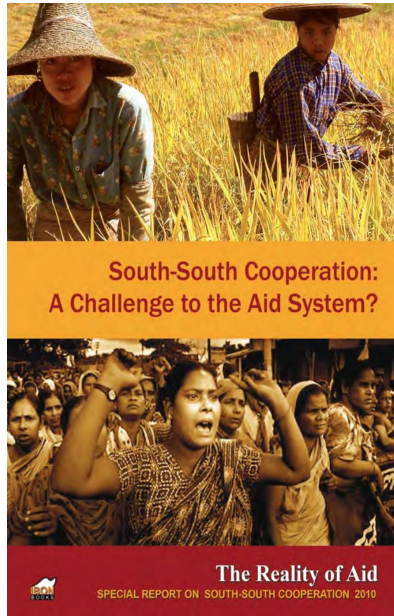


# Research Question

- For my research paper, I researched how Cuba builds international relationships with other countries despite being faced with US sanctions
- I researched how much US sanctions interfere with Cuba's ability to engage in diplomacy and trade with one another, the ways in which Cuba tries to build international relationships, and Cuba's most important trade partners and allies



# Method



- Most of my analysis is based on academic literature and research regarding Cuban foreign relations
- I also read some books on Cuban international relations, and some were written in the 1980s, which may make these sources a bit dated but I still see them as having some good relevance to historical Cuban foreign relations
- Part of my research also relied on quantitative figures such as sanctions fines against foreign corporations and trade between countries as a share of GDP

# Findings

- Extent of US Sanctions
  - Extraterritorial nature of US sanctions allows the US to impose prohibitions and penalties against third country nationals doing business with Cuba
  - Financial restrictions make it extremely difficult for Cubans living abroad to transmit remittances or for Cuban companies to engage in business with major banks across the world that deal with the US and use US dollars
  - US sanctions even make it so that Cuba can't get financial assistance from international organizations like the IMF or the World Bank
  - With all these factors in mind, US sanctions greatly increases other countries' risks when doing business with Cuba and prevents a vast amount of important trade and investment from occurring

# Findings

- Cuban Diplomatic Strategies
  - Medical diplomacy has strengthened Cuba's image and relationship with hundreds of countries
  - Cuba's less idealistic and more pragmatic approach to trade relationships has brought the island into closer contact with more capitalist countries that can provide much needed capital and goods to the Cuban economy
  - Ideological alliances with countries like Venezuela and Russia have continued contributing to Cuban foreign policy and relationship building



# Findings



- Cuba's Main International Allies

- Cuba's most important modern ally is Venezuela as the two countries cooperate on health, aid, military activities, intelligence operations, and trade under ALBA, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America
- Cuba also trades with Russia, Brazil, and the US, which supply Cuba with important food imports, infrastructure investments, and oil
- Leftist governments in Latin America, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua, have acted as important ideological allies for Cuba in the region and have helped Cuba overcome some of the difficulties posed by US hostility toward the island
- Cuba has also built lasting relationships with African nations like South Africa as Cuba has provided African countries with immense medical assistance and, in turn, received trade and political connections

**Thank you!**

