

NATIONAL DEBATE TOPIC FOR HIGH
SCHOOLS, 2013–2014

Resolved: The United States Federal
Government Should Substantially Increase
Its Economic Engagement Toward
Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela

NATIONAL DEBATE TOPIC FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, 2013–2014
Pursuant to 44 United States Code, Section 1333

Compiled by the Congressional Research Service
and the Hispanic Division
Library of Congress



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44 U.S.C., SECTION 1333

CHAPTER 13--PARTICULAR REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Sec. 1333. National high school and college debate topics

(a) The Librarian of Congress shall prepare compilations of pertinent excerpts, bibliographical references, and other appropriate materials relating to:

(1) the subject selected annually by the National University Extension Association as the national high school debate topic and

(2) the subject selected annually by the American Speech Association as the national college debate topic.

In preparing the compilations the Librarian shall include materials which in his judgment are representative of, and give equal emphasis to, the opposing points of view on the respective topics.

(b) The compilations on the high school debate topics shall be printed as Senate documents and the compilations on the college debate topics shall be printed as House of Representative documents, the cost of which shall be charged to the congressional allotment for printing and binding. Additional copies may be printed in the quantities and distributed in the manner the Joint Committee on Printing directs.

(P.L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1270)

Historical and Revision Notes

Based on 44 U.S. Code, 1964 ed., Supp. III, Sec. 170 [Sec. 276a] (Dec. 30, 1963, Pub. L. 88-246, Secs. 1, 2, 77 Stat. 802)

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Foreword

The 2013-2014 high school debate topic is: “Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Increase its Economic Engagement toward Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela.”

In compliance with 44 U.S.C., Section 1333, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress prepared this bibliography to assist high school debaters in researching the topic. This bibliography is intended to assist debaters in the identification of further references and resources on the topic. In selecting items and websites for this manual, the Library of Congress has sampled a wide spectrum of opinions reflected in the current literature on this issue. No preference for any policy is indicated by the selection or positioning of articles or organizations or websites cited, nor is the Library’s disapproval of any policy, organization, or article to be inferred from its omission.

The bibliography was prepared by J. Michael Donnelly, Jared Nagel, and Carolyn Smith of the Knowledge Services Group, CRS, and by Evelyn McCoy and Tracy North of the Hispanic Division, under the direction of Lisa Mages, Section Head, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Consulting Section, Knowledge Services Group, CRS.

Good luck to each debater in researching, preparing, and presenting arguments on this year’s topic.

Mary B. Mazanec, Director
Congressional Research Service

NATIONAL DEBATE TOPIC FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, 2013-2014

RESOLVED: THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY
INCREASE ITS ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT TOWARD CUBA, MEXICO, OR VENEZUELA

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE
2013-2014 HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TOPIC

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November 2013

Introduction

The 2013-2014 high school debate topic is: "Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Increase its Economic Engagement toward Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela."

This selective bibliography is intended to assist debaters in identifying resources on the debate topic. It lists citations to books, journal articles, reports, and government publications, as well as links to international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to Cuban, Mexican, and Venezuelan newspapers and magazines. The manual is divided into four sub-topics: Latin America, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela, and includes sources in both English and Spanish.

Summary

The purpose of the debate manual is to provide students with a brief overview of information concerning the 2013-2014 high school debate topic: **"Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Increase its Economic Engagement toward Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela."**

This compilation is not intended to supply complete coverage of the topic. The emphasis is on authoritative government and private sources in each of the three countries covered by the topic, as well as publications by international organizations. Further research on the topic can be done at high school, research, federal depository, and public libraries, as well as online.

Latin America

International Organizations and Think Tanks

Brookings Institution at <http://www.brookings.edu/>

The Latin America Initiative at the Brookings Institution based in Washington, DC conducts research in critical political, economic, and social issues in Latin America. Experts in the Latin America Initiative regularly publish commentary, news articles, scholarly papers, and reports on Brookings' website that focus on the global economy, organized crime, socio-economic development, inequality, poverty, financial investment, and political transitions in the region.

Levy-Yeyati, Eduardo, ed. *Latin America Economic Perspectives: All Together Now: The Challenge of Regional Integration*. Latin America Initiative at Brookings. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, April 2012) at http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/4/latin%20america%20perspectives/04_lat_in_america_economic_perspectives.pdf.

Debt obligations shrank for Latin American and Caribbean countries in recent years while tax revenues and fiscal capacity increased. This situation, combined with low inflation, stable global growth, and positive terms of trade, allowed Latin America to minimize the effects of the international financial crisis.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at <http://www.eclac.org/?idioma=IN>

Under the Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was founded in February 1948 to function as a unifying body dedicated to improving economic and social development in Latin America through regional cooperation, integration, research, information dissemination, education, and program implementation. In July 1984 under resolution 1984/67, ECLA expanded to include the Caribbean countries and was renamed the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC; CEPAL in Spanish). ECLAC's headquarters is located in Santiago, Chile; the Commission also has subregional headquarters in Mexico City, Mexico and Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Dingemans, Alfonso, and César Ross. "Free Trade Agreements in Latin America since 1990: An Evaluation of Export Diversification." *CEPAL Review*, vol. 108 (December 2012), pp. 27–48, at <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/9/49499/RV1108DingemansRoss.pdf>.

Using data from the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE), this article challenges the argument that free trade agreements have led to export diversification for Latin American countries. Instead, the authors contend that export expansion and diversification have been more limited than earlier projections.

Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2013. (Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, August 2013) at http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/3/50483/P50483.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha-i.xml&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xml#.

65th edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* discusses recent economic performance in the region, long-term effects of economic development, and current year developments and projections.

Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2012. (Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2013) at http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/4/49844/P49844.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha-i.xml&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xml.

This report presents statistical information on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for 2012 in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Jiménez, Luis Felipe, and Sandra Manuelito. "Latin America: Financial Systems and Financing of Investment: Diagnostics and Proposals," *CEPAL Review*, vol. 103 (April 2011), pp. 45–71, at <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/0/44060/RV1103JimenezManuelito.pdf>.

Jiménez and Manuelito analyze financial systems in Latin America with the purpose of developing proposals to strengthen financial investments in banking systems, stock markets, and bond markets.

Latin American Economic Outlook 2013: SME Policies for Structural Change. (Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, November 2012) at http://www.latameconomy.org/fileadmin/uploads/laco/Documents/EN%20LEO2013_%20Pocket%20Edition.pdf.

This report focuses on small and medium enterprise (SME) policies in Latin America and recommends reforms for their economic improvement.

Macroeconomic Report on Latin America and the Caribbean - June 2012. (Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2012) at http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/6/46986/P46986.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha-i.xml&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xml.

Details the region's macroeconomic performance with regard to changing social and political conditions. This report includes data from 2011 and the beginning of 2012.

Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012. (Santiago, Chile: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, December 2012) at http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/4/48864/P48864.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha-i.xml&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xml.

Provides a statistical overview of economic, social, and environmental conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Velloso, Helvia. *Capital Flows to Latin America and the Caribbean: Recent Developments*. (Washington, DC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, August 2012) at http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/5/47855/P47855.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha-i.xml&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xml.

Reports bond and equity markets, debt management, bank lending, and future prospects for Latin America.

Inter-American Dialogue at <http://www.thedialogue.org/>

Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Inter-American Dialogue unites private and public leaders in the Western Hemisphere to address policy issues and recommend policy changes regarding democratization, inequality, sustainability, poverty, education, women's rights, political corruption and governance, economic development, discrimination, and migration. Members of the Dialogue represent various sectors including business, academic, media, political, and non-governmental organizations.

The 24th Biannual Latin America Working Group: Rapporteur's Report (Mexico City, Mexico: Inter-American Dialogue Commission on Mexico-U.S. Relations, February 2013) at <http://www.thedialogue.org/uploads/Summary.pdf>.

Summary report of the 24th Biannual Latin American Working Group meeting in Mexico City. The meeting covered topics on Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Bitar, Sergio. *Latin America and the United States: Looking Towards 2020* (Washington, DC: Inter-American Dialogue, September 2011) at <http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/LAtheUS2020.pdf>. This Inter-American Dialogue report discusses U.S.-Latin American relations by focusing on four different issues: the decline of global power exerted by the United States and the subsequent need to readjust relationships that are more egalitarian and bilateral with Latin American countries; change within United States foreign policy towards innovation instead of military superiority in asserting power; the possible options for Latin America in developing a more stable economic and institutional structure; and opportunities for collaboration between the United States and Latin America.

Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America (Washington, DC: Sol M. Linowitz Forum, Inter-American Dialogue, April 2012) at <http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReportFINAL.pdf>.

The Inter-American Dialogue reports on issues of concern for cooperation and collaboration between the United States and Latin America, including economics, energy, drugs, crime, and immigration.

Valdés, Rodrigo and Mauricio Cardenas. "Latin America's Economic Outlook – How Should the Region Respond to Economic Success?" Presentation at Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, DC, May 24, 2011 at <http://www.thedialogue.org/page.cfm?pageID=32&pubID=2664&s=>.

In this presentation, Rodrigo Valdés, discusses the International Monetary Fund's most recent Regional Economic Outlook (REO) publication that addresses economic growth in Latin America and regional challenges. Commentary is then provided by Mauricio Cardenas. To watch the conference, click "listen to this event." Additionally, the REO publication can be found at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2011/whd/eng/pdf/wreo0411.pdf>.

The World of 2030: Risks and Opportunities for Latin America. (Washington, DC: Inter-American Dialogue, March 2013) at <http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/Long-termGlobalTrends-Newsletter-March2013.pdf>.

This Inter-American Dialogue report summarizes global trends from 2012 and the National Intelligence Council's "Global Trends 2030" in order to highlight major challenges that Latin America may face in the future.

International Monetary Fund at <http://www.imf.org>

Established in 1944, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 188 countries that works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The IMF website provides country, regional, and international information and economic statistics. Country information, however, does not include Cuba, as Cuba is not a member of the IMF.

Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere. (Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund, May 2013) at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2013/whd/eng/wreo0513.htm>

Forecasts economic growth in Latin America for 2013 with extensive data. This report addresses the following questions in separate chapters: Ch. 3 -- Is the Growth Momentum in Latin America Sustainable?; Ch. 4 -- Latin America's Fiscal and External Strength: How Dependent Is It on External Conditions?; and Ch. 5 -- Is Latin America Saving Its Terms-of-Trade Windfall? A Metric.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) at

English version: <http://www.sela.org/view/index.asp?ms=258>

Spanish version: <http://www.sela.org/view/index.asp?ms=258&pageMs=26461>

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) was founded in October 1975 by the Panama Convention as an intergovernmental organization committed to supporting cooperation, integration, coordination, and consultation on economic issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. SELA encompasses 28 countries, including Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela, and has its headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela. SELA generally focuses on macroeconomic needs both inter-regionally and extra-regionally. The organization also works with issues such as social inclusion and poverty.

SELA Antenna at <http://www.sela.org/view/index.asp?ms=258&pageMs=26688>.

SELA Antenna is a bilingual publication that analyzes actions by the United States government and their effects on Latin America and the Caribbean. Recent publications of interest include: "Recent evolution of bilateral relations between Latin America and the United States" (2013), "SELA Antenna in the United States: US Objectives on Non-Tariff Issues in Free Trade Agreements" (2013), "SELA Antenna in the United States: the Free Trade Agreements of the United States" (2013); "SELA Antenna in the United States: What the U.S. Elections of 2012 Mean for Trade Relations with the Region" (2012); "SELA Antenna in the United States: Pending Initiatives in U.S. Trade Relations with Latin American and Caribbean Countries" (2012); and "SELA Antenna in the United States: The Recovery of U.S. Trade with Latin America and the Caribbean" (2012).

U.S. economic relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries in a time of transition (Caracas, Venezuela: Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, March 2012) at

<http://www.sela.org/attach/258/default/Di->

[4_US_economic_relations_with_LAC_countries_in_a_time_of_transition.pdf](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/default/Di-4_US_economic_relations_with_LAC_countries_in_a_time_of_transition.pdf).

This report explores three transitional periods in recent U.S.-Latin American economic relations: 1) the recovery from the economic recession of 2008-2009, 2) the orientation of United States trade policy toward Latin America, and 3) the direction of the trading system.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/wilson-center-reports-the-americas>.

The Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which includes the Mexican Institute and Brazilian Institute as well, conducts and sponsors nonpartisan research on critical regional issues in various disciplines including politics, history, economics, culture, and U.S.-Latin American relations in order to provide information for policy developers in the Hemisphere. In addition to publishing reports, bulletins, and news articles, the Wilson Center also supports a wealth of conferences and lectures, which are available online.

Wilson Center Reports on the Americas at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/wilson-center-reports-the-americas>.

The Wilson Center supports the regular publication of its scholars' research in reports that cover a wide range of themes such as organized crime, civil society engagement, socio-economic development, trade policy, security, democratization, and peace developments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

World Bank Group at <http://www.worldbank.org/>

The World Bank Group, established in 1944, is headquartered in Washington, DC with more than 120 offices around the world and is currently involved in more than 1,800 projects. Through the use of a low-interest loan system that includes interest-free credits and grants, the World Bank Group works with developing countries and their governments to support and improve education, health, environmental sustainability, poverty, sanitation, social inclusion, public administration, and infrastructure.

"Doing Business: Economy Rankings" at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>.

Economies around the world are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1-185.

Global Economic Prospects: Assuring Growth over the Medium Term. (Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank, January 2013) at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1322593305595/8287139-1358278153255/GEP13AFinalFullReport_.pdf.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Appendix (pp. 115-123) contains data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, capital outflows, investment spending, and exchange rates as well as country-specific summaries.

Articles, Books, Reports, and Conferences

Bértola, Luis. *The Economic Development of Latin America since Independence*, 1st ed. Initiative for Policy Dialogue Series. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Current view of Latin American economic development over a period of two centuries. This book considers Latin American economies within the wider context of the international economy, and covers economic growth, international trade, capital flows, and trends in inequality and human development.

Blank, Rebecca, Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Richard Adkerson, and Richard McGregor. "Opportunity and Growth: Where Does Latin America Fit in the Global Economy?" Presentation at 43rd Annual Washington Conference on the Americas. The United States and the Hemisphere: Opportunity and

Growth, May 7-8, 2013 at <http://www.as-coa.org/watchlisten/video-panel-latin-america-and-global-economy>.

Panel focuses on Latin America's economic growth and discusses factors that impede the region's growth, such as crime and violence, protectionist barriers, and excessive waiting times at borders and trade ports.

Brenes, Esteban R., and Jerry Haar. "Entrepreneurship in Latin America" in *The Future of Entrepreneurship in Latin America*. International Political Economy Series. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012), pp. 1-56.

This introduction gives an overview of entrepreneurship in Latin America, with information on Mexico, Venezuela, and other countries in the region.

The Europa World Year Book. (New York: Routledge, 2013).

Authoritative reference source for international organizations and nations of the world on political and economic information.

Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. "U.S.-Latin American Relations," in *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 4th ed., Gary Prevost and Harry E. Vanden eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 277-303.

This chapter reviews U.S.-Latin American relations in general terms. For country-specific information, refer to other chapters, including those on Venezuela, Mexico, and Cuba.

U.S. Government Publications

U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Global Narcotics Affairs, *U.S. Policy Toward Latin America*, 112th Cong., 1st sess, February 17, 2011, S. Hrg. 112-55. (Washington, DC: GPO, 2011). Available in libraries or for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office.

Hearing to examine political and economic conditions in Latin America and related U.S. policy concerns, including drug trafficking, economic development, and trade.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. "Countries and Other Areas" at <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/index.htm>.

Includes links to State Department reports, publications, press releases, and archives for each country covered by the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Cuba

Government Websites

Banco Central de Cuba at <http://www.bc.gov.cu/English/home.asp>.

Website of the central bank of the Republic of Cuba. Includes information on daily exchange rates, financial institutions, and monetary policy in Cuba.

U.S. Agency for International Development. "Cuba USAID: Our Work" at <http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/latin-american-and-caribbean/cuba/our-work>.

Describes USAID programs that focus on increasing the ability of Cubans to participate in civic affairs and improve human rights conditions on the island.

U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division. "Trade in Goods with Cuba" at <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c2390.html>.

Provides statistics on monthly U.S. exports, imports, and balance of trade with Cuba from 1992 through 2013.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. "The World Factbook: Cuba" at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cu.html>.

Authoritative source for statistics and background on the country, its geography, demographics, government, economy, energy, communications, transportation, military, and international issues.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. "Cuba" at <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/cu/index.htm>.

Contains a map of Cuba, a fact sheet on U.S. bilateral relations, White House press releases related to Cuba, licensing and export information, reports, and publications.

Newspapers and Magazines

Cuba Diplomatic at <http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu/sicw/EN/Home.aspx>.

Internet magazine of the Government of Cuba's Cuban Interests Section in the U.S., with information on consular services, bilateral relations, documents, and news.

El Diario de Cuba at <http://www.diariodecuba.com/>.

El Diario de Cuba is a periodical published in Havana that has sections on human rights, culture, sports, international affairs, immigration, and economy. Available in Spanish only.

Granma International (English Edition) at <http://www.granma.cu/ingles/index.html>.

Granma International is the official periodical of the Communist Party in Cuba. It features sections on Cuban affairs, international news, culture, developments in other Latin American and Caribbean countries, and a special section devoted to observations of Fidel Castro. Spanish version is available at <http://www.granma.cu/>.

Juventud Rebelde: Diario de La Juventud Cubana at <http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/>.

Founded in 1965 as the voice of the Young Communist League, *Juventud Rebelde* is a Havana newspaper with wide circulation in Cuba. *Juventud Rebelde* focuses on economic, international, and domestic affairs. Available in Spanish only.

Tribuna de La Habana: El Periodico de La Capital de Cuba at <http://www.tribuna.co.cu/>.

This periodical presents the news of Havana, with a featured section on the Cuban economy. Available in Spanish only.

Think Tanks and Related Organizations

Cuba Study Group at <http://www.cubastudygroup.org/index.cfm/home>.

This organization was formed in 2000 in the aftermath of the Elián González international custody and immigration incident. Focusing on strategic considerations in Cuban policies, the Group works on practical solutions for Cuban interests in the international environment.

U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc. at <http://www.cubatrade.org/>.

This organization provides information and articles on doing business in Cuba.

Articles, Books, Reports, and Conferences

Arce Rodríguez, Mercedes B. *The Human Cost: Cubans and Cuban Americans Talk about Their Lives and the U.S. Embargo* (Washington, DC: The Latin America Working Group Education FUND (LAWGEF)/Washington Office on Latin America, June 2011) at

<http://www.wola.org/sites/default/files/downloadable/Cuba/2011/The%20Human%20Cost.pdf>.

In this report published jointly by two Latin American organizations, Cubans and Cuban-Americans discuss the effects of the U.S. embargo on their daily lives, including economic and personal activities affected by commercial and financial developments between the U.S. and Cuba.

Bingaman, Jeff. "Should the U.S. Government Lift Travel and Trade Restrictions on Cuba?" *Congressional Digest*, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 14–18.

Presents positions for why the United States should lift travel and trade restrictions against Cuba.

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News. "Timeline: US-Cuba Relations," October 11, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12159943>.

This BBC timeline provides a chronology of U.S.-Cuban relations from 1898 to 2012.

Campbell, Al, ed. *Cuban Economists on the Cuban Economy*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013).

This edited collection features the writing of thirteen Cuban economists on contemporary economic issues from 1959 onward. Discussions include tourism, foreign trade, and agriculture of Cuba in the international environment.

Castor, Kathy. "Should the U.S. Government Lift Travel and Trade Restrictions on Cuba?" *Congressional Digest*, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 18–24.

Argues that the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba is outdated and imposes hardship on Cuban citizens, with no improvement in their human rights.

Castro Mariño, Soraya M., and Ronald W. Pruessen, ed., *Fifty Years of Revolution: Perspectives on Cuba, the United States, and the World*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012).

A collection of essays on Cuba's position in the world and its foreign relations, particularly with the United States.

Copeland, Cassandra, Curtis Jolly, and Henry Thompson. "The History and Potential of Trade between Cuba and the US," *Journal of Economics and Business* (2011) at <http://www.auburn.edu/~thomph1/cubahistory.pdf>.

This survey reviews the history of trade and investment between Cuba and the U.S., with emphasis on trade in sugar and the regional economy, including the U.S. Southeast and the Caribbean.

"Cuba and Human Rights," *Congressional Digest*, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 7–32.

Extract from: U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012: Cuba, available at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/#wrapper>. The Executive Summary of the Cuba report is 29 pages in length. Full text is available at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204653.pdf>.

"Cuba Overview," *Congressional Digest*, vol. 97, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 2-5, 32.

The history of U.S. policies toward Cuba is outlined, including the trade embargo and other economic sanctions.

Dean Rusk Center. "The Cuban Embargo: Policy Outlook After 50 Years, 2013." Presentation at University of Georgia School of Law, March 22, 2013.

http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/conf_coll_symp_symposia/58.

Three separate panels represent interdisciplinary perspectives of Cuban and United States scholars on Cuba and the potential for future economic change in the country. The first panel reviews the past 50 years of Cuban embargo, while the second and third panel explore the embargo's effects, policy initiatives that could ease or even lift the embargo, and future trade and investment relations between the United States and Cuba.

Fajardo, Rosario. "Optimism Abounds on Business Opportunities in Cuba," *Caribbean Business* (July 11, 2013).

The article looks at the business opportunities in Cuba, particularly in the areas of food, medicine, and telecommunications. Also, the article discusses the restrictions on doing business in Cuba due to the U.S. embargo, as well as more positive expectations of the Cuban people for the future economy.

Feinberg, Richard E. *The New Cuban Economy: What Roles for Foreign Investment?* Latin America Initiative at Brookings. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, December 2012) at

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/12/cuba%20economy%20feinberg/cuba%20economy%20feinberg%209.pdf>.

The author encourages the expansion of U.S. firms into business with Cuba to promote Cuba's position in the global economy with increased foreign investments. The report features case studies of multinationals operating in Cuba.

Feinberg, Richard E. *Reaching Out: Cuba's New Economy and the International Response*, Latin America Initiative at Brookings. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, November 2011) at

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2011/11/18-cuba-feinberg>.

Despite U.S. sanctions and Cuba's economic policies, Cuba has increased its international economic relations. The author offers policy recommendations for the international development organizations, the United States, and the Cuban government, as the country seeks to bring about economic renewal.

Gordon, Joy. "The U.S. Embargo against Cuba and the Diplomatic Challenges to Extraterritoriality," *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, vol. 36 (January 2012), pp. 63-79.

This author describes the history of the U.S. embargo on Cuba and the impact of these measures on Cuba's economy. The author examines Cuba's trade relations with other nations in the global economy.

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. "Driving toward Cuba's Future," *Sojourners Magazine*, May 2012.

The article discusses the Cuban economy, with a focus on the growing Cuban market for cars, which are imported mainly from Japan and China. The author discusses the impact of the U.S. trade embargo on the U.S. and Cuban economies.

Hanson, Stephanie and Brianna Lee. "U.S.-Cuba Relations." Council on Foreign Relations. January 31, 2013 at <http://www.cfr.org/cuba/us-cuba-relations/p111113>.

Although political leadership has changed in the U.S. and Cuba in recent years, the authors discuss the challenges to changes in U.S.-Cuba relations. The article includes a discussion of how Venezuela provides economic assistance to Cuba.

Hufbauer, Gary Clyde, Jeffrey J. Schott, Kimberly Ann Elliott, and Milica Cosic. *Case Studies in Economic Sanctions and Terrorism, Case 60-3, US v. Cuba (1960--: Castro)*. (Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, October 2011) at <http://www.iie.com/publications/papers/sanctions-cuba-60-3.pdf>.

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Menendez, Robert. "Should the U.S. Government Lift Travel and Trade Restrictions on Cuba?" *Congressional Digest*, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 19–21, 23, 25, 27, 29.

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This collection of chapters from contributing researchers presents a guide to political developments in Latin America. In addition to this overview of the Cuban political and economic environment, other chapters discuss Venezuela and Mexico.

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The article looks at U.S.-Cuban relations as of 2013. It outlines the history of U.S. policy toward Cuba beginning in the 1940s and summarizes the arguments made by supporters and opponents of ending the trade embargo and related restrictions. Topics include the Cold War, human rights in Cuba, the island’s forthcoming political transition, and the seizure of American-owned property in Cuba.

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México

Government and Business Websites

Banco de México at <http://www.banxico.org.mx/indexEn.html>

The website for the Bank of Mexico is an excellent source for publications in English and Spanish. Examples of publications include annual reports, monetary policy programs, research papers, speeches, and presentations.

Embajada de México en Estados Unidos: Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores at <http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/cua/>.

This is the official website of the Mexican Ambassador in the United States and the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations.

Export.gov at <http://export.gov/mexico/doingbusinessinmexico/index.asp>.

This U.S. Department of Commerce trade portal to Mexico provides access to “Doing Business in Mexico: 2013 Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies” at

<http://export.gov/mexico/doingbusinessinmexico/index.asp>.

This report contains chapters on selling U.S. products and services, leading sectors for U.S. exports and investment, trade regulations and standards, and investment climate.

NAFTA Secretariat at <https://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/Default.aspx?tabid=85&language=en-US>.

This is the official website of the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA is the trade agreement linking the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This site provides general information, rules, regulations, and access to the full text of the agreement and legal texts produced by NAFTA.

NAFTA Works at <http://www.naftamexico.net/>.

NAFTA Works is a monthly newsletter produced by the Mexican Secretary of Economy. Some recent publications of interest include: “Mexico’s Infrastructure Strategy: Opening Investment Opportunities” (August 2013), “Border Infrastructure’s Key Role in Expanding U.S.-Mexico Trade” (April 2013), “U.S.-Mexico Trade Reached New Highs” (March 2013), and “The U.S. Expands its Business Facilitation Program in Mexico” (February 2013).

ProMéxico: Trade and Investment at

http://www.promexico.gob.mx/en_mx/promexico/Empresario_Extranjero.

ProMéxico is a government organization dedicated to encouraging direct foreign investment in Mexico and presenting Mexican companies as strong global business partners. This website includes trade and business guides, statistics, and descriptions of different sectors for investment, including site selection.

In ProMéxico, We Give You Reasons to Invest. (México City: ProMéxico) at

http://www.promexico.gob.mx/work/models/promexico/Resource/5030/1/images/Mexico_PMX2013.pdf.

This bilingual guide produced by ProMéxico presents data and reasons for why countries and businesses should invest in Mexico. It details several Mexican economic sectors and industry profiles, and provides links to a wealth of relevant websites.

Secretaría de Economía at <http://www.economia.gob.mx/en>.

This is the official website of the Mexican Secretary of the Economy. It includes information on Mexican trade, investment, standards, and industrial developments.

United States-Mexico Business Council at <http://usmexico.org/>.

The U.S.-Mexico Business Council is a business advocacy organization promoting trade and investments between the United States and Mexico.

USAID Mexico at <http://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/latin-american-and-caribbean/mexico>.

USAID works with Mexican public- and private-sector institutions to support the country's initiatives to improve citizen security and well-being. USAID programs support Mexican leadership in specific technical areas that are high priorities for both governments.

Newspapers and Magazines

El Economista at <http://eleconomista.com.mx/index.php>.

Focuses on the economy, finances, business, and politics. Available in Spanish only.

Excélsior at <http://www.excelsior.com.mx/>.

Mexico City-based publication that features sections on domestic and international affairs, money and business, community, and opinion pieces. Available in Spanish only.

El Financiero at <http://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/>.

Contains sections on finance, economy, business, politics, technological and scientific development, management, and marketing. Available in Spanish only.

El Informador at <http://www.informador.com.mx/>.

Periodical from Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco located in Western Mexico, an important economic center. Available in Spanish only.

El Universal at <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/noticias.html>.

Historically important periodical for its crucial role during the Mexican Revolution. Features sections on domestic and international politics, business, and security. Available in Spanish only.

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Aguila, Emma, Alisher R. Akhmedjonov, Ricardo Basturto-Davila, Krishna B. Kumar, Sarah Kups, and Howard J. Shatz. *United States and Mexico: Ties That Bind, Issues That Divide*. (Washington, DC: RAND Corporation, 2012) at

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Presents immigration issues in the context of Mexico's economic and social development. Notes that differences in economic growth, wages, and employment issues often determine immigration patterns.

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A study produced by the Centennial Group International that analyzes Mexico's economic growth in the past 30 years and discusses the country's potential in future decades. Conclusions indicate that technological and economic growth, and efficiency in both areas, is stunted by the middle-income trap, micro-level distortions, and a rent-preserving political equilibrium. To watch the full conference and discussion of this study hosted by the Inter-American Dialogue, click "play video."

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The author addresses trucking provisions, truck safety, and the effects of these issues on trade in the border zone.

Hamilton, Nora. "Mexico," in *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 4th ed., Gary Prevost and Harry E. Vanden eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 337-367.

Overview of political development in Mexico. Other relevant chapters are "U.S.-Latin American Relations," "Venezuela," and "Cuba."

Hamilton, Nora. *Mexico: Political, Social and Economic Evolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Reviews Mexico's history from the 16th century until present day. Chapters include liberalization to re-orient the Mexican economy and current issues in U.S.-Mexican relations.

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Opinion articles discuss the instability of Mexican society, the impact of NAFTA on Mexico, cross-border migration, and potential U.S. policy toward Mexico.

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Addresses issues faced by recently inaugurated Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and U.S. President Barack Obama as they approach bilateral relations.

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Provides a comparative study on business opportunities and requirements in Mexico. Specific case studies illuminate the issues facing entrepreneurs today.

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Conference hosted by the Inter-American Dialogue that debates the long-term benefits and tangible results of recent reforms in economic and political policy, education, and labor under the new administration of Enrique Peña Nieto. To watch the full conference, click 'now playing.'

O'Neil, Shannon K. *Two Nations Indivisible: Mexico, the United States, and the Road Ahead*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). Library of Congress catalog record: <http://catalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?v1=1&ti=1.1&SEQ=20131115152554&Search%5FArg=Two%20Nations%20Indivisible%3A%20Mexico%2C%20the%20United%20States%2C%20and%20the%20Road%20Ahead&Search%5FCode=TKEY%5E%2A&CNT=100&PID=v0HeLMMKiW3ILTXsArR9f-tCLGaBJsb&SID=1>.

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Report looks at the ways in which regional economic cooperation can enhance competitiveness, stimulate growth, and create jobs. Discusses production in Mexico versus production in China.

U.S. Government Publications

U.S. Congress. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, and House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Management, *Merida Part Two: Insurgency and Terrorism in Mexico*, 112th Cong., 1st sess., October 4, 2011 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2011) at <http://congressional.proquest.com/congressional/docview/t05.d06.2012-h381-44?accountid=12084>.

Examines increasing violence in Mexico by drug trafficking organizations which affects communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Reviews the Merida Initiative which provides security assistance to Mexico and Central American countries to combat transnational crime.

Venezuela

Government and Business Websites

Banco Central de Venezuela at <http://www.bcv.org.ve/>.

Valuable resource for statistical and institutional information, economic studies, and general information on the Venezuelan economy. This website and its publications are available only in Spanish.

Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs at <http://venezuela-us.org/>.

Official website of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Spanish version is available at <http://venezuela-us.org/es/>.

Export.gov at <http://export.gov/venezuela/>.

Provides contacts for U.S. businesses. Also connects to "Doing Business in Venezuela" at <http://caracas.usembassy.gov/doing-business-local.html>.

Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce of the United States at <http://www.venezuelanchamber.org/index.htm>.

This non-governmental organization founded in 1991 brings together businesspersons from Venezuela and the United States in order to encourage investment in tourism, culture, commerce, and industry between the two countries.

Newspapers and Magazines

El Comercio at <http://www.elcomercio.com/tag/venezuela.html>.

Specialized newspaper for economy, entrepreneurship, politics, and financial investigation. Available in Spanish only.

El Mundo: Economía & Negocios at <http://www.elmundo.com.ve/>.

Specialized newspaper for economy and business in Venezuela. Available in Spanish only.

El Nacional at <http://www.el-nacional.com/>.

El Nacional has sections on Venezuelan economic, political, and technological developments. Available in Spanish only.

El Universal at <http://www.eluniversal.com/>.

One of the most prominent periodicals in the capital, Caracas. Features sections on domestic and international affairs, economy, and politics. Available in Spanish only.

Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights at <http://venezuelablog.tumblr.com/>.

A blog hosted by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) that provides insights on Venezuela's politics, economics, and business. The October 2013 post, for example, concerned "Nicolas Maduro After Six Months."

La Voz: Un Suceso Nacional at <http://www.diariolavoz.net/>.

La Voz presents recent news on domestic and international developments and politics. It also features a section on news within different regions in the country, thereby providing an understanding of Venezuela outside of Caracas. Available in Spanish only.

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Corrales, Javier. “¿Un Maduro Más Duro? Venezuela after Chávez,” *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies* (Spring 2013) at

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Speculates on what initiatives President Nicolas Maduro may promote.

“Economy Profile: Venezuela, RB” in *Doing Business 2013: Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises* (Washington, DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /The World Bank, 2013) at

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Grisanti, Alejandro. “Venezuela: The Beginning of the End,” in *Latin America Economic Perspectives: All Together Now: The Challenge of Regional Integration*. Latin America Initiatives at Brookings. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, April 2012), pp. 73-77 at

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2012/04/latin-america-perspectives>.

The author states that the opposition to Chávez was sufficiently strong to warrant real fiscal and monetary expansion to win the election.

Hellinger, Daniel. “Venezuela,” in *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 4th ed. Gary Prevost and Harry E. Vanden, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 483-507.

This overview of Venezuelan political and economic conditions serves as an introduction to the country. Students may refer to other chapters in this edited collection, such as “U.S.-Latin American Relations,” “Cuba,” and “Mexico” for a comprehensive and comparative understanding of the region and its relationship with the United States.

López Maya, Margarita, Patrick Duddy, Risa Grais-Targow, and David Smilde. “Political Transition in Venezuela: Next Steps and the Implications for U.S. Policy.” Presentation at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC, February 25, 2013.

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/political-transition-venezuela-next-steps-and-the-implications-for-us-policy>.

With consideration to Hugo Chávez’ debilitating illness and pending political uncertainty in Venezuela, scholars gathered to discuss three basic questions: 1) what is the current political situation Venezuela?; 2) What does this situation signify for future U.S., and furthermore, hemispheric policy?; and 3) What will be the future trends for the Venezuelan economy, in particular its oil sector?

Raby, Diana. “Venezuelan Foreign Policy Under Chávez, 1992-2010: The Pragmatic Success of Revolutionary Ideology?” in *Latin American Foreign Policies: Between Ideology and Pragmatism*, 1st ed. Gian Luca Gardini and Peter Lambert, eds. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), pp. 159-177.

Raby offers a review of Venezuela’s foreign policy and evaluates Chávez’s strongly nationalistic policy.

SUBJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

These resources are available for purchase at the U.S. Government Printing Office
Bookstore at: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>

“Resolved: The United States Federal Government should Substantially Increase Its Economic Engagement toward Cuba, Mexico, or Venezuela”.

Challenges to Democracy in the Western Hemisphere, Hearing Before the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Of Representatives, One Hundred Thirteenth Congress First Session, September 10, 2013.

Publisher: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives

Year/Pages: 2013: 61 p.

Price: \$7.00

A Closer Look at Cuba and Its Recent History of Proliferation, Hearing Before the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the Committee on Foreign Affairs , House of Representatives, One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, First Session, September 26, 2013.

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Publisher: Defense Dept., Army and Library of Congress, Federal Research Division

Description: DA Pam 550-152. Area Handbook Series. 4th edition. Edited by Rex A. Hudson. Prepared by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress. Research completed April 2001. Describes and analyzes the economic, national security, political, and social systems and institutions of Cuba. L.C. ISBN 0-8444-1045-4.

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Year/Pages: 2013: 94 p.

Price \$10.00

Examining The State Department's Report On Iranian Presence In The Western Hemisphere 19 Years After AMIA Attack. Joint Hearing Before The Subcommittee On The Middle East And North Africa And The Subcommittee On The Western Hemisphere Of The Committee On Foreign Affairs House Of Representatives, August 1, 2013 One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

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Overview of U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: Opportunities and Challenges Hearing Before the Subcommittee On The Western Hemisphere of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Of Representatives, One Hundred Thirteenth Congress First Session February 28, 2013 Serial No. 113-13

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<http://catalog.gpo.gov> is an Internet address to search the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, a resource for U.S. Government information products published by all three branches of the U.S. Government. There are extensive resources available at this website, historic and current. Many information products have listed in this online catalog, link to electronic versions. Historic information products are available at a network of Federal Depository Libraries throughout the United States.

<http://www.fdsys.gov> is an Internet address for GPO's Federal Digital System, which houses an extensive database of Congressional electronic information products beginning in 1993.