1ac

**Contention 1 – Inherency – U.S. based technology is currently reviewed under a presumption of denial. This prohibits exports to Cuba.**

**Propst 11**

Presidential Authority To Modify Economic Sanctions Against Cuba A legal analysis prepared at the request of the Cuba Study Group and released in connection with a forum on U.S.-Cuba Relations at The Brookings Institution, 15 February 2011 By Stephen F. Propst, Partner Hogan Lovells US LLP <http://www.hoganlovells.com/files/Publication/57d34e80-51b8-4ee0-ae64-750f65ee7642/Preview/PublicationAttachment/55896b90-840a-42bf-8744-752a7a206333/Cuba%20Aritcle%20FINAL.pdf>

The EAA was the statutory basis for **the Commerce Department’s Export Administration Regulations** (EAR) until the EAA was allowed to lapse in 2001. Since then the EAR has been maintained under t he emergency powers granted to the President by IEEPA. Administered by t he Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, the EAR **prohibit exports and reexports to Cuba of virtua lly all U.S.-origin goods, software and technology, unless authorized pursuant to a specific license or “license exc eption.” Applications for specific licenses generally are reviewed under a presumption of denial**; how ever, Section 746.2 of the EAR sets fo rth certain categories of items for which license applications will be reviewed more favorably under a presumption of approval or on a case-by-case basis, provided certain specified conditions are satisfied: Medicines and medical devices (presumption of approval, except in certain circumstances); Items “necessary to provide efficient and adequate telecommunications links between the United States and Cuba, including links established thro ugh third countries, and including the provision of satellite radio or satellite television services to Cuba ” (case-by-case); • Exports from third countries to Cuba of non- strategic foreign-made items that contain an insubstantial proportion (i.e., 20% or less) of U. S.-origin materials, parts, or components (case-by- case); • Items intended to provide support for the Cuban people, including certain commodities and software for human rights organizations, individuals or non-governmental organizations that promote independent civil society in Cuba, w hen such exports do not give rise to national security or counter- terrorism concerns; commodities and software for U. S. news bureaus in Cuba; and agricultural items not eligible for export under Licens e Exception AGR (case-by-case); and • Aircraft and vessels on temporary sojourn to Cuba, ei ther to deliver humanitarian goods or consistent with the foreign policy interests of the United States (case-by-case). 12

Plan:

**The President of the United States should instruct the Department of Commerce and Office of Foreign Assets Control to internally change their respective licensing policies with regard to Cuba from a “presumption of denial” to a “presumption of approval” with respect to telecommunication items including access to satellite and broadband communications networks.**

**Advantage 1 – Digital Divide**

**Cubans lack internet access.**

**Tamayo 13**

Juan O. Tamayo, 6/7/13 Cuba’s new Internet locales remain conditioned Read more here: http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/06/07/3439494/cubas-new-internet-locales-remain.html#storylink=cpy

While other countries have Internet cafés, **Cubans are** joking that the communist government has just opened a string of “Internet Corrals.” On Monday, the state telecommunications monopoly ETCSA opened 118 locales, each with an average of three terminals with Internet access, across **the least Web-connected nation in the Western Hemisphere.** Users marveled at the relatively high speeds of the connections and their access to some Web pages once blocked by the government. Others, like Radio/TV Marti, the U.S. government broadcaster that transmits to the island, remain blocked. But access to the Web at the “cyberpuntos” remained tightly conditioned — even chillingly so.Users must show their national ID cards and sign an agreement that they will not use the service for anything “that could be considered … as damaging or harmful to the public security” — a vague term that presumably can include political dissidence.And when users try to send out any attachments, ETECSA’s own NAUTA interface system greets them with a pop-up window that certainly appears to be a reminder that Big Brother is watching. “When you send information to the Internet, other people may see what you are sending. Do you wish to continue?” the message says. Click yes or no.The pop-up window is marked “Internet Explorer” and is known to be a real if infrequent message generated by that search engine. Yet several Cuban cybernauts said they never see that message when they use Internet cafes in Havana’s tourist hotels. Havana journalist and blogger Ivan Garcia said he didn’t know what to make of the message. “It would be really sloppy for the authorities” to allow the message to pop-up, he said, “although the whole world knows everything can be monitored here.” Most Cubans believe that the government’s security apparatus watches over virtually all Internet traffic into and out of the island, reads any private emails and steals passwords so that it can hack into accounts abroad, such as Gmail, Facebook and Twitter. Most of the complaints so far against the 118 new Web access points — opened on Cuban ruler Raúl Castro’s 82nd birthday — have been not about the possible monitoring but about the high costs. **The $5 charged for one hour of surfing on the World Wide Web amounts to a week’s salary for the average government employee**. Surfing the Cuba-only “Intranet” costs about 70 U.S. cents and access to a Cuban email account goes for about $1.65 per hour. **Cubans have one of the worst Internet access rates in the Western Hemisphere, with only 4 percent saying they had access to the Web and email** in a public opinion survey by the International Republican Institute taken in January and February

**This creates a digital divide where the voices of Cubans aren’t heard.**

**Fonseca 11**

Sandra Vigil FonsecaSchool of Community and Regional DevelopmentThe University of British ColumbiaTHE STRUGGLE TO BELONGDealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings.Amsterdam, 7-9 July 2011Blogging in Cuba: a manifestation of social disorder? <http://www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011/edocs/Session%2015/RT15-1-Fonseca.pdf>

This study finds that qualities of **the digital divide in Cuba point out to serious exclusions from the online political debate and possibilities of the Net in general. There is a group of dissident writers that are disrupting the traditional political debate through their writing in online blogs. They are struggling for their rights of recognition outside a ‘revolutionary’ identity.** Some of them also have a political agenda that foresees structural changes in the Cuban society. This insurgent writing brought together bloggers and other members of the Cuban political community (inside and outside the Island) in a process of community making. To a limited degree, the discussions put forward by these bloggers, are filtering out to a wider audience. In general, the relevancethese blogs have acquired appears to be associated witha combination of factors, among them: a clear divergent political position to that of the Cuban government, an alliance with dissidents as well as the support, divulgation and recognition that members of the international community offer these writers.In addition, an attractive discourse along with topics that engage a wide variety of readers, the transparency of the authors’ identity, and a commitment to continuously write and post aboutcurrent issuesadds to their popularity. However, **the unique digital divide poses a firm barrier as to the role blogging can play in forging social cohesion among Cubans inside and outside the Island, and to the benefits it could bring to the political debate.** Because society in Cuba constitutes a cohesive ‘revolutionary’ entity that cannot be contested, the mainstream discourse frames these activities as threats and cyberterrorism. The state, also part of this uniform society, is directly challenged by this disruptive endeavor, and interprets it as a challenge to hegemonic power. This rhetorical process further marginalizes subversive bloggers, and demonstrates the lack ofcapacity of the Cuban government to negotiate with dissident voices.

**The digital divide prevents solving all possible impacts.**

**Weiner 13**

Overview: The Role of Information Policy in Resolving Global ChallengesSHARON WEINER May 10, 2013LibrariesPurdue Universityhttp://www.purdue.edu/research/gpri/publications/documents/WeinerFormattedBrief\_000.pdf

**Access to information is not ubiquitous and access alone does not ensure that people can effectively find and use information. The concepts of “digital divide” and “information poverty” persist**. Policies, laws, and regulation related to information vary considerably from one nation to other, and even within nations. Policies may be inconsistent; over-regulated; or completely lacking. Policies generally develop as needed, or as problems arise, rather than in a coordinated, cohesive manner with all major stakeholders participating in the decision-making**. The development of effective and sustainable solutions to global problems optimally occurs in collaboration with stakeholder communities and societies. All involved need to have the ability to access and know how to find and use the best information available. Inequity in access to information and inadequate training in how to use information both in the United States and worldwide hampers the collective problem-solving that could lead to dynamic, innovative results**.Is information policy an effective means to ensure thatcommunities have the knowledge to engage in solutions to global problems? Would a focus on the development of informationpolicy result in the ability **to solve persistent problems such as poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth and development, and society and leadership**?Viable alternatives include a focus on a specific aspect of information policy (infrastructure, information resources, or information literacy); targeting the global challenge to be addressed with supportive information policy; and a consideration of both the country’s economy and type of government.

**There is a moral and ethical imperative to close the digital divide in Cuba. Now is the key time for action.**

**Guerra 13**

We either take action or lose ourselves in a technological abyss, March 28, 2013 • According to Pablo Bello Arellano, general secretary of the Ibero- American Research Centers and Telecommunications Association (AHCIET) Sheyla Delgado Guerra http://www.granma.cu/ingles/cuba-i/28marz-We%20either.html

IN the so called digital era, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has become a strategic development tool around the world. But with the staggering speed of internet and scientific and technological advances, **the technology divide**, or imbalances in access to these technologies, **has** also **grown.**

**Internet is today an essential tool for the development of peoples, and particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, which can and should create equal opportunities in terms of progress, and economic, social and cultural development. Closing the divide has become an ethical and moral imperative and a basic condition for development. Achieving this will require two main accomplishments: telecommunications infrastructure, i.e. networks, with total connectivity. The second is that the supply of services, content, and applications needs to be available,** people need to know how to use technology and assign it a meaningful purpose. That is the fundamental issue. Real opportunities that currently exist in the region? We have made great strides in increasing the figures in terms of Internet access, but there are still 'pockets' and for economic reasons, many people still do not have access to ICT, perhaps because they are living in rural areas or due to distance. Looking toward 2020, Latin America should and can fully close the digital divide. We must all be able to work toward the shared goal of eliminating the gap as soon as possible. This also requires well-defined public policy in the field of e-government, with regard to everything from telemedicine, tele-education, public administration procedures... What is the focus of the organization of which you are secretary general for promoting digital inclusion, and closing the technology gap? To a large extent we’re using our ability to develop and generate equity. The use and expansion of telecommunications brings about more economic growth and greater social inclusion opportunities. We need to enter into dialogue with all stakeholders and facilitate infrastructure expansion: towers, antennas, fiber optic services, wired or wireless networks ... then enhance the radio-electric sphere, a key element of wireless communications; third, lower taxes and create a favorable environment for telecommunications. And in fourth place, work by mutual agreement to overcome the barriers to development in the sector. **What is your assessment of the Cuban government’s approach in information technology and telecommunications for bridging the digital divide? The indicators are positive. During the last 10 years, the growth of fixed line broadband has been significant**, but the growth of mobile technology has been much greater. This type of telephone service has sky-rocketed in the last five years and is one of the Cuban government’s concerns and priorities, via the Ministry of Communications. If there is one area where Cuba stands out it is in the digitalization of public administration, services for citizens which make more use of e-government. This allows for greater participation in decision-making processes. And Cuba is on the right track. **The challenge now is to speed up with a clear sense of urgency because with the digital divide we now either deepen inequalities or, if we close the gap, we have a key tool for progress.**

**Independently current structural impositions prevent the analysis of agency and organization. Adoption of broadband allows for a moment of morphogenesis to understand both ontological and epistemological implications of the current and future actions.**

**Dobson et al 08**

 EXAMINING RURAL ADOPTION OF BROADBAND – CRITICAL REALIST PERSPECTIVES 2008 Philip Dobson, School of Management, Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, p.dobson@ecu.edu.au Paul Jackson, School of Management, Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, p.jackson@ecu.edu.au Denise Gengatharen, School of Management, Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, d.gengatharen@ecu.edu.au http://edithcowan.academia.edu/DeniseGengatharen/Papers/1366377/Examining\_Rural\_Adoption\_Of\_Broadband\_Critical\_Realist\_Perspectives

For the critical realist **it is incorrect to suggest that agents create social systems – social systems are already made in that the ensemble of structures, practices and conventions precede agents‘ actions - ontology precedes epistemology – the morphogentic model detailed in Figure 2 below reflects this. The model also reflects Archer‘s (1995) contention that social examination requires an analytical separation of structure and agency. She equates a structural perspective with a macro or collectivist perspective and an agency perspective with a micro or individualist perspective.** In social situations structure is assumed to precede agency action in that agents either reproduce or transform existing structures. Figure 2 describes the so-called morphogenetic model developed by Archer to represent social change. Mutch (2010) describes how **the morphogenetic model can provide a useful tool for examining organizational use of data warehouses. He suggests (p. 507) that ―Three gains are seen to accrue from this approach: greater clarity about the material properties of technology, links to broader structural conditions arising from the conceptualization of the relationship between agency and structure, and the potential to explore the importance of reflexivity in contemporary organizations, especially in conditions of the widespread use of information and communication technology**‖. This paper argues that similar benefits can accrue in adopting the framework to represent and examine broadband adoption, whether in an organizational, an individual or a community setting. The adoption decision that is made over the time period T2 to T3 is heavily influenced by pre-existing political outcomes and social structures – these imposing elements need to be identified and their influence on the mechanisms and processes by which individuals and groups make (or do not make) the decision to adopt broadband needs to be proposed and supported. **The basic model provides a useful representation of the adoption decision as leading to a transformation or reproduction of pre-existing structural impositions. It is intended in subsequent phases of the research to play an active role in the decision process by encouraging the transformational decision to adopt broadband. If the agent or individual can be directly introduced to the specific possibilities provided by superfast broadband and the potential for doing things in a ‗new‘ way this could provide an encouragement towards morphogenesis.** Archer‘s model is a powerful tool for directing critical realist interpretation in that it reflects the fundamental critical realist assumption that social systems require an analytical separation of macro (structural) and micro (agency) and that: (i) structure necessarily pre-dates the action(s) leading to its reproduction or transformation. (ii) structural elaboration necessarily post-dates the action sequences which gave rise to it (Archer, 1995, p.15). **As Pawson and Tilley (2007) suggest, the transformational model reflects an ongoing self-generated reshaping as structures proceed towards structural reproduction or structural transformation. They argue that the transformational model needs to be ―peopled‖ in that ―people are often aware of the patterns and regularities into which their lives are shaped, are aware of the choices which channel these activities, and are aware too of the broader social forces that limit their opportunities. This awareness will result, in some people at least, in a desire to change the pattern.** This change may or may not happen because the people desiring change may or may not have the resources to bring it about, or their efforts may be countermanded by other groups with more resources. Further unpredictability is introduced because people have imperfect knowledge of the contextual conditions which limit their actions and the proposed change mechanism itself may have unanticipated consequences‖ (p. 72). Pawson and Tilley (2007) provide a useful adjunct to Archer‘s model in that their approach tends to be more focused on social interaction than the structural focus of Archer‘s model.

**And Cuban activists currently are dehumanized. Connection to social networks through increased internet access serves as a protective shield and humanizes the activists.**

**Romay 13**

**Debating Social Networks / Luis Felipe Rojas, Alexis Romay , 6/7/13**Editor / Academic Designer at McGraw-Hill Education Master of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature • September 2001 - July 2004 @ City University of New York, NY, USA <http://translatingcuba.com/debating-social-networks-luis-felipe-rojas-alexis-romay/>

**In** a totalitarian regime like **Cuba, social activism beyond the margins of Power has a very high cost which started with the automatic conversion of these activists into “dissidents,” which implies a dangerous and immediate association of the term with this aberration of all nationalisms**: the dissident is a traitor to the fatherland. We can’t forget that in the name of love, mother, fatherland with a capital F, the worst atrocities are committed. **This isolation of the activists, converted by state decree into dissidents, passes through dehumanization (they are then transformed into “worms” by similar abracadabra), slides down the scale to social stoning and may end in physical death.** In other words, the “worm,” before being one, was a dissident, social activist, citizen, and in the beginning, a person. I put the steps in order to illustrate the precipitous drop on this scale in which the nonconformist Cuban — or person in any other totalitarianism — begins his journey as a human being and ends it in the order of invertebrates.I give this preamble to highlight the pariah status that opposition in Cuba leads to. **In the face of this forced isolation to which Cuban activists are subjected, social networks, not just Facebook, become the human tissue that envelops them. To feel the support of a virtual community has a specific weight for anyone who has been separated, by imperial edicts, from the society to which they belong. But in addition to filling this gap, social networks also serve as a protective shield for activists; they make the impunity of the regime ever more costly for it at the international level; they remind the Castros that the vast dungeon they have made of Cuba has glass walls and it is already impossible for them to hide their repressive methods. If the political police evict a family of opponents, deal out a beating, or effect an arbitrary arrest at eleven in the morning, five minutes later the information will be circulating on the networks with hashtags that tarnish this great achievement of the regime of the island which is projecting an image of itself that does not correspond with its totalitarian reality.** In fact, Castro has a huge presence in the networks, the budget allocated for this purpose must be incalculable. As Cuban Democrats we can and should establish a presence on the networks with an infinitely more appealing discourse, creating and disseminating our own spaces. This will be the testing and projection in the digital world of that democratic country we dream of.

**Dehumanization is a pre-requisite to genocide. Once a person is dehumanized, obliteration is guaranteed.**

**Steuter and Wills** from Mount Allison University, Canada**09**

Erin Steuter and Deborah Wills Discourses of Dehumanization: Enemy Construction and Canadian Media Complicity in the Framing of the War on Terror 2009, Global Media Journal -- Canadian Edition Volume 2, Issue 2, pp. 7-24 12

The categories identified by Keen powerfully and primally stigmatize the en- emy. The expressions of the hostile imagination are often ingenious and com- pelling, which is part of their power and their effectiveness. Beyond simple stigma, however, lies dehumanization. **Like other forms of propaganda, dehumanization repeatedly portrays the enemy as less than us; it goes further, how- ever, in the extent to which it strips away humanity** through the consistency of its metaphoric links with the bestial, the verminous, and the microscopic. **Tropes of animal, insect, germ and disease are so important to our construction of the enemy in the war on terror, so linked to larger discourses of racism, that they require concentrated attention. Dehumanization creates an enemy that not only allows for but demands cruel treatment; such cruelty is seen as requisite to the larger task of extermination.** Dehumanization allows us to re-cast cruelty and violence as some- thing else; after all, if an enemy is so far down the evolutionary ladder that it cannot feel pain, then how can inflicting pain be cruel? One of the most striking historical examples of this comes from WWII: the Japanese military performed medical experiments on human prisoners who they called “maruta”—literally, “logs of wood.”6 **Once made not only inhuman but inan- imate, the bodies of feeling beings could be brutalized without compunction or regret. Dehumanization also allows us to blame the victims by eliminating their basic human attributes and thus their claims to protection**. Hanan Ashrawi argues that “Blaming the victim has been the common resort of the guilty in rationalizing and distorting the horror of the crime.”7 Within this metaphoric framework, the fault lies in the nature of the sub-human enemy, and those faults are perceived as so hideous and dangerous that obliterating them is both necessary and noble: like the cancerous cell, if simply left alone, the encroaching enemy will spread and replicate. **Obliteration is therefore the only safe, rational, even the only moral response.**A History of Dehumanizing Practices **One of the most important reasons for developing a critique of how metaphors dehumanize the enemy is the gravity of dehumanization’s conse- quences. One of its most devastating roles is in mass killings and genocide. Gregory H. Stanton has influentially argued that dehumanization is a neces- sary precursor to genocide, a prerequisite for genocide’s comprehensive vio- lence. The first three stages leading to genocide, Stanton argues, are classifi- cation, symbolization, and dehumanization. Our metaphors of the enemy accomplish in one gesture all three of these steps, powerfully conflating them into a single process that simultaneously identifies, marks, symbolizes and profoundly devalues the Other. For Stanton, genocide is not a product but a process. It may appear sudden but is actually linked to a series of separate stages, each progressive and each integral to the “genocidal process.” Classification, symbolization, and dehu- manization are followed by organization, polarization, identification, extermi- nation, and finally denial of the genocidal act.** Stanton argues thatevery genocide is followed by denial. The mass graves are dug up and hidden. The historical records are burned, or closed to historians. Even during the genocide, those committing the crimes dismiss reports as propaganda. **After- wards such deniers are called “revisionists.” Others deny through more subtle means: by characterizing the reports as “unconfirmed” or “alleged” because they do not come from officially approved sources; by minimizing the number killed; by quarreling about whether the killing fits the legal definition of geno- cide (“definitionalism”); by claiming that the deaths of the perpetrating group exceeded that of the victim group, or that the deaths were the result of civil war, not genocide.8 Before there can be an act of genocide to deny, however, there must be a number of conditions in place to allow genocidal violence to occur. Stanton argues that classification, the first condition or stage, is fundamental and deeply encoded in human language. All languages require classification, a “division of the natural and social world into categories.”9 All cultures have categories to distinguish between “us” and “them,” between members of our group and others. While all language may make this distinction, it is when we add symbolization to “name and signify” our classifications that what Keen calls the “paranoid culture” begins to assert itself, making certain phys- ical characteristics (such as skin color or facial features) symbols for racial or ethnic classifications.10 In the later stage of the genocidal process, these markers may become abstract and externalized, as with the yellow star forced on the Jews of Nazi Germany or the blue-checked scarf used by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia to identify, marginalize, and deport people from the Eastern Zone.**

**Advantage 2 - Food**

**First, waste and poor management is causing a food crisis in Cuba.**

**Cave 12**

DAMIENCAVE (foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*) “Cuba’s Free-Market Farm Experiment Yields a Meager Crop” December 8, 2012*The New York Times* http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/09/world/americas/changes-to-agriculture-highlight-cubas-problems.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0

Yet at this point, by most measures, the project has failed. **Because of waste, poor management, policy constraints, transportation limits, theft and other problems, overall efficiency has dropped: many Cubans are** actually **seeing less food** at private markets. That is the case despite an increase in the number of farmers and production gains for certain items. **A** recent **study from the University of Havana showed that market prices jumped by nearly 20 percent in 2011 alone. And food imports increased to an estimated $1.7 billion** last year**, up from $1.4 billion** in 2006. “It’s the first instance of Cuba’s leader not being able to get done what he said he would,” said Jorge I. Domínguez, vice provost for international affairs at Harvard, who left Cuba as a boy. “The published statistical results are really very discouraging.” **A major cause: poor transportation, as trucks are in short supply, and the aging ones that exist often break down. In 2009, hundreds of tons of tomatoes**, part of a bumper crop that year, **rotted because of a lack of transportation by the government agency charged with bringing food to processing centers.** “It’s worse when it rains,” said Javier González, 27, **a farmer** in Artemisa Province who **described often seeing crops wilt and rot because they were not picked up.**

**Ignore their evidence that food insecurity in Cuba is declining – it doesn’t adequately evaluate waste. This is something that affirmative uniquely solves.**

**Alvarez 13**

The Issue of Food Security in Cuba[1](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe483#FOOTNOTE_1) José Alvarez[2](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe483#FOOTNOTE_2). This is EDIS document FE483, a publication of the Department of Food and Resource Economics, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Published July 2004. Reviewed August 2009 and June 2013. Please visit the EDIS website at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu" \t "_blank). The author would like to thank the University Press of Florida (http://www.upf.com) for permission to reproduce material from the book Cuba's Agricultural Sector (Alvarez, 2004).José Alvarez, Professor, Department of Food and Resource Economics, Everglades Research and Education Center, Belle Glade, FL, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe483

**Annual food balance sheets show trends in the overall national food supply, disclose changes that may have taken place in the types of food consumed (the pattern of the diet), and reveal the extent to which the country's food supply is adequate in relation to nutritional requirements**. In addition, they are useful to appraise the food and agricultural situation of a country, making it possible to calculate import dependency ratios, signaling the degree to which primary food resources are used to produce animal feed, and helping project food demand. Food available for human consumption relates simply to the food reaching the consumer. Waste on the farm and during distribution and processing is taken into consideration as an element in the food balance sheet. **One of the major causes of food waste in some developing countries (and Cuba is a good example) is the lack of organization and inadequate marketing and distribution systems. Much of the food remains unsold because of imbalances in supply and demand or the failure to get available food supplies to the locations where they are needed.** This is particularly true of perishable foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables. **The accuracy of food balance sheets, which are in essence derived statistics, is dependent on the reliability of the underlying basic statistics of population, supply and utilization of foods, and nutritive value of food**. These vary greatly between countries. The production and trade statistics on which the accuracy of food balance sheets depends most are, in many cases, subject to improvement through the organization of appropriate statistical field surveys. **Surveys for waste, for example, are almost nonexistent**. In most cases, waste figures are based on expert opinion obtained in the countries. The use of both internal and external consistency checks help in evaluating the statistics provided. While being far from satisfactory in the proper statistical sense, the food balance sheets are valuable and useful for a variety of purposes, particularly for showing relative changes over time.

**Cuba’s agricultural system is modeled globally.**

**Lang and Heasman 04**

Tim LangandMichael Heasman 2004, reprinted in 2009Food Wars: The Global Battle for Mouths,MindsandMarketshttp://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/17875786/1759064834/name/%5BTim\_Lang,\_Michael\_Heasman%5D\_Food\_Wars\_The\_Global\_%28BookFi.org%29.pdfI

In its thinking about agriculture, the Ecologically Integratedparadigm framework corresponds closely to the body of thinkingTHE FOOD WARS THESIS 27described as agroecology.30Agroecology is gaining supportamong experts working with farmers in the developing world,but it also offers a new vision of food for the developed world.**The world’s poor farmers and citizens facing food crisis can rely only on self-reliance and small-scale farming; for them agro-ecological technologies offer one of the few viable alternatives. Cuba, for example, has become the global model of a successful case study of sustainable agriculture using agroecology techno-logies. Poor farmers in the developing world are synonymous with traditional, sustainable agriculture, but often poorly served by the top-down transfer-of-technology approach with its bias in favour of modern scientific knowledge, and its application of large-scale production methods.** Agroecological methods, how-ever, are re-discovering local skills and traditional knowledge,but applied with modern understanding to meet the challengesof food production. This is because a guiding principle of theEcologically Integrated paradigm is that diverse natural com-munities are productive and should be supported.31A hurdle toovercome in this respect is the specificity of regional ecosystemsand the need for specialist local knowledge. This paradigmtherefore contrasts with the homogeneous technological pack-ages characteristic of both the Productionist paradigm and theLife Sciences Integrated paradigm, relying upon bio-pesticidestechnologies to combat insect pests and develop resistant plantvarieties and crop rotations; on microbial antagonists to combatplant pathogens and produce better rotations; and on covercropping to suppress weeds, replacing synthetic fertilizers withbio-fertilizers. There is an increasing emphasis on skills andknowledge management in contrast to the single technicianmanaging thousands of hectares on a ‘recipe’basis; it would re-link the people with the land, encourage small-scale managementunits and return alienated farm workers to the land.

**Global food waste is tied to all impacts including malnutrition.**

**Kobayashi 13**

The Under-Recognised Public Health Problem of Food Waste By [Lindsay Kobayashi](http://blogs.plos.org/publichealth/author/lkobayashi/) Posted: January 15, 2013

http://blogs.plos.org/publichealth/2013/01/15/food-waste/

**There are several consequences of food loss and waste. The amount of water, land space, and energy used in producing never-consumed food is staggering. As our global population grows over the next few centuries, this ancillary wastage will become an even direr problem for environmental sustainability**. The IME report states that almost 4 trillion cubic metres of water are currently used by the global population per annum with about 70% of that used for food production (1). According to population growth forecasts, the amount of water estimated to be required for food production alone by 2050 is 10-13 trillion cubic metres, a 2.5-3.5 fold increase (1). Second, the report states that about half of the usable land surface area on our planet is currently used for agriculture (1). Expansion of agricultural land use is of course not ideal, as we need the unused land to support the earth’s ecosystems. However, population growth and increasing demands for meat-based diets ([raising animals requires considerably more land space than growing produce](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12936963?dopt=Abstract) (2)) mean that more land is likely to be used for food production, at cost to the environment. Finally, **the fertiliser, pesticides, machinery, and transportation required for food production use energy, often in the form of fossil fuels (1). Food wastage contributes to global warming and again, as our population grows, this is likely to only increase in future. Because food loss and waste is inextricably linked to the health of our environment and societal attitudes toward food production and consumption, it is also fundamentally tied to human health.  Major issues of under-nutrition in many developing countries and over-nutrition in developed countries are given a deep and interesting context when considered in light of the mostly infrastructure-based reasons for food loss in the former group and the consumer-based reasons for waste in the latter.** In sub-Saharan Africa, food loss due to inadequate infrastructure during the production to retailing process is estimated at just over [150 kg/year per capita](http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf) (3). Many countries in this region are among those with the [greatest proportions of children under age 5](http://www.mdgmonitor.org/map.cfm?goal=&indicator=&cd=) who are [moderately or severely underweight](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202012.pdf). Clearly, improved and efficient food production technology and infrastructure is sorely needed to improve the health of populations in these countries. By contrast, the branding of food as a consumer product in developed countries such as those in North America displays societal attitudes to food in these countries as disposable, plentiful, and of low value. The correlation between these attitudes and population obesity rates in rich countries can be no accident. Rather damning for rich, privileged countries, this comparison between regions in differing stages of economic development shines a hard light on the gross inequities in food systems across the globe.

Despite this global inequity, food loss and waste are absent from mention in the [United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202012.pdf) (4). **True, food loss and waste are issues related to the objectives of environmental sustainability, poverty, and global hunger, which are included in the goals. But, the magnitude of the global food waste problem and its potential to escalate in coming generations as the world’s population cannot be ignored.** If societal attitudes toward food in rich developed nations were to change to place greater value on food and the nutrition it brings, then perhaps consumer wastage would reduce and diets would shift away from a reliance on packaged and processed foods. In doing so, rates of obesity, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease would likely decrease in developed countries. In line with the Millennium Development Goals, less food loss and improved food production systems in many developing countries would reduce problems of malnutrition in these places.

**And there is a moral obligation to share food – even if the result of the action is extinction.**
**Watson 77**
philosophy professor, Washington University, WORLD HUNGER AND MORAL OBLIGATION, 1977, pp. 118-9.
**One may even have to sacrifice one’s life**or one’s nation **to be moral**in situations where practical behavior would preserve it. For example, if a prisoner of war undergoing torture is to be a (perhaps dead) patriot even when reason tells him that collaboration will hurt no one, he remains silent. Similarly, if one is to be moral, **one distributes available food in equal shares even if everyone dies**. That an action is necessary to save one’s life is no excuse for behavingunpatriotically or immorallyif one wishes to be a patriot or moral. No principle of morality absolves one of behaving immorally simply to save one’s life or nation. There is a strict analogy here between adhering to moral principles for the sake of being moral, and adhering to Christian principles for the sake of being Christian. The moral world contains pits and lions, but **one looks always to the highest light. The ultimate test always harks back to the highest principle – recant or die**. The ultimate test always harks back to the highest principle – recant or die – and **it** **is pathetic to profess morality if one quits when the going gets rough**.

**And evaluation of ethics first is critical to policy making – this is especially true when dealing with economic policy.**

Pinstrup-Andersen, 2005. [Ethics and economic policy for the food system. General Sessions, 01-

DEC-05, American Journal of Agricultural Economics Ebsco Host.]

Economists seldom address ethical questions as they infringe on economic theory or economic behavior. They (and I) find this subject complex and elusive in comparison with the relative precision and objectivity of economic analysis. However, if ethics is influencing our analyses but ignored, is the precision and objectivity just an illusion? Are we in fact being normative when we claim to be positive or are we, as suggested by Gilbert (p. xvi), ignoring social ethics and, as a consequence, contributing to a situation in which we know "the price of everything and the value of nothing?" The economists' focus on efficiency and the Pareto Principle has made us less relevant to policy makers, whose main concerns are who gains, who loses, by how much, and can or should the losers be compensated. By focusing on the distribution of gains and losses and replacing the Pareto Principle with estimates of whether a big enough economic surplus could be generated so that gainers could compensate losers, the socalled new welfare economics (which is no longer new) was a step toward more relevancy for policy makers (Just, Hueth, and Schmitz). Another major step toward relevancy was made by the more recent emphasis on political economy and institutional economics. But are we trading off scientific validity for relevancy? Robbins (p. 9) seems to think so, when he states that "claims of welfare economics to be scientific are highly dubious." But if Aristotle saw economics as a branch of ethics and Adam Smith was a moral philosopher, when did we, as implied by Stigler, replace ethics with precision and objectivity? Or, when did we as economists move away from philosophy toward statistics and engineering and are we on our way back to a more

comprehensive political economy approach, in which both quantitative and qualitative variables are taken

into account? I believe we are. Does that make us less scientific, as argued by Robbins? **I am not questioning whether the quantification of economic relationships is important. It is. In the case of food policy analysis, it is critically important that the causal relationship between policy options and expected impact on the population groups of interest is quantitatively estimated.** But **not at the expense of reality, context, and ethical considerations, much of which can be described only in qualitative terms. Economic analyses that ignore everything that cannot be quantified and included in our models are not likely to advance our understanding of economic and policy relationships. Neither** **will they be relevant for solving real world problems. The predictive ability is likely to be low and,** **if the results are used by policy makers, the outcome may be different from what was expected.**

**The affirmative allows Cuba to develop a dependable system for data tracking and food distribution. This is a vital internal link to food security.**

**Powell 04**

C o m m i s s i o n f o r A s s i s t a n c e t o a F r e e C u b a R e p o r t t o t h e P r e s i d e n t M a y 2 0 0 4 C o l i n L . P o w e l l S e c r e t a r y o f S t a t e C h a i r m a n http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/us-cuba/assistance-to-a-free-cuba.pdf

**Technical assistance should be a key component in assisting Cuba**’s transition to a market econom y . For example, the use of technology could m odernize Cuba’s food safety system. **The country’s agricultural production system and processing facilities need updating to give Cuba the chance to achieve global and hemispheric standards**. Cuba ’s food security can be strengthened by providing a free Cub a access to the U. S. land-grant system of colleges and universit ies. Such partnershi ps coul d help Cuba m o ve from a co mmand-driven system to one that is m o re in tune with market econom ies. Additional on-the- ground assessm e nt may be needed, incl uding a thorough exam ination of: the anim al and plant disease situation; exis ting Cuban statistical capabilities; and the current status of the Cuban agricu ltural sector, its markets, and its educational/training system.  **A vital factor in addressing Cuba’s food security would be the ability to collect relevant and accurate data and to disseminate it in a timely fashion. Provided that there is technical assistance, Cuba would be able to develop a dependable system of agricultural statistics, market information, and market analysis** geared specifically to a market-driven econom y. **Components of such a program might include** the following: ƒ Assessm e nts of the quality of inform ation available for market analysis and the capacity of relevant institutions; ƒ Guidance in assem b ling and evaluating dat a on key comm odity markets; ƒ Training and assistance in conducting shor t-term market analysis and m e dium - term forecasts for key co mm od ities; ƒ Assistance to establish system s that effectively dissem i nate inform ation and analysis (including publications, e-publications, and websites); ƒ Collaborative analysis of trade or po licy issues of mutual interest; and ƒ **Provision of personal computers and Internet access facilities to Cuban individuals** and organizations invol ved in the food and agricult ure produc tion and m a rketing process. Direct nutritional **technical assistance support could help the transition government set up logistics and stock control system s for the centralized food banks, helping ensure the delivery of healthful meals.** **Technical assistance should support commodity assistance programs that supplement the diets of program participants with nutritious foods. Public awareness initiatives should include help to establish educational program s regarding t h e link between nutritional meals and health. Assistance could be provided to assist social marketing to better inform the Cuban public of nutritional feeding and education program s and to encourage broad public participation.**

**Contention 2 – Solvency**

**The plan demonstrates US government commitment to information flow.**

**Pascual and Huddleson 09**

Carlos p ascual Vice p resident and Director of Foreign p olicy The Brookings i nstitution v icki h uddleston Visiting Fellow The Brookings i nstitution CUBA: A New p olicy of Critical and Constructive Engagement April 2009 http://www2.fiu.edu/~ipor/cuba-t/BrookingsCubaReport-English.pdf

The aforementioned initiatives are non-controver - sial and widely supported by the American public. More controversial—although still **enjoying wide - spread public support—would be licensing the sale and donation of all communications equipment, including radios, televisions, and computers. The CDA recognized the importance of expanding access to ideas, knowledge, and information by authorizing the licensing of telecommunications goods and services. U.S. government financing of books and radios that are distributed to Cubans throughout the island demonstrates a belief that breaking down the barriers to the flow of information is critical** to promoting change in Cuba. **The president should therefore instruct the Department of Commerce and OFAC to internally change their respective licensing policies with regard to Cuba from a “presumption of denial” to a “presumption of approval” with respect to items deemed to be in the U.S. national interest for Cuba to receive, including laptops, cell phones and other telecom - munications equipment, computer peripherals, internet connection equipment, as well as access to satellite and broadband communications net - works.**

**The plan is an increase in engagement and should not be tied to actions by the Cuban government.**

**Pascual and Huddleson 09**

Carlos p ascual Vice p resident and Director of Foreign p olicy The Brookings i nstitution v icki h uddleston Visiting Fellow The Brookings i nstitution CUBA: A New p olicy of Critical and Constructive Engagement April 2009 http://www2.fiu.edu/~ipor/cuba-t/BrookingsCubaReport-English.pdf

**None of the initiatives, however, should be publicly or privately tied to specific Cuban actions. As the Cuban government is on record as rejecting any type of carrot-and-stick tactic, it would be coun-terproductive to do so. rather, the United States should decide the actions that it wishes to take and when to carry them out. Doing so will give the president maximum flexibility in determining how and when to engage**. **The** first two **initiatives simply encourage a broad-ening of U.S. government public and private par-ticipation in activities that assist the growth of Cuban civil society** and should be carried out re-gardless of Cuba’s conduct. The U.S. government should expand the assistance envisioned in the first basket by encouraging other governments, multilateral institutions, organizations, and in-dividuals to support educational exchanges as well as the improvement of human rights and the growth of civil society. in addition**,** in order to en-hance access to knowledge, **the U.S. government should allow private individuals, groups, and the Cuban government access to normal commercial credit for the sale of communications equipment and connections to satellite and broadband net-works.**

**The plan is sufficient. Lack of access is THE PRIMARY cause of a lack of broadband integration. This is the fault of the United States’ restrictive policies.**

**Piccone et al 10**

Bridging Cuba’s Communication Divide: How U.S. Policy Can HelpTheodore J. Piccone, Christopher Sabatini and Carlos Saladrigas Issue Brief No. 3July 2010 U. S. - CU BA R E L AT I O N S AT B RO O K I N GSLat i nam e r i c ain i t i at i v eatBrO O Ki nGS8Theodore J. Picconeis a Senior Fellow and Deputy Director for Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution; he served eight years as a senior policy advisor on Latin America in the Clinton Administration. Christopher Sabatiniis Senior Director of Policy for the Americas Society/Council of the Americas and Editor-in-Chief of Americas Quarterly. Carlos Sal-adrigasis Co-Chairman of the Board of the Cuba Study Group, a non-profit, non-partisan organization comprised of business and community leaders of Cuban descent who share a common interest and vision of a free and prosperous Cuba.http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/events/2010/7/15%20cuba%20communications/07\_cuba\_telecommunications\_piccone.pdf

The long-term economic potential of the internet was forcefully articulated by Secretary of State Hill-ary Clinton last January: “...we know from long experience that promoting social and economic de-velopment in countries where people lack access to knowledge, markets, capital, and opportunity can be frustrating and sometimes futile work. In this context, **the internet can serve as a great equalizer**. By providing people with access to knowledge and potential markets, networks can create opportuni-ties where none exist.” **Even incremental changes in expanding connectiv-ity and access to ICT could go a long way toward alleviating the economic struggles and health and human risks** inherent in living under a closed, au-thoritarian regime. Ironically, however, **current U.S. regulations re-strict the very access necessary to make this hap-pen. Expanding the opportunity for U.S. telecoms investors and companies to provide cell phone and internet service to** the island will help ensure that Cuban citizens possess the tools to become produc-tive economic citizens once the shackles of political and economic state control are removed. To say this is not to deny or minimize the very real controls that the Cuban government places on its own citizens’ access to the internet. But expand-ing citizens’ access to even the most rudimentary technology in **Cuba would be a giant step forward in economically empowering a new, independent generation of Cuban citizens**.Access to ICT in Cuba Today Despite a strong science and engineering sector and the third highest research and development (R&D) expenditures per GDP in Latin America (spend-ing an estimated 0.6 percent of GDP on R&D, behind Chile at 0.7 percent and Brazil at 0.9 per-cent), **Cuba has the lowest level of internet penetra-tion in the hemisphere and one of the lowest in the world. By the Cuban government’s own estimates, 1.8 million users, or 13 percent of the population, have access to the internet, though international ac-counts place it substantially lower at about 2.6% penetration**. Part of the reason for the discrepancy is that official statistics may include access both to the worldwide web as well as to Cuba’s internal network or intranet.5This is compared to internet penetra-tion in Haiti of 23 percent. Ownership of personal computers is considerably lower: 723,000, or 6.2 percent of the population. In Cuba, the internet is primarily accessible to academics, government officials, foreigners, and tourists. **Lack of access is the primary blocking tool** used by the Cuban government **to restrict the technology to the population at large.** A censored version of the internet (more of an intranet) is of-fered through universities, secondary schools, post offices and government youth computer clubs, in line with a decree that the internet cannot be used in violation of the country’s moral principles or laws or jeopardize national security. To obtain access to the internet, users have to be approved by Etecsa, the state-owned telecommunications company, and a commission linked to the Committee for the De-fense of the Revolution Act.