The U.S.-Cuban Thaw

Danny Gibson, Anastasia Onyango, Anya Pandita, Sam Quiroz
U.S.-Cuban Relation Before Negotiations

(Renwick, Lee, & McBride 2016)

- Conflict began during the Cold War
  - Fidel Castro overthrew previous government
- Cuba increased relations with the Soviet Union
  - Began highly taxing American Imports
- U.S. Gov’t responded through economic restrictions
  - Economic Embargo
- Fidel resigned in 2006
- Negotiations began in 2014
Cuba’s Society Before Negotiations

Cuba was not involved in traditional globalization

- Excluded from medical technology, drugs (Morrissey 2013)
- Shortages of living necessities (Mattingly 2015)
  - Food - Meats
  - Hygiene Products - deodorant, toothpaste
- Infrastructure neglected (Dupzyk 2015)
- Educational focus on strict Communist ideology (Gomez & Hare 2015)
In light of the resignation of Fidel Castro, in what ways can the United States improve its relationship with Cuba in order to positively impact Cuban society?

Research Question
Potential Solutions

- Increased educational exchanges
- Fewer trade restrictions
- Expanded access to the Internet
Current Negotiations

Details (Renwick, Lee, & McBride 2016)
- Full diplomatic ties
- U.S. eased restrictions
  - Remittances, travel, banking
- U.S. lift embargo
- U.S. citizen can travel to Cuba without govt. license
- Airlines between U.S. and Cuba

Integration into Traditional Globalization (Harrell and Vega 2014)
- Tourism
- Internet access
- Trade
- Visitations
- Bank connections
- Direct flights and cruises
Cuba’s Increasing Global Involvement

- Educational Exchanges (Sang 2015)
  - Cuban Experts in US and American academics in Cuba
- Medical collaboration with University of Illinois, Chicago (Carrey 2017)
  - Maternal health
  - Cancer drugs and treatment
  - Yellow fever in Havana
Cuba’s Increasing Global Involvement

- Cuba’s New Economic Policy (Rodriguez)
  - Self-sufficiency in food and energy production
  - Employment of human potential
  - Efficient production of goods and services
Cuba’s Increasing Global Involvement

- Social Policy Change
  - Post-Revolution - total equality (Prieto)
  - Now - employment, income, budget, social security, spending, and municipalization (Prieto)
  - U.S. promotes internet access, leading to an increase of dissident bloggers (Firchow 2013)
Impacts

Benefit: Change in Policy

- More democratic political culture
- Movement away from strict ideology
- Medical approach more therapeutic (Drain 2015)

Inadvertent, Negative Effects

- Globalization will increase poverty rate (Vega 2014)
- Less emphasis on domestic healthcare
- Increasing health related exports impedes the reduction of structural reforms
Solution 1: Increase Educational Exchanges

- **Implications**
  - Cuban academics gain access to expertise in fields beyond medicine
  - Students gain more choices of fields to study and work in
  - More career choices available to students

- **Limitations**
  - Health-care declines as professionals travel abroad
  - Potentially costly and complicated to arrange exchanges
Solution 2: Fewer Trade Restrictions

- Implications
  - Increase in Cuban GDP
  - Potential to open other countries to increased Cuban trade

- Limitations
  - Ambiguity of Trump administration
  - Unknown economic opinions of other Nations
Solution 3: Promotion of the Internet

- Implications
  - Facilitation of the spread of information
  - Citizens are more empowered to engage in political discussion (Dye, Anton, & Bruckman 2016)

- Limitations
  - Lack of resources to connect more people (Warf 2011)
  - Government wariness about allowing the spread of foreign ideas
Conclusion

The United States can improve its relationship with Cuba through fewer trade restrictions, educational exchanges, promotion of internet access in order to positively impact Cuban society.


References


References


