# 1NC

### QPQ – 1NC

#### “Engagement” requires the provision of positive incentives

Haass 00 – Richard Haass & Meghan O’Sullivan, Brookings Institution Foreign Policy Studies Program, Honey and Vinegar: Incentives, Sanctions, and Foreign Policy, p. 1-2

The term *engagement* was popularized amid the controversial policy of constructive engagement pursued by the United States toward South Africa during the first term of the Reagan administration. However, the term itself remains a source of confusion. To the Chinese, the word appears to mean simply the conduct of normal relations. In German, no comparable translation exists. Even to native English speakers, the concept behind the word is unclear. Except in the few instances in which the United States has sought to isolate a regime or country, America arguably "engages" states and actors all the time in one capacity or another simply by interacting with them. This book, however, employs the term engagement in a much more specific way, one that involves much more than a policy of nonisolation. In our usage, engagement refers to a foreign policy strategy that depends to a significant degree on positive incentives to achieve its objectives. Certainly, engagement does not preclude the simultaneous use of other foreign policy instruments such as sanctions or military force. In practice, there is often considerable overlap of strategies, particularly when the termination or lifting of sanctions is used as a positive inducement. Yet the distinguishing feature of engagement strategies is their reliance on the extension or provision of incentives to shape the behavior of countries with which the United States has important disagreements.

#### That means the plan must be a quid-pro-quo

De LaHunt 6 - Assistant Director for Environmental Health & Safety Services in Colorado College's Facilities Services department (John, “Perverse and unintended” Journal of Chemical Health and Safety, July-August, Science direct)

Incentives work on a *quid pro quo* basis – this for that. If you change your behavior, I’ll give you a reward. One could say that coercion is an incentive program – do as I say and I’ll let you live. However, I define an incentive as getting something you didn’t have before in exchange for new behavior, so that pretty much puts coercion in its own box, one separate from incentives. But fundamental problems plague the incentive approach. Like coercion, incentives are poor motivators in the long run, for at least two reasons – unintended consequences and perverse incentives.

#### Plan isn’t --- voting issue:

#### Limits --- it functionally narrows the topic because few cases can defend conditioning --- the alternative is hundreds of single import or export cases that explode the Neg’s research burden

#### Ground --- QPQ locks in core generics like soft power and foreign politics DAs, counterplans to add or remove a condition, and critiques of diplomacy

#### View this through competing interpretations, reasonability is bad

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#### Text: The President of the United States should issue an executive order to modify the Cuban Embargo in order to provide services for the development and safety of Cuban offshore oil resources.

#### XO has supreme law of the land.

Nelson 2009

[Anne E. J.D. Candidate, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, 2010, “Muddled to Medellin: A Legal History of Sole Executive Agreements”, <http://www.arizonalawreview.org/pdf/51-4/51arizlrev1035.pdf>, 1036-1027, accessed 9/21, CC]

Can the President of the United States unilaterally make federal law? For most students of American Government, the knee-jerk reaction to this question is an emphatic "no," as they are taught that it is the legislature's role to create laws and the President's role to see that the laws are faithfully executed. n1 Indeed, the United States' political identity depends on a delicate separation of powers that prevents the President from accumulating too much power. n2 Over time, however, the delicate separation of powers balance has shifted, and this emphatic "no" has [\*1036] transformed into a more muddled "maybe," with the President's use of sole executive agreements.¶ Sole executive agreements present a unique challenge to traditional separation of powers principles. These agreements are legal tools the President can use to unilaterally resolve foreign disputes with other countries. The Supreme Court has upheld the President's authority to enter into sole executive agreements and has broadly held that these agreements, being analogous to treaties, are fit to preempt conflicting state law. Thus, sole executive agreements are a means by which the President can sideline the legislature and unilaterally create federal law.¶ Sole executive agreements have been used since the early days of the Republic. n3 Since the turn of the twentieth century and the rise of the United States as a global power, Presidents have aggressively used sole executive agreements to resolve significant matters of foreign policy. The expansive use of sole executive agreements has attracted debate amongst scholars as to their constitutional validity, why they have been held to preempt federal law, and, most importantly, how the preemptive effect of these agreements could be limited to better harmonize with the Supremacy Clause and traditional separation of powers principles. n4¶ Until recently, the Supreme Court has not provided much guidance to this debate. In a series of decisions, n5 the Supreme Court has sanctioned the use of sole executive agreements and concluded that such agreements can be considered "the supreme Law of the Land." n6 In doing so, the Court has granted sweeping power to the President to effectively create federal law through sole executive agreements without any meaningful limitations.

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#### Immigration reform will pass- bipartisan focus.

Sherfinski Washington times, 11/14/13 (David, politics at Washington times, “Schumer: Immigration reform still possible this year” <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/nov/14/sen-charles-schumer-immigration-reform-still-possi/> accessed 11/14/13 KR)

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat, said Thursday that he’d bet “quite a bit” that comprehensive immigration reforming will pass Congress and that he wouldn’t rule out something happening by the end of the year.

“I still think it’s possible this year,” he said at the Washington Ideas Forum hosted by The Atlantic. “But if it’s not, I think we have a real good chance to do it in the first half of next year. … If I had to bet money, we’re going to have an immigration reform bill on the president’s desk.”

Mr. Schumer was part of a bipartisan group that wrote a bill the Senate passed earlier this year to provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of people currently living in the country illegally.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, Ohio Republican, firmly rejected the Senate’s approach Wednesday, which called for quick legal status for most illegal immigrants, though it withheld a full pathway to citizenship until after the Homeland Security Department invested in more Border Patrol agents, doubled the length of pedestrian fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, and purchased more equipment and technology.

The Senate bill also would revamp the legal immigration system to let in more foreigners based on job skills or deep family ties.

Mr. Schumer said in a statement Wednesday that he thought the Republican-dominated House would “come to its senses and realize that we have to fix our immigration system in a bipartisan way.”

#### Congress Wont modify the Embargo when Castro is in power

Rajo, Political analyst, 13

(Carlos, Journalist for NBC, 3/2/13, World News on NBC, “Analysis: Castro brothers’ successor may inherit a very different Cuba”, http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\_news/2013/03/02/17133513-analysis-castro-brothers-successor-may-inherit-a-very-different-cuba?lite, 7/18/13, AL)

Raul Castro’s recent announcement that he will leave power in 2018, and his appointment of 52-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel as first vice president and his de facto successor, are signs of the glacial pace of political change in Cuba.

Certainly, these announcements won’t satisfy those who for decades have been waiting for the Castro brothers’ exit.

Nevertheless, the move marks the beginning of the passing of the torch of power to a new generation.

For the first time in half a century, there is the real possibility that a person who did not fight in the Cuban Revolution will lead the country. Diaz-Canel was not even born when Fidel Castro overthrew Fulgencio Batista in January 1959. Since then, a Castro has been in power in Cuba: first the now-retired, 86-year-old Fidel, and from 2006 to now, his younger brother, Raul, 81.

This generational change does not mean that Cuba will move to a different political system. There is no going back to capitalism, Raul Castro told the National Assembly on Sunday. Nevertheless, the move toward a generational change must be seen in the context of other reforms implemented by the younger Castro.

Cuba's new Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, right, was not even born when Fidel Castro overthrew Fulgencio Batista in January 1959.

These reforms already are changing the face of Cuban socialism. Castro has introduced private farms, cooperatives in industries and activities outside agriculture, and an array of small business. Granted, these are restricted and heavily regulated, but still they are earning profits and starting to create a segment of wealthier, successful entrepreneurs. Cubans are also now allowed to sell houses and cars, and more recently, to travel abroad if they can get a visa from another country.

While little is known of Diaz-Canel’s ideology, it is likely that as the appointed Castro successor he is on board with the reforms.

The U.S. State Department reacted tepidly to Castro’s announcement and made clear that it would not be sufficient to prompt a lifting of the U.S. trade embargo. Although President Barack Obama doesn’t have election constraints in formulating a Cuba policy in his second term, the issue remains emotionally and politically charged in the U.S., and Congress is not likely to change its mind and lift the embargo while a Castro remains in power.

#### Immigration key to the economy – competitiveness, growth, jobs, innovation

Palomarez 3-6-13 [Javier, President & CEO of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce., "The pent up entreprenuership that immigration reform woudl unleash" Forbes -- www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2013/03/06/the-pent-up-entrepreneurship-that-immigration-reform-would-unleash/]

Out of countless conversations with business leaders in virtually every sector and every state, a consensus has emerged: our broken and outdated immigration system hinders our economy’s growth and puts America’s global leadership in jeopardy.¶ Innovation drives the American economy, and without good ideas and skilled workers, our country won’t be able to transform industries or to lead world markets as effectively as it has done for decades.¶ Consider some figures: Immigrant-owned firms generate an estimated $775 billion in annual revenue, $125 billion in payroll and about $100 billion in income. A study conducted by the New American Economy found that over 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were started by immigrants or children of immigrants.¶ Leading brands, like Google, Kohls, eBay, Pfizer, and AT&T, were founded by immigrants. Researchers at the Kauffman Foundation released a study late last year showing that from 2006 to 2012, one in four engineering and technology companies started in the U.S. had at least one foreign-born founder — in Silicon Valley it was almost half of new companies.¶ There are an estimated 11 million undocumented workers currently in the U.S. Imagine what small business growth in the U.S. would look like if they were provided legal status, if they had an opportunity for citizenship. Without fear of deportation or prosecution, imagine the pent up entrepreneurship that could be unleashed. After all, these are people who are clearly entrepreneurial in spirit to have come here and risk all in the first place.¶ Immigrants are twice as likely to start businesses as native-born Americans, and statistics show that most job growth comes from small businesses.¶ While immigrants are both critically-important consumers and producers, they boost the economic well-being of native-born Americans as well.¶ Scholars at the Brookings Institution recently described the relationship of these two groups of workers as complementary. This is because lower-skilled immigrants largely take farming and other manual, low-paid jobs that native-born workers don’t usually want.¶ For example, when Alabama passed HB 56, an immigration law in 2012 aimed at forcing self-deportation, the state lost roughly $11 billion in economic productivity as crops were left to wither and jobs were lost.¶ Immigration reform would also address another important angle in the debate – the need to entice high-skilled immigrants. Higher-skilled immigrants provide talent that high-tech companies often cannot locate domestically. High-tech leaders recently organized a nationwide “virtual march for immigration reform” to pressure policymakers to remove barriers that prevent them from recruiting the workers they need.¶ Finally, and perhaps most importantly, fixing immigration makes sound fiscal sense. Economist Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda calculated in 2010 that comprehensive immigration reform would add $1.5 trillion to the country’s GDP over 10 years and add $66 billion in tax revenue – enough to fully fund the Small Business Administration and the Departments of the Treasury and Commerce for over two years.¶ As Congress continues to wring its hands and debate the issue, lawmakers must understand what both businesses and workers already know: The American economy needs comprehensive immigration reform.

#### Prevents global decline

Caploe ‘9

(David Caploe is CEO of the Singapore-incorporated American Centre for Applied Liberal Arts and Humanities in Asia., “Focus still on America to lead global recovery”, April 7, The Strait Times, lexis)=

IN THE aftermath of the G-20 summit, most observers seem to have missed perhaps the most crucial statement of the entire event, made by United States President Barack Obama at his pre-conference meeting with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown: 'The world has become accustomed to the US being a voracious consumer market, the engine that drives a lot of economic growth worldwide,' he said. 'If there is going to be renewed growth, it just can't be the US as the engine.' While superficially sensible, this view is deeply problematic. To begin with, it ignores the fact that the global economy has in fact been 'America-centred' for more than 60 years. Countries - China, Japan, Canada, Brazil, Korea, Mexico and so on - either sell to the US or they sell to countries that sell to the US. This system has generally been advantageous for all concerned. America gained certain historically unprecedented benefits, but the system also enabled participating countries - first in Western Europe and Japan, and later, many in the Third World - to achieve undreamt-of prosperity. At the same time, this deep inter-connection between the US and the rest of the world also explains how the collapse of a relatively small sector of the US economy - 'sub-prime' housing, logarithmically exponentialised by Wall Street's ingenious chicanery - has cascaded into the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression. To put it simply, Mr Obama doesn't seem to understand that there is no other engine for the world economy - and hasn't been for the last six decades. If the US does not drive global economic growth, growth is not going to happen. Thus, US policies to deal with the current crisis are critical not just domestically, but also to the entire world. Consequently, it is a matter of global concern that the Obama administration seems to be following Japan's 'model' from the 1990s: allowing major banks to avoid declaring massive losses openly and transparently, and so perpetuating 'zombie' banks - technically alive but in reality dead. As analysts like Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman have pointed out, the administration's unwillingness to confront US banks is the main reason why they are continuing their increasingly inexplicable credit freeze, thus ravaging the American and global economies. Team Obama seems reluctant to acknowledge the extent to which its policies at home are failing not just there but around the world as well. Which raises the question: If the US can't or won't or doesn't want to be the global economic engine, which country will? The obvious answer is China. But that is unrealistic for three reasons. First, China's economic health is more tied to America's than practically any other country in the world. Indeed, the reason China has so many dollars to invest everywhere - whether in US Treasury bonds or in Africa - is precisely that it has structured its own economy to complement America's. The only way China can serve as the engine of the global economy is if the US starts pulling it first. Second, the US-centred system began at a time when its domestic demand far outstripped that of the rest of the world. The fundamental source of its economic power is its ability to act as the global consumer of last resort. China, however, is a poor country, with low per capita income, even though it will soon pass Japan as the world's second largest economy. There are real possibilities for growth in China's domestic demand. But given its structure as an export-oriented economy, it is doubtful if even a successful Chinese stimulus plan can pull the rest of the world along unless and until China can start selling again to the US on a massive scale. Finally, the key 'system' issue for China - or for the European Union - in thinking about becoming the engine of the world economy - is monetary: What are the implications of having your domestic currency become the global reserve currency? This is an extremely complex issue that the US has struggled with, not always successfully, from 1959 to the present. Without going into detail, it can safely be said that though having the US dollar as the world's medium of exchange has given the US some tremendous advantages, it has also created huge problems, both for America and the global economic system. The Chinese leadership is certainly familiar with this history. It will try to avoid the yuan becoming an international medium of exchange until it feels much more confident in its ability to handle the manifold currency problems that the US has grappled with for decades. Given all this, the US will remain the engine of global economic recovery for the foreseeable future, even though other countries must certainly help. This crisis began in the US - and it is going to have to be solved there too.

#### Nuclear war

**Auslin ‘9**

(Michael, Resident Scholar – American Enterprise Institute, and Desmond Lachman – Resident Fellow – American Enterprise Institute, “The Global Economy Unravels”, Forbes, 3-6, http://www.aei.org/article/100187)

What do these trends mean in the short and medium term? The Great Depression showed how social and global chaos followed hard on economic collapse. The mere fact that parliaments across the globe, from America to Japan, are unable to make responsible, economically sound recovery plans suggests that they do not know what to do and are simply hoping for the least disruption. Equally worrisome is the adoption of more statist economic programs around the globe, and the concurrent decline of trust in free-market systems. The threat of instability is a pressing concern. China, until last year the world's fastest growing economy, just reported that 20 million migrant laborers lost their jobs. Even in the flush times of recent years, China faced upward of 70,000 labor uprisings a year. A sustained downturn poses grave and possibly immediate threats to Chinese internal stability. The regime in Beijing may be faced with a choice of repressing its own people or diverting their energies outward, leading to conflict with China's neighbors. Russia, an oil state completely dependent on energy sales, has had to put down riots in its Far East as well as in downtown Moscow. Vladimir Putin's rule has been predicated on squeezing civil liberties while providing economic largesse. If that devil's bargain falls apart, then wide-scale repression inside Russia, along with a continuing threatening posture toward Russia's neighbors, is likely. Even apparently stable societies face increasing risk and the threat of internal or possibly external conflict. As Japan's exports have plummeted by nearly 50%, one-third of the country's prefectures have passed emergency economic stabilization plans. Hundreds of thousands of temporary employees hired during the first part of this decade are being laid off. Spain's unemployment rate is expected to climb to nearly 20% by the end of 2010; Spanish unions are already protesting the lack of jobs, and the specter of violence, as occurred in the 1980s, is haunting the country. Meanwhile, in Greece, workers have already taken to the streets. Europe as a whole will face dangerously increasing tensions between native citizens and immigrants, largely from poorer Muslim nations, who have increased the labor pool in the past several decades. Spain has absorbed five million immigrants since 1999, while nearly 9% of Germany's residents have foreign citizenship, including almost 2 million Turks. The xenophobic labor strikes in the U.K. do not bode well for the rest of Europe. A prolonged global downturn, let alone a collapse, would **dramatically raise tensions** inside these countries. Couple that with possible protectionist legislation in the United States, unresolved ethnic and territorial disputes in all regions of the globe and a loss of confidence that world leaders actually know what they are doing. The result may be a series of small explosions that coalesce into a big bang.

# Oil spills

#### Drilling Turn

#### A. No drilling in the status quo- only the aff increases incentive

Fargo, The Natural Gas Week, 13 (Jason, July 1st, 2013, The Natural Gas Week , staff writer. “Offshore Drilling Hopes Fade in Cuba After Russian E&P Pulls Rig” Lexis Nexis Academic. Accessed: August 18th, 2013 MB)

Cuba’s efforts to find oil and gas off its shores appear to be foundering, after the last company with an active drilling program abandoned its efforts last month after drilling one well. Russia’s state-owned Zarubezhneft recently said it has suspended its campaign off Cuba’s northwestern coast after apparently encountering geological difficulties during drilling. The company says it will work with Cubapetroleo, Cuba’s state oil company, to modify its drilling program and plans to resume work next year. However, the fact that Zarubezhneft’s drill rig, the Songa Mercur, has departed Cuba well ahead of schedule with no known plans to return suggests a different story. The failure of Zarubezhneft’s well comes after three other wells drilled in recent months by Spain’s Repsol, Petroleos de Venezuela, and a consortium of Malaysia’s Petronas and Russia’s Gazprom Neft all came up dry ( NGW Nov.5’12 ). The Saipem-owned Scarabeo-9 semi-submersible rig, which Repsol commissioned, left Cuba last November after drilling the three wells. Cuba’s offshore geology seems promising for oil and gas development. A 2004 report by the US Geological Survey estimated a mean resource base of 4.6 billion barrels of oil and 9.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the offshore North Cuba Basin. Furthermore, Cuba sits just to the east of a major producing region in the US Gulf of Mexico. Yet the geology and the politics have conspired to make oil and gas projects in Cuba difficult, and probably not worth the effort for most international producers. The main difficulty is the US embargo against Cuba, which prevents US workers and equipment from going to the island and adds substantially to the cost of drilling in Cuba. Jorge Pinon, interim director of the Center for International Energy & Environmental Policy at the University of Texas at Austin, said a Cuban well costs 18%-20% more to drill than wells drilled elsewhere in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, the embargo prohibits any rig with more than 10% US-made components from going to Cuba. Repsol worked assiduously to comply with the law, having the Scarabeo-9 built in China and letting US officials inspect the rig before it went to Cuba. Yet few other companies are likely to want such trouble, particularly given the poor results of Cuban exploration to date.The possibility of drilling off Cuba’s coast – only about 60 miles from south Florida – has also stirred environmental concerns in the US, where the aftereffects of BP’s 2010 Macondo well explosion and oil spill are still being felt.Republican politicians in Florida have taken a particularly tough line against Cuban drilling, as environmental concerns combine with the traditional distaste for the communist regime in Havana. Before Repsol abandoned its efforts in Cuba, there had been calls in the US for Congress to take action against the company, which has a major presence in the US, including in the large Mississippian Lime shale play ( NGW Feb.6’12 ).With the US becoming an ever-more important oil and gas producer, the likelihood that foreign producers will jeopardize their relationship with Washington to drill in Cuba is increasingly slim. Furthermore, many other areas of equal or greater potential exist in the world – including Mexico, where President Enrique Pena Nieto has promised to end state Pemex’s monopoly on oil and gas extraction with a major legislative reform later this year ( NGW May13’13 )..

#### B. That turns case- oil rigs alone release harmful chemicals that hurt ecosystems

Rose, International Technology Education Association, 9(May Annette, February, 2009, assistant professor in the Department of Technology at Ball State University, “The Environmental Impacts of Offshore Oil Drilling”

<http://www2.tec.ilstu.edu/students/tec_304/Rose%20Oil%20Drilling.pdf> p.28, 8/20/13 MB)

There are known detrimental impacts upon the marine environment for all phases of offshore E&P (Patin, 1999). While natural seepages contribute more hydrocarbons to the marine environment by volume, the quick influx and concentration of oil during a spill makes them especially harmfulto localized marine organisms and communities. Plants and animals that become coated in oil perish from mechanical smothering, birds die from hypothermia as their feathers lose their waterproofing, turtles die after ingesting oil-coated food, and animals become disoriented and exhibit other behavior changes after breathing volatile organic compounds. When emitted into the marine environment, oil, produced water, and drilling muds may adversely impact an entire population by disrupting its food chain and reproductive cycle. Marine estuaries are especially susceptible, as hydrocarbons and other toxins tend to persist in the sediments where eggs and young often begin life. However, the severity and effects of oil exposure vary by concentration, season, and life stage. The oil spill from the Ixtoc 1 blowout threatened a rare nesting site of the Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle, an endangered species. Field and laboratory data on the nests of turtle eggs found a significant decrease in survival of hatchlings, and some hatchlings had developmental deformities(Milton, Lutz & Shigenaka, 2003). Marine organisms that live near an existing or sealed wellhead or an oil spill area experience persistent exposure to a complex web of hydrocarbons, petroleum-degrading microbes, and toxic substances associated with drilling muds and produced water. Abundance and diversity of marine life, especially those living near or in the seabed, decline. The growth and reproduction rates of entire populations that live in the water column may decline for months after a spill(Peteiro, Barro, Labarta, & FerńdezFeiriz, 2006), natural defense mechanisms necessary to deal with disease (immune suppression) become compromised (Song et al., 2008), and genetic mutations may occur. Many ofthese toxins(e.g., arsenic, chromium, mercury, and PAH) move up the food chain and biomagnify, i.e., increase in concentration. One of the most disturbing trends is the evidence that common hydrocarbon contaminants(e.g., PAH) act as endocrine disrupters. Endocrine disrupters are chemicals that can act as hormones or anti-hormones in aquatic ecosystems, thus disrupting normal reproductive and developmental patterns(McLachlan, 2000). Evidence also suggests that polychlorinated biphenyls(PCBs), a known carcinogen, also exhibitthese endocrine effects(ATSDR, 2001).

#### 3. Gulf is resilient- oil eating microbes mitigate spills- BP proves

Pillai 12 (Krishna,April 21, 2012 ,President of KKP Management Solutions, Ph.D, in Combustion and Heat Trasnfer from Aston University, B.Sc in Mechanical Engineering. “Two years after BP oil spill, natural recovery is much greater than expected” <http://ktwop.wordpress.com/2012/04/21/two-years-after-bp-oil-spill-natural-recovery-is-much-greater-than-expected/> Date Accessed: 8/20/13 MB)

Doomsayers confounded as Gulf of Mexico heals its,elf It was touted as the greatest environmental disaster of all time when Deepwater Horizon exploded in the Gulf of Mexico killing 11 and spilling vast quantities of crude oil. But two years later in April 2012 it was clear that the Gulf was recovering much faster than expected. It was soon clear that the effect of oil eating microbes had been grossly underestimated. And now 3 years after the accident an expert in bioremediation reported at the 245th National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society (ACS) that “the Gulf of Mexico may have a much greater natural ability to self-clean oil spills than previously believed”. “It shows that we may not need the kinds of heroic measures proposed after the Deepwater Horizon spill, like adding nutrients to speed up the growth of bacteria that breakdown oil, or using genetically engineered bacteria. The Gulf has a broad base of natural bacteria, and they respond to the presence of oil by multiplying quite rapidly.” From ACS: Terry C. Hazen, Ph.D., said that conclusion has emerged from research following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, which by some estimates spilled 4.9 million barrels (210 million gallons) of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. His research team used a powerful new approach for identifying microbes in the environment to discover previously unknown bacteria, naturally present in the Gulf water, that consume and break down crude oil. “The Deepwater Horizon oil provided a new source of nutrients in the deepest waters,” explained Hazen, who is with the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. “With more food present in the water, there was a population explosion among those bacteria already adapted to using oil as a food source. It was surprising how fast they consumed the oil. In some locations, it took only one day for them to reduce a gallon of oil to a half gallon. In others, the half-life for a given quantity of spilled oil was 6 days. This data suggests that a great potential for intrinsic bioremediation of oil plumes exists in the deep sea and other environs in the Gulf of Mexico.” Hazen spoke at a symposium, “Environmental Fate of Petroleum Oils and Dispersants in the Marine Environment,” that included other reports relating to the Deepwater Horizon spill. They were among 12,000 reports being presented at the ACS meeting, which continues through Thursday. Abstracts of the oil spill symposium appear at the end of this press release. Oil-eating bacteria are natural inhabitants of the Gulf because of the constant supply of food. Scientists know that there are more than 600 different areas where oil oozes from rocks underlying the Gulf of Mexico. These oil seeps, much like underwater springs, release 560,000-1.4 million barrels of oil annually, according to the National Research Council. Hazen’s team used a powerful new approach for identifying previously recognized kinds of oil-eating bacteria that contributed to the natural clean-up of the Deepwater Horizon spill. In the past, scientists identified microbes by putting samples of water into laboratory culture dishes, waiting for microbes to grow and then using a microscope to identify the microbes. The new approach, called “ecogenomics,” uses genetic and other analyses of the DNA, proteins and other footprints of bacteria to provide a more detailed picture of microbial life in the water. “The bottom line from this research may be that the Gulf of Mexico is more resilient and better able to recover from oil spills than anyone thought,” Hazen said. “It shows that we may not need the kinds of heroic measures proposed after the Deepwater Horizon spill, like adding nutrients to speed up the growth of bacteria that breakdown oil, or using genetically engineered bacteria. The Gulf has a broad base of natural bacteria, and they respond to the presence of oil by multiplying quite rapidly.”

#### 4. Lifting the embargo isn’t key to cleanup- Repsol rig proves

Kollipara, Fuel Fix, 12 (Puneet, January 9th, 2012, Covers politics and energy business from the Washington, D.C., bureau of the Houston Chronicle and Hearst. Bachelors in physics and economic from Washington University in St. Louis. “Feds say rig that will drill in Cuban waters generally meets standards” <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/01/09/bsee-says-rig-for-drilling-in-cuban-waters-generally-meets-american-standards/> Accessed: August 18th, 2013, MB)

But Repsol has leases with the Interior Department in Gulf of Mexico waters, which gave the federal government enough leverage to get the company to commit to following all American standards and to let U.S. inspectors examine the vessel outside Cuban waters. American officials’ inspection “does not confer any form of certification or endorsement under U.S. or international law,” the BSEE said. Former BSEE head Michael Bromwich has said the assumption is that Repsol’s drilling is “a given,” meaning it made more sense to work with the company than not do anything. The BSEE said the U.S. and other Caribbean nations are engaged in talks aimed at improving cooperation and coordination in the event of a spill, and the Coast Guard is working with federal, state and local officials on response plans for such a spill that could pose a threat to U.S. waters and coastal lands. Dan Whittle, Cuba program director for the Environmental Defense Fund, an environmental group, said he’s “encouraged that dialogue has begun in earnest that will hopefully lead to real cooperation, bi-laterally and regionally.”

# Relations

#### 1. No Solvency- Castro says no and will reject any offer to improve relations

Suchlicki 13 (March 4, Jaime Suchlicki- Bacardi Moreau Distinguished Professor and Director, Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami. He is the author of *Cuba: From Columbus to Castro*, “Why Cuba Will Still Be Anti-American After Castro”, http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/03/why-cuba-will-still-be-anti-american-after-castro/273680/)

In the meantime, Raul Castro will still rule with an iron fist. Some Cuba observers expect that Raul will open up the economy and even provide some political changes. Not so soon. With Fidel alive, or even when he is dead, it would be difficult for Raul to reject his brother's legacy of political and economic centralization. His legitimacy is based on being Fidel's heir. Any major move to reject Fidel's "teachings" would create uncertainty among Cuba's ruling elites - party and military. It could also increase instability as some would advocate rapid change, while others cling to more orthodox policies. Cubans could see this as an opportunity for mobilization, demanding faster reforms.

For Raul Castro, the uncertainties of uncorking the genie's bottle of reform in Cuba are greater than keeping the lid on and moving cautiously. For the past 52 years, political considerations have always dictated economic policies. He had been the longest serving Minister of Defense (47 years). He presided over the worst period of political repression and economic centralization in Cuba and is responsible for numerous executions after he and his brother assumed power, and some while in Mexico and the Sierra Maestra before reaching power.

During his speech to Parliament, Raul Castro scoffed at any idea that the country would soon abandon socialism and embrace profound economic changes. "I was not chosen to be president to restore capitalism to Cuba," he emphasized. "I was elected to defend, maintain and continue to perfect socialism and not to destroy it."

General Castro faces significant challenges in his second term. A non-productive and highly dependent economy on Venezuela and other foreign sources, popular unhappiness, the need to maintain order and discipline among the population and the need to increase productivity. Raul is critically dependent on the military. Lacking the charisma of his brother, he still needs the support of key party leaders and technocrats within the government bureaucracy.

The critical challenge for Raul Castro will be to balance the need to improve the economy and satisfy the needs of the population with maintaining political control. Too rapid economic reforms may lead to an unraveling of political control, a fact feared by Raul, the military, and other allies keen on remaining in power. A partial solution may be to provide more consumer goods to the population, including food, but without any structural economic changes.

Similarly, any serious overtures to the U.S. do not seem likely in the near future. It would mean the rejection of one of Fidel Castro's main legacies: anti-Americanism. It may create uncertainty within the government, leading to frictions and factionalism. It would require the weakening of Cuba's anti-American alliance with radical regimes in Latin America and elsewhere.

Raul is unwilling to renounce the support and close collaboration of countries like Venezuela, China, Iran and Russia in exchange for an uncertain relationship with the United States. At a time that anti-Americanism is strong in Latin America and the Middle East, Raul's policies are more likely to remain closer to regimes that are not particularly friendly to the United States and that demand little from Cuba in return for generous aid.

Raul does not seem ready to provide meaningful and irreversible concessions for a U.S. - Cuba normalization. Like his brother in the past, public statements and speeches are politically motivated and directed at audiences in Cuba, the United States and Europe. Serious negotiations on important issues are not carried out in speeches from the plaza. They are usually carried out through the normal diplomatic avenues open to the Cubans in Havana, Washington and the United Nations or other countries, if they wish. These avenues have never been closed as evidenced by the migration accord and the anti-hijacking agreement between the United States and Cuba.

Raul remains a loyal follower and cheerleader of Fidel's anti-American policies. The issue between Cuba and the U.S. is not about negotiations or talking. These are not sufficient. There has to be a willingness on the part of the Cuban leadership to offer real concessions - in the area of human rights and political and economic openings as well as cooperation on anti-terrorism and drug interdiction - for the United States to change it policies.

#### 2. Alt cause- Migration disputes

Riechmann, AP Correspondent, 13

(Deb, 7/17/13, Huffington Post, “Cuba and US Discuss Migration Issues to Better Relations”, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/18/us-cuba-migration\_n\_3617242.html, 8/16/13, AL)

ASHINGTON -- Migration issues headlined talks on Wednesday between the U.S. and Cuba, yet long-standing disputes threaten efforts to thaw relations between the Cold War enemies.

In the one-day talks, Cuba repeated its opposition to the United States' so-called wet-foot, dry-foot policy in which Cuban refugees reaching American soil are allowed to stay while those stopped at sea are sent home. Cuba says the policy urges its citizens to try to flee the island.

"Alien smuggling could not be eradicated nor a legal, safe and orderly migration between the two countries could be achieved as long as the wet-foot, dry-foot policy and the Cuban Adjustment Act, which encourage illegal migration and irregular entries of Cuban citizens into the United States, remain in force," the delegation said in a statement. The act lets islanders who reach the United States stay and fast-tracks them for residency.

#### 3. No Internal Link- Embargo doesn’t affect Latin American relations

Suchlicki 2k(June, JAIME SUCHLICKI is Emilio Bacardi Moreau Professor of History and International Studies and the Director of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami. He was the founding Executive Director of the North-South Center. For the past decade he was also the editor of the prestigious Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs. He is currently the Latin American Editor for Transaction Publishers and the author of Cuba: From Columbus to Castro (1997), “The U.S. Embargo of Cuba”, http://www6.miami.edu/iccas/USEmbargo.pdf) Note: The first line of the card is saying an aff argument and then refuting it.

If we lift the Embargo, U.S.-Latin American relations will improve.

Cuba is not an important issue in U.S.-Latin American relations. The U.S.-Latin American agenda includes as priority items trade, investment, transfer of technology, migration, drugs, environment, and intellectual property rights. Cuba is not a priority item on this agenda. While publicly many Latin American countries oppose the embargo, privately they are extremely concerned that Cuba will divert investments from their countries to the island, and particularly that tourism will flock to Cuba, to the detriment of the Caribbean economies.

# Leadership/heg

#### **U.S. competitiveness high now, recovering business efficiency and profitability**

Susan Adams, Forbes, 5/30/13 (Forbes staff, Forbes, “The World’s Most Competitive Countries” <http://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2013/05/30/the-worlds-most-competitive-countries/> accessed 8/15/13 KR)

The United States is back in first place. For the past 25 years, IMD, the international business school in Lausanne, Switzerland, has issued a list of the countries it says are the world’s most competitive. The U.S. was in first place until 2009, when the great recession knocked it down a notch. The impact on the banking system and other financial institutions was enough to keep the U.S. out of the top spot for the past three years, including last year, when Hong Kong was in first place and the U.S. came in second. But now that financial markets have recovered and business efficiency and profitability have revived, the U.S. has regained its dominant position.

This year IMD ranked 60 countries across the world, measuring “how nations and enterprises manage the totality of their competencies to achieve increased prosperity.” The ranking relies on a staggering 333 criteria in four broad categories—economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure. For one third of the ranking, IMD uses a survey of more than 4,200 international executives. For the rest, it relies on hard statistical data from organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which keep track of measures like direct investment, budget surpluses, revenues from tourism, and unemployment. IMD also takes advantage of 55 “partner institutes” around the world, like the Irish Development Agency, the German Federation of Industry, and the Mitsubishi Research Institute in Japan. (For more on the methodology, click here.)

Here is IMD’s list of the ten most competitive nations:

1. U.S.A.

2. Switzerland

3. Hong Kong

4. Sweden

5. Singapore

6. Norway

7. Canada

8. UAE

9. Germany

10. Qatar.

For a complete ranking of all 60 countries, click here.

I talked to Professor Stephane Garelli, director of IMD’s World Competitiveness Center, about the results. Garelli has served as Managing Director of the World Economic Forum, he has consulted with big companies like Hewlett-Packard HPQ -0.44% Europe, verification and testing company SGS , and Nestlé, and he is chairman of the Swiss newspaper Le Temps. After pouring over the competitiveness rankings, he has a thorough take on the macroeconomic picture in each of the 60 nations on the list. I interviewed Prof. Garelli about why some countries achieved their rankings. Here are excerpts from our conversation:

How did the U.S. get back to No. 1?

The financial markets are in better shape and companies are in good shape in terms of profitability. The cash available on balance sheets totals $2,150 billion. Apple AAPL +1.85% alone has $145 billion in cash. Also U.S. companies continue to be highly innovative. Over the last 15 years, most of the big innovations that have changed our lives, from Google to Facebook, were born in the U.S. In the longer run, there has been an energy renaissance in the U.S. In 2015 the U.S. will produce more gas than Russia. This is a consequence of shale gas, fracking and all that. In 2020 the U.S. will produce more oil than Saudi Arabia, 12 million barrels a day. By that year, the cost of electricity in the U.S. may be half the cost in Europe. It will be a huge competitive advantage for the U.S. Then you have the impact on infrastructure. You need to build pipelines from north to south. Spending that money also helps revive the economy.

Why are China (No. 21) and India (No. 40) not higher up in the competitiveness ranking? Aren’t those economies growing?

Asia is slowing down. It’s not a market that is self-sustaining. It’s still very dependent on exports to the U.S. and Europe. So when there’s a slowdown in Europe, that affects exports from China, Taiwan (No. 11) and Singapore (No. 5). Countries like Singapore, which were growing 6%-7% a year are now only growing by 0.2% in the first quarter. Taiwan is growing by 1.5% and Korea (No. 22), 1.4%.

As for China, it had to go through a revolution to get to be a market economy and it’s still basically an agricultural country. The industrialization of China is only 15 years old, not more. They have developed on the coast, where 400 million people live. But 700 million people live in the agricultural lands inside, which has a completely different kind of productivity. They are farmers.

#### 2. Alternative causes to competitiveness: STEM education and Immigration

McDaniel, Alternet, 7/3/13 (Paul, writer for Alternet, Immigrants play a critical role in driving U.S. Talents and economic competitiveness” <http://www.alternet.org/immigration/immigrants-are-key-driver-us-talent-and-economic-competitiveness> accessed 8/18/13 KR)

U.S. workers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields have been important contributors to American innovation, job creation, rising incomes, and global economic competitiveness throughout the years. And not surprisingly, immigrants have played a critical role in American innovation through STEM fields and all parts of the U.S. economy. A new report by Gordon Hanson (University of California, San Diego) and Matthew Slaughter (Dartmouth) describes these important relationships between talent, economic competitiveness, and immigration in the United States. In their paper, the authors present data in support of three critical points:

First, the contribution of talent to American innovation and overall competitiveness is as important today as in the past:

“Talent – especially the talent of highly educated STEM workers – drives much of America’s innovation and economic growth. In the increasingly global economy, America’s need for talent has become even more acute. Despite the nation’s historic innovation prowess, concern is rising among leaders that our economic strength is waning.”

Second, immigration adds to the talent pool in the United States, which is as important today as it has been in the past:

“Immigration plays a critical role in helping America meet its steadily growing demand for talent – especially for highly skilled STEM workers. Immigrants have long made substantial contributions to American innovation, both at the highest levels and throughout the economy at all stages of discovering and developing new ideas. Over time, America’s reliance on talented immigrants has been rising, not falling. America attracts immigrants who achieve very high levels of education and who are strongly inclined toward training in STEM disciplines.”

Third, the supply of and need for STEM talent in the U.S. includes an opportunity for immigrants to continue to help meet that growing demand:

“Even after the Great Recession, America’s need for more talent persists, as it did for decades before. America’s demand for skilled STEM workers continues to grow – and immigrants continue to help meet this demand, both directly and more broadly through their expansive contributions to America’s innovation potential. Post-recession, unemployment in STEM occupations has been falling sharply as the STEM labor market rapidly tightens.”

Immigrants make significant contributions to innovation throughout the country, from the discovery of new ideas, research and development of new products, and patenting, to starting and leading new and innovative companies that create thousands of jobs in the U.S. As the report reiterates, immigrants founded or co-founded 25 percent of all U.S. high-tech firms between 1995 and 2005. In 2005, those new companies employed nearly half a million people and produced more than $50 billion in sales. Beyond the national level, cities and regions within the U.S. that attract greater numbers of skilled immigrants tend to be more successful at innovation. Furthermore, innovation-intensive metropolitan areas tend to have higher rates of patenting, lower unemployment rates, and higher demand for high-skilled workers since patenting growth is correlated with job growth, population growth, and increases in educational attainment.

America’s past innovation grew in part from a robust education system and an environment that allowed for the world’s most talented – native- and foreign-born alike – to thrive. Based on the evidence of the importance of immigrants to American innovation, we must ensure that comprehensive immigration reform in 2013 allows immigrants to contribute their talent and skill here in the U.S. Furthermore, we must guarantee that our education system cultivates a long-term future workforce of talented individuals with the STEM expertise necessary to allow the U.S. to continue to be an innovation leader in our global innovation economy.

#### No US China war- New interdependence and cooperation

Lina, Editor at Xinhua, 13 (Yang, July 9 2013, Xinhua, Yang mainly focuses on Chinese economy and global hot issues, “China, U.S. can avoid "Thucydides Trap"”, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/indepth/2013-07/09/c_132525236.htm>, LE)

In the 21st century, however, China and the U.S. could and must avoid falling into this trap, especially against the backdrop of ever-deepening economic globalization and interdependence.

The upcoming 5th China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED), which runs from Wednesday to Thursday, could prove that politics between major powers do not have to be confrontational, even though frictionless interactions between emerging and established powers may be only something of a fantasy.

As the first high-level dialogue since Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama held a summit in California last month, the event will cover topics ranging from politics, security and climate change to trade, energy, financing and Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Newly-appointed senior officials from both governments will meet to implement the consensus reached at the Xi-Obama summit on building a new model for relations between major powers -- a model that features coordination and cooperation instead of rivalry and confrontation.

It is a long-term and difficult task to translate the consensus into concrete efforts that drive the development of bilateral relations, as differences in political systems, cultural traditions and stages of development can easily contribute to misunderstanding.

Some Americans regard China's development as a sacrifice of U.S. interests, and they have called for containing the emerging economy.

But the development of both economies is not a "zero-sum game." The Asia-Pacific region is big enough to allow the common development of both countries. The bilateral relationship should be based on hope rather than fear, trust rather than doubt.

China is pursuing a path of scientific and peaceful development and has been seeking a model of cooperation that features equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutual benefit.

Facing the downturn of the world economy amid a lingering financial crisis, as well as threats to international and regional security such as tensions and conflicts in certain regions, the world needs to build a more balanced and fair international political and economic order that promotes common development.

Cooperation and coordination among major powers would be especially crucial in this process.

Since the S&ED was launched in 2009, China and the U.S. have discussed strategic, long-term and comprehensive issues that are closely related to the development of bilateral relations, scoring a multitude of achievements in the process.

Strategically, both sides have engaged in communication on issues regarding the Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, security, arms control and military exchanges.

Economically, a series of agreements have been reached that have brought concrete benefits to the people of both sides and injected strong energy into the development of the new model of relations between major powers.

Both governments are expected to demonstrate their political wisdom and diplomatic abilities in the two-day dialogue and generate positive results that not only conform to the interests of both sides, but also to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world.