



The United States Embargo Against Cuba



Abstract

The U.S. embargo against Cuba is not a new topic within the world of international politics. It has been imposed in 1960, a year after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. The United States imposed the trade embargo when Cuba nationalized American-owned properties and strengthened its ties with the Soviet Union. The embargo remained in effect after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The U.S. tightened the embargo by introducing the Cuba Democracy Act in 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act in 1996. These Acts widened the scope of the embargo to foreign companies and subsidiaries of American companies conducting business with Cuba. After 54 years, the embargo towards Cuba still remains in place.

Research Question

To what extent has the U.S. embargo against Cuba been effective in fulfilling U.S. foreign policy?

Methodology

For the purpose of this research, an annotated bibliography was created followed by a literature review. All my sources had to be secondary sources, scholarly academic journal articles and/or books. As well, the sources had to be relevant to the embargo on Cuba and with elements of information that relate to my research question. Most of my sources are current and therefore they not only narrate the historical background of the embargo, but they also touch upon the more recent involvement of the topic. In order to avoid any bias, I was open to select diverse sources regardless of the view that they supported.



Conclusion

Whether the embargo has been effective in fulfilling U.S. foreign policy has been partially and indirectly answered by the readings of the scholarly sources that I have selected. At the same time, the literature that I have reviewed provided depth and complexity to the mechanisms that stand behind the embargo.

Results

Future research could provide statistical data on the forces within the United States that influence Cuban policy as well as further studies within Cuba to enable us to formulate a more comprehensive picture on their views and attitudes towards the embargo.

Presented By:

Raffi Karamanlian – International Studies
GL/ILST 3505 – Research in International Studies
Glendon College, York University
Contact Information: karamanr@yorku.ca