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


Historical and Revision Notes
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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.


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.


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.xsl&base=./publicaciones/top_publicaciones-i.xsl#.
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.


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


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.


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


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.


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


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.


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


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.


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&. 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.


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.


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


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.


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 

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.


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.


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.


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


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


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.


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.


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


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


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


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


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

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

   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.

   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

   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 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 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/.

   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.

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.

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

Articles, Books, Reports, and Conferences

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

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

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.

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

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.


“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.


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.


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.


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.


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.

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.

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.

This paper provides an extensive chronology of U.S. economic and political policies toward Cuba. The discussion is critical of Cuban politics.

The authors recommend more U.S. and Cuban bilateral engagement as an approach to improving the lives of Cuban citizens and stabilizing the country’s economy.

“Legislative Background on U.S.-Cuba Policy,” Congressional Digest, vol. 92, no.7 (September 2013), pp. 12.
Review of U.S. legislative policies toward Cuba since 2009. Provides selected Internet sites for further research.

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.
This U.S. senator presents an argument for maintaining the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

Single page article looks at the policies of the Obama administration toward Cuba in three areas: remittances sent by Americans to non-family members in Cuba; religious, educational, and other purposeful travel by Americans to Cuba; and U.S. airports serving charter flights to Cuba.

This report examines the arguments for and against expanding business and trade between the U.S. and Cuba.

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.

“Redefining the U.S.-Cuba Relationship” (Cover Story), Congressional Digest, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), p. 1.

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.


Authors maintain that the absence of proper money is the most fundamental weakness of Cuba’s economy. At present neither the convertible peso (CU$) nor the national peso (CUP) serve as a satisfactory storehouse of value.


This report discusses Cuba’s recent reform efforts in an uncertain economic environment. Cuba faces continuing challenges to greater productivity and growth.


This report presents an overview of the Cuban economy, the effects of the global financial crisis, and the state of social services in Cuba.


This article by a U.S. Congresswoman opposes the lift of the U.S. embargo on Cuba and expresses concerns with U.S. funds being used to assist a Cuban dictatorship.

Rubio, Marco. “Should the U.S. Government Lift Travel and Trade Restrictions on Cuba?” Congressional Digest, vol. 92, no. 7 (September 2013), pp. 15–19.

This article by a U.S. Senator argues against allowing Americans to travel to Cuba because such trips may become propaganda opportunities for the Cuban government.


The article discusses the restructuring of Cuban economic policies, with a focus on transforming government administration, rejecting cultural complacency, and creating models for economic development.

The vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for Western Hemisphere Affairs argues on behalf of lifting the U.S. embargo and travel ban on Cuba in order to increase international trade between the two countries.


This article discusses travel conditions in Cuba in late 2012, particularly in regard to political and economic circumstances.


The author discusses the current situation in Cuba as entering a new era of economic reform that is different from other post-Communist transitions in history. The author discusses opportunities for the U.S. to establish new diplomatic and economic policies with Cuba.


The author discusses Cuba’s present social and economic changes within the context of the global economy, a long-standing conflict with the U.S., and an aging population. He describes Cuba’s trade relations with other Latin American countries.
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.


NAFTA Secretariat at https://www.nafta-seo-alsea.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 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

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

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

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

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

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.

Articles, Books, Reports, and Conferences

Prepresents 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.

Addresses security and violence, economic, political, and social developments, and foreign relations with the United States.

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.”


Examines drug traffic and organized crime in Mexico and their implications for Mexico's domestic and international relations.


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


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


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.


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


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

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


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.’


In his first year in office, President Enrique Peña Nieto introduced reforms on education, labor relations, energy, and competition policy aimed at modernizing a nation. The status and prospects of these reforms are examined.

Discusses the failures of NAFTA and argues for greater cooperative efforts between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Explores bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico by examining trade policy, migration, environmental issues, violence, crime, and drugs within the global context.

Reviews the current Mexican economy and economic trends between the United States and Mexico.

Discusses national perspectives to economic growth among countries in the Americas.

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


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/
Valueable 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.


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

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

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

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

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

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

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.
Articles, Books, Reports, and Conferences


Speculates on what initiatives President Nicolas Maduro may promote.


“Doing Business’s” report on Venezuela evaluates the ease or difficulty in opening a new business in Venezuela, with data current as of June 1, 2012.


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


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.


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 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

Year/Pages: 2013: 61 p.

Price: $7.00

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Year/pages: 2009: 303 p.; ill.

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