NEGATIVE: Cuba Trade Sanctions - good

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

Affirmative plan repeals trade sanctions against Cuba under the theory that trade involves transportation of goods and is therefore a transportation policy. If that's true, then everything is topical, since everything gets transported at some point. One of the biggest arguments for this case is that it would legalize the importation into the US of a new drug developed in Cuba that cures diabetic foot ulcers and reduces amputations.

Read the Minor Repair carefully; it explains how Status Quo policies can already import this drug. Keep in mind also that the drug would not suddenly start being used the day after an AFF ballot. It would still have to be tested and approved by the FDA, and those tests are already underway. Bypassing those tests would be bad (and also untopical, since it's not a transportation policy).

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Impact: Bypassing drug studies can be fatal. Example: Practolol in the 1970s. Britain legalized it while the US FDA said "no"… and it killed people in Britain 9

Negative: Cuba Trade Sanctions - good

TOPICALITY

1. Trade sanctions are not transportation policy

Link: No literature

The Affirmative can't read one piece of evidence where any expert on the subject ever described trade sanctions as a transportation policy. This shows clearly that they're trying to make up something to win by surprise rather than winning by affirming the resolution.

Link: Infinite Stretch

The Affirmative will argue that because things get transported during trade (or banned from being transported during an embargo), that means trade sanctions are topical. But this infinitely stretches the resolution because EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD gets transported at some point, including every human being. If you buy their reasoning, everything is topical and there are absolutely no restrictions on affirmative plans and it's totally abusive to Negative teams. At the very least, it means that not only transportation policy is topical but trade policies are all topical now too.

Everything gets transported, so everything's topical?

KPMG International 2014 (international accounting and tax advisory firm) ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATE May 2014 <https://docgo.net/transport-industry-acctg-udate-may14-kpmg-p24g>

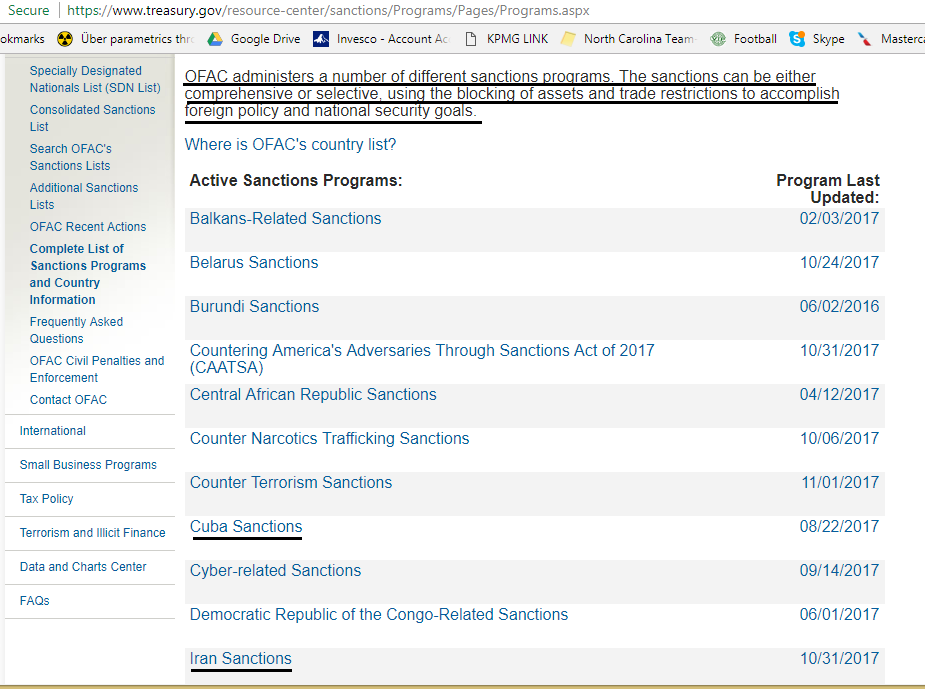
The very concept of trade envisages movement of goods from one place to another. From a safety pin to a very large machine, everything gets transported either by air, sea or land.

Link: Alternative definition

The Negative's definition of transportation policy is much simpler: Any policy managed by the US Department of Transportation. This is better than the definition of "anything that has ever been transported" because it A) gives a clear bright line of what's topical and what's not; and B) uses the federal government's own policy classification of putting legislation under an agency that has "Transportation" in its name.

Violation: Cuba sanctions are managed by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) not the Dept. of Transportation

US Treasury Department 2017. "Sanctions Programs and Country Information" <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Pages/Programs.aspx>



Impact 1: No Affirmative team

No one showed up today in this room to affirm any changes to federal transportation policies. No matter who wins, you should vote Negative.

Impact 2: Abusive to the Negative and debate in general

Affirmatives need to be taught and incentivized not to run a Treasury Department case during a transportation policy debate so that Negatives won't be able to prepare. Teach them not to abuse negative teams by awarding a Negative ballot. If you accept the Affirmative's definition, then there will be no way to have meaningful debates this year because the resolution becomes meaningless.

INHERENCY

1. Trump's rollback won't affect getting medicine from Cuba

Trump's rollback of Obama's easing of sanctions won't affect biotech and pharmaceuticals

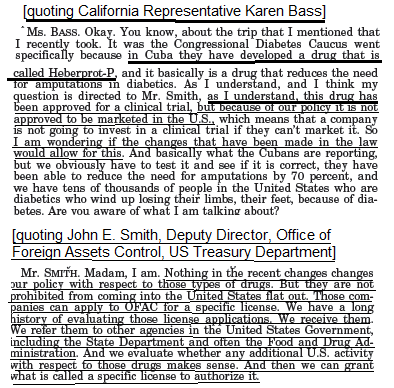
Simon Wentworth 2017 (journalist) 8 July 2017 THE PHARMA LETTER Will President Trump nix the Cuban biotech revolution? <https://www.thepharmaletter.com/article/will-president-trump-nix-the-cuban-biotech-revolution>

President Trump’s proposed ‘recalibration’ of the country’s Cuba policy is aimed primarily at denying a fillip to GAESA, the economic wing of the country’s military government. The full implications of such a move are unclear. In socialist Cuba, where the government is inextricably linked with most aspects of commerce, such a move could prove limiting. After all, GAESA is estimated to control up to 60% of the island’s economy. The US Chamber of Commerce responded with a comment criticizing the limitations, stating that they would “risk ceding growth opportunities to other countries.” More positively, analysts [note](http://www.brownrudnick.com/uploads/1554/doc/Business_Opportunities_Under_Trumps_New_Cuba_Policy.pdf) that “there seems to be no evidence that GAESA controls any entity within the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors in Cuba.”

MINOR REPAIR – Approve Heberprot within existing law without change in policy

Heberprot is not prohibited and Status Quo policy has mechanism for approving it. Use the existing policy and the problem is solved

Rep. Karen Bass and Office of Foreign Assets Control Deputy Director John E. Smith 2015. Hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs 4 Feb 2015 (brackets added) <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA00/20150204/102889/HHRG-114-FA00-Transcript-20150204.pdf>



HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. No Cuban health care problems

World Health Organization says Cuba's health care system is one of the best in the world

Dr Salim Lamrani 2014 (*Doctor of Iberian and Latin American Studies at the University of Paris-Sorbonne, Salim Lamrani is a lecturer at the University of La Réunion*) "Cuba's Health Care System: a Model for the World" 8 Aug 2014 <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/salim-lamrani/cubas-health-care-system-_b_5649968.html> (brackets added)

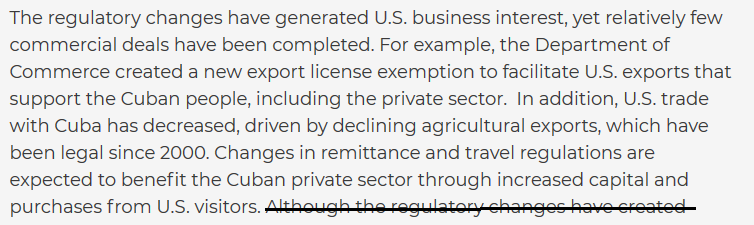
Cuba’s health care system is based on preventive medicine and the results achieved are outstanding. According to Margaret Chan [Director-General of the World Health Organization] , the world should follow the example of the island in this arena and replace the curative model, inefficient and more expensive, with a prevention-based system. “We sincerely hope that all of the world’s inhabitants will have access to quality medical services, as they do in Cuba,” she said. WHO notes that the lack of access to care in the world is by no means a foregone conclusion arising from a lack of resources. It reflects, instead, a lack of political will on the part of leaders to protect their most vulnerable populations. The organization cites the case of the Caribbean island as the perfect counter-example. Moreover, in May 2014, in recognition of the excellence of its health care system, Cuba chaired the 67th World Health Assembly. With an infant mortality rate of 4.2 per thousand births, the Caribbean island is the best performer on the continent and in the Third World generally. This is also demonstrated by the quality of its health care system and the impact it has on the well-being of children and pregnant women. The infant mortality rate in Cuba is lower than it is in the United States and is among the lowest in the world.

SOLVENCY

1. No benefit to US agriculture

US Agriculture exports to Cuba are already legal since 2000… and they're still declining

Simons Chase 2017 (journalist) 6 Feb 2017 "A Definition of the US Embargo Against Cuba" <http://cubajournal.co/a-definition-of-the-u-s-embargo-against-cuba/>



2. No democracy / human rights benefit (Cuba will not reform after we remove sanctions)

No social change: Tourists have already been flowing through Cuba, with no positive impacts

[José Azel 2015](http://www.businessweek.com/bios/Jose_Azel.htm) (Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, Univ. of Miami) 7 June 2015, American tourists won’t bring democracy to Cuba, MIAMI HERALD <http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2008/02/cube_snuff_out.html>

The proposition seems intuitively reasonable: American tourists will help bring democracy to Cuba. But, it is also demonstrably false. The idea that American tourists, innately imbued with democratic values and norms, will proudly reflect and share those values while traveling abroad is an authentic premise. Thus, we view American tourists as ambassadors for democracy, and a powerful force in communicating the virtues of democratic governance. Though this indeed may be the case, it does not follow with syllogistic certainty that such ambassadorship can empower of the citizens of a totalitarian regime. In the case of Cuba, for decades 2 million tourists from Canada, Europe, Latin America and elsewhere have traveled yearly to the island with no impact whatsoever on the Cuban regime.

US tourism has no impact on improving the Cuban government

[José Azel 2015](http://www.businessweek.com/bios/Jose_Azel.htm) (Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, Univ. of Miami) 7 June 2015, American tourists won’t bring democracy to Cuba, MIAMI HERALD <http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2008/02/cube_snuff_out.html>

But if such cultural and historical kinship does exist, it applies much more to Spanish-speaking tourists from Latin America and Spain. In fact, American tourists have only limited contact with the Cuban population. Most tourist resorts are in isolated areas, controlled by the security apparatus and off limits to the average Cuban. Most Americans encounter a language barrier, and it is not clear that they consider their vacation time as an opportunity to subvert the Cuban regime.

Past relaxations of the embargo have not produced any improvement in Cuban human rights

Dr. Ray Walser 2012. (PhD; veteran Foreign Service officer; Senior Policy Analyst specializing in Latin America at The Heritage Foundation; former visiting professor of international relations and Latin America politics at the U.S. Military Academy ) Cuban-American Leaders: “No Substitute for Freedom” in Cuba 25 June 2012 <http://blog.heritage.org/2012/06/25/cuban-american-leaders-no-substitute-for-freedom-in-cuba/>

When it comes to dealing with the Castro dictatorship inCuba, there are several schools of thought. The one preferred by Washington liberals, idealists, and the architects of the Obama Administration’s Cuba policy holds that increased travel, remittances, and diplomatic engagement is softening hearts, opening Cuba, and loosening the regime’s unwavering commitment to sustain a succession process that preserves the dictatorship of the Cuban Communist Party in a post-Castro era. However, these pleasing liberal assumptions are negated on a daily basis by hard-headed facts on the ground in Cuba. With each new step lifting restrictions on travel and remittances have come more demands for additional actions—not a reciprocal loosening of the regime’s grip on its citizens.

3. Won't solve Cuban medicine shortages

Cuban drug shortages caused by bad Cuban economic policies (which AFF doesn't solve)

Osmiel Ramirez Alvarez 2017 (journalist, resident of Havana, Cuba) 3 May 2017 Medicine Shortages in Cuba Are Becoming More Severe <http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=125068>

Raul Castro will leave behind a sad legacy if he finally steps down from the presidency next year, like he’s promised: a country in crisis and without any promising signs for the future. These medicine shortages which are only getting worse and his government’s unsuccessful management for more than a decade have only served to reaffirm the invalidity of Cuba’s political and economic system.

4. No economic benefit

No significant US economic benefit from Cuba and not much economic benefit for Cuba: Communism keeps them poor regardless

Associated Press 2008. 20 Feb 2008, “Cuban trade embargo expected to remain” <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/economy/2008-02-20-946619999_x.htm>

Gary Hufbauer, an economist with the Peterson Institute, a Washington think tank, said any normalization of relations would have only a slight impact on the U.S. economy because Cuba is such a small market. He said agriculture and tourism would see modest gains. He said Cuba would get a boost if it could once again export to the United States, but he said it has been the communist system, rather than the U.S. trade embargo, that has been the major factor depressing living standards in Cuba. "Some people say that the embargo deprived Cuba of economic resources," Hufbauer said. "But the main reason Cuba is poor is that its economic system is crummy and has been for a long time."

Cuban government will punish anyone who succeeds economically

New York Times 2012. (Damien Cave, journalist) 19 Nov 2012 “Easing of Restraints in Cuba Renews Debate on U.S. Embargo <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/20/world/americas/changes-in-cuba-create-support-for-easing-embargo.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1353427200-+QDfPVZDtZWyiorosuTPeA&_r=1&>

Many Cubans agree that their government cares more about control than economic growth. Business owners complain that inspectors pounce when they see signs of success and demand receipts to prove that supplies were not stolen from the government, a common practice here. One restaurant owner in Havana said he received a large fine for failing to produce a receipt for plastic wrap.

Solvency: Trade doesn't help the average Cuban  
Disad Link: Trade gives money to Cuban dictatorship

Carlos Gutierrez 2007 (Secretary of Commerce in Pres. GWBush administration) 24 Oct 2007, Ask the White House on Cuba Policy, <http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/wha/rls/rm/07/q4/94130.htm>

And, though millions of dollars have poured into Cuba from Canada, Europe and other points around the globe, it has not benefited the average Cuban. More investment and money spent in Cuba means more money lining the pockets of the Cuban dictator and his cronies. Instead of comparing Cuba with China, we should compare Cuba to other countries that are similar, such as North Korea.

DISADVANTAGES / CUBA

1. Repression prolonged

Increased tourism after sanctions are gone will give the regime more money and help them avoid reform

[José Azel 2015](http://www.businessweek.com/bios/Jose_Azel.htm) (Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, Univ. of Miami) 7 June 2015, American tourists won’t bring democracy to Cuba, MIAMI HERALD <http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2008/02/cube_snuff_out.html>

The more empirically valid argument is that expenditures by tourists add to the longevity of the regime, since the monies flow into enterprises controlled by the Cuban military. Moreover, tourist dollars allow the regime to avoid meaningful economic and political reforms.

Obama reduction of sanctions resulted in greater repression in Cuba

Mike Gonzalez 2017 (senior fellow at the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies) President Trump Rolls Back Obama Administration's Misguided Cuba Policy 16 June 2017 <http://www.heritage.org/article/president-trump-rolls-back-obama-administrations-misguided-cuba-policy>

“President Trump's plan to fix the problems created by the Obama administration in Cuba is a much-needed first step toward true reform. The facts are undeniable: in return for President Obama's unilateral concessions, the Cuban dictatorship has stepped up the oppression of its people, drastically ramping up religious intimidation and political repression. By making it more difficult for the Castro family and the military to fund their reign of terror and intolerance, the Trump administration’s new policy better advances American national and regional security interests, while sending a clear message to the Castro family, the regime and its cronies: business as usual will no longer be tolerated by the United States government.”

Relaxing sanctions delays transition to post-communist democracy in Cuba

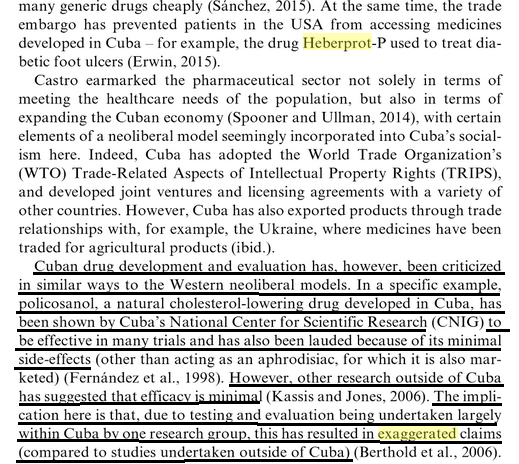
Mike Gonzalez 2017 (senior fellow at the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies) 8 June 2017 Trump Will Reverse Damage Done by Obama's Cuba Policy <http://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/trump-will-reverse-damage-done-obamas-cuba-policy>

Cuba’s eleven million other citizens were not helped so much. They would have had a much better hope of a real transition to a post-communist, post-Castro, free Cuba had President Obama not promised that, in exchange for nothing, the Castro dictatorship would benefit from selling their products in the United States and receiving credits to boot.

2. Insufficient drug study (Heberprot / diabetes drug)

Link: Cuban drug studies and claims are unreliable: Big success in Cuban studies doesn't prove anything

Dr. Sara Evans-Lacko and Prof. Martin Knapp 2017 (Evans-Lacko – mental health services researcher. Knapp - economics and policy analyst, director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit at London School of Economics) HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL POLICY EVALUATION, edited by Bent Greve <https://books.google.com/books?id=1nlHDgAAQBAJ&pg=PA318&lpg=PA318&dq=Heberprot+exaggerated&source=bl&ots=4WYorFedDr&sig=3LJMTimGUgbNSbNFMiCWwGelOC0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_zoPcvunXAhVChOAKHaGPDqcQ6AEIMzAC#v=onepage&q=Heberprot%20exaggerated&f=false>



Link: Cuban diabetes drug Heberprot already in process of being approved for clinical trials in the US

**Analysis: Let's wait for the studies to finish before we start declaring that lives will be saved and before legalizing it in the US**

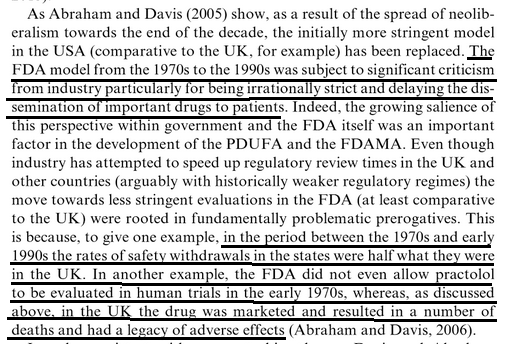
Samantha Witherwax 2016 (journalist with Arizona Public Broadcasting) 30 march 2016 Arizona researcher hopes new diabetes drug can curb amputations <https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2016/03/30/20087/>

Carlton Anderson is CEO and co-founder of Mercurio Biotec, which was formed for the purpose of bringing Heberprot-P to the United States. He thinks the drug, which has been shown to have success rates as high as 70 to 80 percent, could make a huge difference for diabetic patients. Heberprot-P is now in the process of being approved for clinical trials in the U.S., trials that Armstrong hopes the University of Arizona will be a part of before the end of this year. “We’re talking about marrying just a little bit of technology with some tenacity to make a difference and prevent amputations in our patients,” Armstrong said. “And the great news is that we can do it.”

Impact: Bypassing drug studies can be fatal. Example: Practolol in the 1970s. Britain legalized it while the US FDA said "no"… and it killed people in Britain

**Analysis: This also proves that AFF's claim that "since it's used in other countries it's safe" is false. People have died believing that assumption.**

Dr. Sara Evans-Lacko and Prof. Martin Knapp 2017 (Evans-Lacko – mental health services researcher. Knapp - economics and policy analyst, director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit at London School of Economics) HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL POLICY EVALUATION, edited by Bent Greve <https://books.google.com/books?id=1nlHDgAAQBAJ&pg=PA318&lpg=PA318&dq=Heberprot+exaggerated&source=bl&ots=4WYorFedDr&sig=3LJMTimGUgbNSbNFMiCWwGelOC0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_zoPcvunXAhVChOAKHaGPDqcQ6AEIMzAC#v=onepage&q=Heberprot%20exaggerated&f=false>



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