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**SYRIA DA**

**The Syria authorization will pass but it will be a tough fight – capital is key to GOP support**

**Cohen, 9/3/13** (Tom, “Syria war resolution faces tough challenge in Congress” CNN,

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/03/politics/obama-syria-congress/>)

To Darrell West, the vice president and director of governance studies at the Brookings

AND

will work and not drag us into the mud for a long time."

**PC key and focus link- the plan drains Obama’s attention**

**Brown, 9/4/13** (Carrie, Politico, “Obama's capital spreads thin”

<http://m.politico.com/iphone/story/0913/96306.html>)

President Barack Obama faced a heavy lift in Congress this fall when his agenda included

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to walk and chew gum at the same time,” **often they cannot.**

**A failed Syria vote spurs global appeasement, allied prolif, nuclear use and shreds U.S. primacy**

**Cohen, 9/2/13** – teaches at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. From 2007-08 he served as counselor of the State Department (Eliot, “The Stakes on the Syria Vote” Wall Street Journal, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324432404579049261525066516.html>)

On Saturday, when President Obama overruled his advisers, reversed his own policy and

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brought for granted. They should not. It **hangs in the balance**.

**Extinction**

**Barnett 11** – (Thomas, Former Senior Strategic Researcher and Professor in the Warfare Analysis & Research Department, worked as the Assistant for Strategic Futures in the Office of Force Transformation in the Department of Defense, *“The New Rules: Leadership Fatigue Puts U.S., and Globalization, at Crossroads,”* The World Politics Review, March 7, 2011, <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/8099/the-new-rules-leadership-fatigue-puts-u-s-and-globalization-at-crossroads>)

Events in Libya are a further reminder for Americans that we stand at a crossroads

AND

. And if you know your history, that should make you nervous.

**COUNTERPLAN**

**The Commissioner of Major League Baseball should allow Major League Baseball teams to scout in Cuba and sign Cuban players without penalty.**

**Solves the aff.**

**Cwiertny 00** (Scott. Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review. THE NEED FOR A WORLDWIDE DRAFT: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUBAN EMBARGO AND UNITED STATES FOREIG N POLICY Loy. L.A. Ent. L. Rev. 391.)

Major League Baseball’s rules regarding the signing of Cuban players has been evolving since 1977

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MLB teams from scouting in Cuba and from helping Cuban baseball players defect.

**KRITIK**

**The plan facilitates the exploitation of Latin American talent in service of US cultural dominance – baseball diplomacy affirms a heroic US national identity that provides rhetorical cover for American military and economic adventurism**

**Butterworth, 10** – director of the School of Communication at Ohio University (Michael, Baseball and Rhetorics of Purity : The National Pastime and American Identity During the War on Terror, ebrary)

Yet while American culture … discourses that constituted the United States as the world’s exemplary nation.

**Neoliberal engagement of Latin America results in loss of value to life, political oppression, military intervention, and environmental destruction – makes extinction inevitable**

**Makwana 06 –** (Rajesh, STWR, 23rd November 06, <http://www.stwr.org/globalization/neoliberalism-and-economic-globalization.html>, ZBurdette)

Neoliberalism and Economic Globalization

The goal of neoliberal economic globalization is the removal of all barriers to commerce, and the privatization of all available resources and services. In this scenario, public life will be at the mercy … to capitalize and new markets to exploit. Neoliberal dominance over global governance structures has enforced access to these markets. Under WTO agreements, a sovereign country cannot interfere with a corporation’s intentions to trade even if their operations go against domestic environmental and employment guidelines. Those governments that do stand up for their sovereign rights are frequently sued by corporations for loss of profit, and even loss of potential profit. Without this pressure they would have been able to stimulate domestic industry and self sufficiency, thereby reducing poverty. They would then be in a better position to compete in international markets.

**Reject the AFF as a means to uphold “Cubanalismo” – provides a key anti-neoliberal model that could spillover**

**Fanelli 08** – Carlo Fanelli – Department of Sociology, York University. Carlo Fanelli is SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Politics & Public Administration, Ryerson University, with interests in critical political economy, labour studies, Canadian public policy, social movements, urban sociology and education. He received his PhD from the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at Carleton University, with a specialization in Political Economy, and his M.A. in Sociology and B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from York University. Carlo serves as editor of Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research – New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and Interdisciplinary Inquiry; Vol.2, No. 1 (November 2008) Pp. 7-16

When considering potential alternatives to neoliberalism, few individuals would regard Cubaas the vehicle that

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US led neoliberalism and to **stimulate waves of change** throughout the developing world.

**TOPICALITY**

**A. Interpretation - Engagement is the use of particular means to influence the political behavior of a state – economic means are trade promotion and aid in the form loans or grants**

**Resnik, 1** – Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yeshiva University (Evan, Journal of International Affairs, “Defining Engagement” v54, n2, political science complete)

A REFINED DEFINITION OF ENGAGEMENT

In order to establish a more effective … of multiple objectives in any given instance of engagement and, as will be shown below, permits the elucidation of multiple types of positive sanctions.

**RELATIONS**

**Squo solves - Cuba will allow players to play abroad**

**LA News Dispatch, 10** – Provider of regional news concerning Latin America ("Cuba May Lift Restrictions On Baseball Players Signing Abroad," LAND, 11/24/10, <http://latindispatch.com/2010/11/24/cuba-may-lift-restrictions-on-baseball-players-signing-abroad/>, SMS)

Top Story — The Cuban government may lift restrictions on baseball players signing contracts abroad

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, Antonio Castro brought up the proposal to members of the Cuban delegation.

**Plan can't solve – the mechanism of cultural exchange isn't heard by most Cubans – prevents effective spillup**

**CDA, 13** – Research group dedicated to Latin America (Center for Democracy in the Americas, "Baseball in Cuba: Changeups or Regime Change," CDA, 2013, <http://cubacentral.wordpress.com/2013/03/29/baseball-in-cuba-changeups-or-regime-change/>, SMS)

In 2013, Cuba participated in the World Baseball Classic without incident. By liberalizing

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baseball not as diplomacy but as propaganda. We need a fresh start.

**Can’t solve relations – Cuba is on the list of state sponsors of terrorism, Cuba is holding US contractor Gross without charge**

**Franks 10** (Jeff, “U.S.-Cuba relations under Obama fall to lowest point,” March 31, http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62U34W20100331?pageNumber=2)

U.S.-Cuban relations have fallen to their lowest point since Barack Obama

AND

be a serious blow to relations with both the United States and Europe.

**Current baseball diplomacy solves – and the embargo is key – their author**

**Goldberg 00** (The Washington Quarterly. Sporting Diplomacy. http://www.twq.com/autumn00/goldberg.pdf)

Castro has been a thorn in the side of the United States for nearly 40

AND

will go a long way to advance the understanding between the two countries.

**No spillover, US sports don’t affect international policy.**

**Koller 08**, Dionne Koller, Assistant professor of law at the University of Baltimore School of Law, “How the United States Government Sacrifices Athletes' Constitutional Rights in the Pursuit of National Prestige,” Brigham Young University Law Review, 2008, lexis

 [\*1475]  It is now clear that sport today has become an important

AND

can cross over from benign pageantry and rhetoric to threatening athletes' constitutional rights.

**Embargo key to foreign investment and relations**

**Times Free Press 10** (“On the cusp of change in Cuba,” September 21, http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/sep/21/cusp-change-cuba/?opiniontimes)

The Cuban government can no longer maintain a state-run economy. It’s

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wealth-generating profits rather than government handouts. Both would be desirable.

**Normalized US-Cuban ties coming – happens by 2018 under Diaz-Canel**

\*normalization of relations inevitable – the Castro brothers are major barriers to better relations however his successor Diaz-Canel promises a new rejuvenated relationship

**Gott ’13 –** Richard Gott is a writer and historian. He worked for many years at the Guardian as a leader-writer, foreign correspondent and as the features editor. He is the author of Cuba: A New History, published by Yale University Press – Guardian – Feb 25th – http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/25/cuba-us-ties-castro-raul

The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small. So it is with the history of Cuba, which has long moved forward at a barely observable speed. The announcement by Raúl Castro, aged 81, that he will retire in 2018 (…**forge a new and beneficial relationship with the US**.

**Alt causes to US-Cuban ties – Human Rights, Guantanamo, and Cuban exiles**

**Hanson & Lee ’13** – Stephanie Hanson and Brianna Lee, Council on Foreign Relations, “U.S.-Cuba Relations”, 1/31/13 <http://www.cfr.org/cuba/us-cuba-relations/p11113>

What are the issues preventing normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations? Experts

AND

alienating a strong voting bloc in an important swing state in presidential elections.

**Cuba doesn’t want close relations with the US**

**French ’13** – Anya Landau French, Director of the New America Foundation U.S. – Cuba Policy Initiative, 2-10-2013, “Secretary Kerry: Will He or Won't He Take On Cuba?,” http://thehavananote.com/2013/02/secretary\_kerry\_will\_he\_or\_wont\_he\_take\_cuba

And, then there’s the Cuban government. As much as many in the Cuban

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existence, something the leadership obviously isn’t going to put on the table.

**No risk of a bioweapons attack – too difficult to acquire and deploy**

**Burton and Stewart 08 –** (Fred and Scott, Stratfor Intelligence, “Busting the Anthrax Myth”, July 30, http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/busting\_anthrax\_myth)

In fact, based on the past history of nonstate actors conducting attacks using biological

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, militant groups would have used them far more frequently than they have.

**Multiple protections prevent any chance of cyber war and negative consequences from an attack**

**Bailey 11 –** [Ronald is Reason's science correspondent. “Cyberwar Is Harder Than It Looks: Internet vulnerability to attacks exaggerated, says new report.” 1/18/2011, <http://reason.com/archives/2011/01/18/cyberwar-is-harder-than-it>]

Brown and Sommer conclude, “It is **unlikely** that there will ever be a

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do to defend against them, will also defend against the threat of cyberwarfare

**8 alt causes the plan can’t resolve**

**Nacht 13 –** [Michael, professor of public policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy (Cal), “The Cyber Security Challenge,” Berkley Blog, 6/10, http://blogs.berkeley.edu/2013/06/10/the-cyber-security-challenge/]

Major challenges The national security community is wrestling with several tough problems which will take

AND

, a major new development for U.S. national security policy.

**US-China war won’t escalate**

**Dobbins ’12 –** James Dobbins, directs the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation, previously served as American Ambassador to the European Community and Assistant Secretary of State, August/September 2012, “War with China,” Survival, Vol. 54, No. 4, p. 7-24

It is important to begin any such analysis by recognising that China is seeking neither

AND

to deter behaviour that could lead to such a clash throughout this period.

**No impact to the environment**

\*no impact to species loss –

a. consensus of studies prove – multiple biologists identify that the human species could survive with the majority of other species being depleted

b. redundancy checks – species are so redundant in ecological functions in performing life-support systems, that they function better with fewer organisms

c. basic science and empirics – over a thousand species have gone extinct in the past and a few keystone species such as the dodo bird have gone extinct yet the rate of hybridization and crossbreeding has created new recombinant genes which have offset the genetic diversity loss created by species loss

**Sagoff 97** – Mark, Senior Research Scholar – Institute for Philosophy and Public policy in School of Public Affairs – U. Maryland, William and Mary Law Review, “INSTITUTE OF BILL OF RIGHTS LAW SYMPOSIUM DEFINING TAKINGS: PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION: MUDDLE OR MUDDLE THROUGH? TAKINGS JURISPRUDENCE MEETS THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT”, 38 Wm and Mary L. Rev. 825, March, L/N

Note – Colin Tudge - Research Fellow at the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics. Frmr Zoological Society of London: Scientific Fellow and tons of other positions. PhD. Read zoology at Cambridge.

Simon Levin = Moffet Professor of Biology, Princeton. 2007 American Institute of Biological Sciences Distinguished Scientist Award 2008 Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti 2009 Honorary Doctorate of Science, Michigan State University 2010 Eminent Ecologist Award, Ecological Society of America 2010 Margalef Prize in Ecology, etc… PhD

Although one may agree with ecologists such as Ehrlich and Raven that the earth stands

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sense, good for mankind. The most valuable things are quite useless.

**No nuclear terrorism – tech barriers**

\* three barriers: 1) a terrorist has to find fissile material; 2) terrorists must construct the bomb with fine-tuned technology and specialized skills; and 3) a long chain of command from which complications can arise, that’s Chapman

**Chapman 12 –** (Stephen, editorial writer for Chicago Tribune, “CHAPMAN: Nuclear terrorism unlikely,” May 22, <http://www.oaoa.com/articles/chapman-87719-nuclear-terrorism.html>)

A layperson may figure it’s only a matter of time before the unimaginable comes to

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, it appears, the worst eventuality is one that will never happen.

**No nuclear terror – they’ll choose conventional weapons**

**Mueller 08** – John Mueller, political science professor at Ohio State University, “The Atomic Terrorist: Assessing the Likelihood” Jan. 1 <http://polisci.osu.edu/faculty/jmueller/APSACHGO.PDF>

Meanwhile, although there have been plenty of terrorist attacks in the world since 2001

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for delivering it: the suicide bomber (Pape 2005, Bloom 2005).

**US won’t use nuclear retaliation against non-state nuclear terror**

**Washington Post 07** – (Thursday, August 2, 2007 – “Obama says no nuclear weapons to fight terror” – http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/02/AR2007080201375\_pf.html)

Presidential hopeful Barack Obama said Thursday he would not use nuclear weapons "in any

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There's been no discussion of nuclear weapons. That's not on the table."

**Alt causes to Latin American instability – socioeconomic factors and taxation of the external sector cause LA political instability**

**Johnson 64 –** (Kenneth, political analyst for Western Political Science, The Western Political Quarterly, Causal Factor isn Latin American Political Instability,http://www.jstor.org/stable/445794?seq=3)

In a later article, Kling sought to refine his previous formulation by offering a

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per cent of their revenues conformed to prevailing images of caudillismo and instability.

**BASEBALL DIPLOMACY**

**Soft power is useless — empirically proven.**

\*Hard power is essential-Iran, North Korea, and China are all becoming more aggressive than ever

\*Only hard power solves, we are declining now and to successfully influence global events, hard power must be used

\*consensus of strategists conclude hard power is significant

\*Hard power has provided us with a shield that is beginning to fall

**Lacey 13** — Jim Lacey, Professor of Strategic Studies at the Marine Corps War College, holds a Ph.D. in Military History from Leeds University, 2013 (“Soft Power, Smart Power,” *National Review Online*, April 22nd, Available Online at http://www.nationalreview.com/article/346131/soft-power-smart-power, Accessed 05-27-2013)

During World War II, Stalin’s advisers encouraged him to seek the favor of the pope. He famously replied: “How many divisions does the pope have?” Decades later, the Soviets came to realize that papal power was not something to cavalierly disregard. Many, in fact, claim that Pope John Paul II’s moral authority was decisive in breaking the Soviet hold on Poland and propelling the Evil Empire toward its final demise. It was, therefore, a true example of the clout of “soft power.” Of course, one can maintain that view only by discounting the massive U.S. and NATO military forces that kept Soviet hard power in check for decades.

A few years back, a number of … if that day arrives. For a long time, American hard power has cast a protective shield around the liberal world order. It will not be pretty when that is gone.

**Alt Cause – spying scandals have destroyed US soft power**

**Migranyan 7/5 –** (Andranik Migranyan is the director of the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation in New York; “Scandals Harm US soft power,” <http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/scandals-harm-us-soft-power-8695>, //jw

For the past few months, the United States has been rocked by a series

AND

America—and its model for governance—with a more critical eye.

**The EU is too weak to expand its foreign policy and meet challenges with the West.**

The Hindu, 04 (Card is no longer available online, if you need it, please e-mail me, Friday April 30th 2004, May 21st 2010)

It is one of the Europea Union's most cherished ambitions to play a bigger and

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after enlargement it will be harder rather than easier to forge consensus.''

**Relations high – banana deal**

**Reuters 9** (Jonathan Lynn, 12/15/09, "EU, US, Latin America ink banana deal ", http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE5BE1GZ20091215?type=swissMktRpt, WRW)

GENEVA, Dec 15 (Reuters) - The European Union and United States initialed

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For a factbox on the bananas deal click on [ID:nLDE5BE2CR])

# 2nc

**Plan can't solve and is considered cultural exchange – contextual evidence**

**CDA, 13** – Research group dedicated to Latin America (Center for Democracy in the Americas, "Baseball in Cuba: Changeups or Regime Change," CDA, 2013, <http://cubacentral.wordpress.com/2013/03/29/baseball-in-cuba-changeups-or-regime-change/>, SMS)

In 2013, Cuba participated in the World Baseball Classic without incident. By liberalizing

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baseball not as diplomacy but as propaganda. We need a fresh start.

**The plan increases cultural ties – that isn’t economic**

**Barber 79** – James, Professor of Political Science at the Open University, International Affairs, 55(3), July, JStor, p. 367

Economic sanctions are economic measures directed to political objectives. They are normally supplemented by

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they see these sanctions as the economic dimension of a wider war effort.

**Prefer evidence that defines the phrase “economic engagement” as a whole --- “engagement” alone gets distorted based on specific context and clouds understanding of the topic**

**Capie 2** – David H. Capie, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, and Paul M. Evans, Co-CEO and Chairman of the Executive Council of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, , The Asia-Pacific Security Lexicon, p. 118

According to the Oxford Concise Dictionary, the noun engagement and the verb to engage have several different meanings. Among these, to engage can mean "to employ busily", "to hold a person's attention", "to bind by a promise (usually a …, for example deep engagement or conditional engagement. These, in turn, have arguably made for less, rather than greater conceptual clarity.

**Yhey allow engagement over human rights, democracy, prolif, or drugs**

**Rose 08** – Andrew K. Rose, Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and Mark M. Spiegel, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, “Non-Economic Engagement and International Exchange: The Case of Environmental Treaties”, http://halleinstitute.emory.edu/pdfs/PIEF\_Rose\_Spiegel.pdf

1. Introduction

Countries, like … and practice, is positive.

**Participation – broad topics destroy entire programs**

**Rowland 84 –** (Robert C., Baylor U., “Topic Selection in Debate”, American Forensics in Perspective. Ed. Parson, p. 53-4)

The first major problem identified by the work group as relating to topic selection is

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of broad topics that has led some small schools to **cancel their programs**.

**Topic education – blurring the line of “economic” creates definitional chaos that precludes any understanding of engagement – here is intent to define**

**van Bergeijk 11** – Dr. Peter A.G. van Bergeijk, Professor of International Economics and Macroeconomics at the Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University, Economic Diplomacy: Economic and Political Perspectives, p. 8-9

Clearly, there is a …, international political economics (IPE), and diplomatic studies.

**Gradualism solves**

**Padgett 08** – Tim Padgett joined TIME in 1996 as Mexico City bureau chief covering Latin America. In 1999 he moved to Florida to become TIME’s Miami & Latin America bureau chief, reporting on the hemisphere from Tallahassee to Tierra del Fuego. He has chronicled Mexico’s democratization and drug war as well as the rise of Latin leaders like Lula and Hugo Chavez, “How Cuba’s Oil Find Could Change the US Embargo” Time Magazine – Oct. 23, 2008 – http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599, 1853252,00.html#ixzz13Li5cosN

Washington's own Cuba time warp got a jolt as well. The oil discovery has

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when we allowed agricultural and medical sales to Cuba" a decade ago.

**Single instances of action do not change international perceptions of the U.S.**

**Fettweis 08** (Christopher – professor of political science at Tulane, Credibility and the War on Terror, Political Science Quarterly, Winter, GDI File)

Since Vietnam, scholars have been generally unable to **identify** cases in which high credibility

AND

a coherent test; when it was, it almost inevitably failed.40

**Plan insufficient to solve US-Cuba ties**

**Bert and Clayton ’12** – Melissa Bert, Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Chief of the Maritime and International Law Division at the U.S. Coast Guard, former Adjunct Professor at George Washington University and Florida International University, holds a Command and Staff degree in strategic studies from the Naval War College and degrees from the Coast Guard Academy and the George Washington University Law School, graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and George Washington University Law, and Blake Clayton, Fellow for Energy and National Security at the Council on Foreign Relations, former lecturer in finance and economics at the Oxford University Programme for Undergraduate Studies and researcher at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, holds a doctorate in business economics and strategy from Oxford University, 2012 (“Addressing the Risk of a Cuban Oil Spill,” Brookings Institution Policy Innovation Memorandum No. 15, March 7th, Available Online at <http://www.cfr.org/cuba/addressing-risk-cuban-oil-spill/p27515>

Efforts to rewrite current law and policy toward Cuba, and encouraging cooperation with its

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the United States risks a second Deepwater Horizon, this time from Cuba.

**Soft power is useless and undermines maintenance of necessary hard power**

**Ford 12** — Christopher A. Ford, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute, served in a variety of positions during the George W. Bush Administration including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Special Representative for Nuclear Non-proliferation, holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Oxford University, 2012 (“Soft on ‘Soft Power’,” *SAIS Review*, Volume 32, Number 1, Winter-Spring, Available Online to Subscribing Institutions via Project MUSE, p. 104-105)

From a U.S. perspective, it seems that the romanticized … **neglect the maintenance of “hard power”** as the world sometimes require, that faith must be regarded as **maladaptive**.

# 1nr

**Reverse solvency deficit- Commissioner has plenary power – quicker than Congress**

**Cwiertny 00** (Scott. Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review. THE NEED FOR A WORLDWIDE DRAFT: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUBAN EMBARGO AND UNITED STATES FOREIG N POLICY Loy. L.A. Ent. L. Rev. 391.)

H.R. 2311 was proposed prior to the enactment of the Helms-

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future and regain its respect as America’s pastime simply by amending the rules.

**Lack of credibility causes conflict over Kashmir – goes nuclear**

**Coes 11** – Ben Coes 11, Visiting Fellow at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. A graduate of Columbia College, where he won the prestigious Bennett Cerf Memorial Prize “The disease of a weak president”, The Daily Caller, <http://dailycaller.com/2011/09/30/the-disease-of-a-weak-president/>

The disease of a weak president usually begins with the Achilles’ heel all politicians are

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one or the other. The status quo is simply not an option.

**Syria strikes contain global terrorism**

**Woolf, 8/31/13 –** (Nicky, “The ugly truth behind Obama's Syria plan” New Statesman,

http://www.newstatesman.com/international-politics/2013/08/ugly-truth-behind-obamas-syria-plan

America is not interested in …: that a half-hearted airborne intervention in Syria is designed not to rock this deadly boat, but to steady it.

**Inaction is comparatively worse – all of their impacts are inevitable**

**Greenwald, 9/4**/13 - senior editor of Commentary (Abe, “Untangling the Pro-Intervention Argument” Commentary, <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2013/09/04/untangling-the-pro-intervention-argument-syria-chemical-weapons/#more-832660>)

1. What we want out of the Syrian situation. The United States wants Bashar al-Assad out and wants the moderates among the rebels to shape the post-Assad future. This would be good for the Syrian people and bad for the radicals. It would also remove Iran’s biggest ally, put Vladimir Putin back in his … that their rise is real, official, and inevitable.

**Failure of the Syria vote invites challengers to US hegemony globally**

**Gerson, 9/6/13** – Washington Post columnist (Michael, “A vote against attacking Syria would seriously harm the US” Deseret News, <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765637219/A-vote-against-attacking-Syria-would-seriously-harm-the-US.html>)

A limited military strike may be … should refuse to follow it down.

**You should be highly skeptical of affirmative uniqueness evidence – it’s all based upon media whip counts if the vote were held today. These are biased because they report on vocal opponents, not supporters – most are undecided and can still be persuaded.**

**Bump, 9/5/13** – staff writer for the Atlantic Wire (Philip, “Don't Bet Against Obama on the Syria Vote”

<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/politics/2013/09/dont-bet-against-obama-syria-vote/69084/>)

If the Congressional vote on taking military action … similarly smooth out somewhat. Maybe not a lot! But somewhat.

**The all out lobbying increase will cause fence sitters to break for Obama**

**Bresnahan, 9/5/13 –** (John, Politico, “President Obama could lose big on Syria in House”

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/09/obama-syria-house-vote-96347.html>

High-level congressional sources believe … **of these fence-sitters are going to come aboard**.”

**House Democrats are highly likely to vote for the President – Congressional aide leaks prove – which means it will pass even if most of the GOP votes no**

\*majority of House Democrats will vote for Syria resolution so even if most of the GOP doesn’t vote for Syria – there are enough votes to get the bill passed – the sizable bloc of the Dems is just too large

**Sargent, 9/5/13** – writes for the Washington Post’s Plum Line blog (Greg, “Why House Dems think Syria resolution could still pass” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/09/05/why-house-dems-think-syria-resolution-could-still-pass/>)

If you look at the various whip counts floating around on where … could still go down. But the view from some on the inside is that **it still has a decent chance**.

**Obama is spending all of his political capital on the Syria vote – he’ll win, but needs every ounce of capital to do it**

**Lewis, 8/31/13** (Paul, The Observer, “Battle looms in Congress as Obama makes Syria a vast political gamble” <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/31/barack-obama-syria-congress-vote>)

Barack Obama has taken a potentially huge … congressional leaders sometimes have only limited sway over representatives.

**Political capital theory is real –**

**a) empirical studies prove political capital is key**

**Beckmann & McGann 08** – [Matthew N. Beckmann, PhD and Associate Professor, Political Science School of Social Sciences at UC Irvine; Anthony J. McGann, Assistant Professor in the Political Science School of Social Sciences at UC Irvine, “NAVIGATING THE LEGISLATIVE DIVIDE POLARIZATION, PRESIDENTS, AND POLICYMAKING IN THE UNITED STATES,” Journal of Theoretical Politics 20(2): 201–220]

In his seminal work on the presidency, Richard Neustadt (1960) cited the

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its conditional nature should provide more discriminating results and permit more judicious inferences.

**b) framing issue – their studies don’t take out our disad, even if capital only works at the margin it’s still key**

**O’Geen and Lebo 11** – \*Assistant Professor of Political Science at Davidson College, \*\*Associate Professor of Political Science at Stony Brook University (July, Andrew and Matthew, The Journal of Politics, 73.3, “The President’s Role in the Partisan Congressional Arena”, http://ms.cc.sunysb.edu/~mlebo/The%20Presidents%20Role%20in%20the%20Partisan%20Congressional%20Arena.pdf, WEA)

Presidential Success

The seminal work of Neustadt (1960) provides the foundation for most empirical …. Indeed, presidential success may have an important effect on the very structure of representation in future Congresses. This leads us from an investigation of the causes of success to an interest in its consequences.

**Winners don’t win, several reasons –**

**a) time-frame differential – takes too long to generate success – prefer our evidence, it is specific to Obama**

\*the timeframe differential for rebuilding capital is a framing issue – even if Obama can regenerate political capital in the long term, the empirical record proves that Obama loses massive amounts of political capital in the short-term obliterating his capability of passing agenda items – Health Care proves

**Silber 07** [PhD Political Science & Communication – focus on the Rhetoric of Presidential Policy-Making – Prof of Poli Sci – Samford, [Marissa, WHAT MAKES A PRESIDENT QUACK?, Prepared for delivery at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 30th-September 2nd, 2007, UNDERSTANDING LAME DUCK STATUS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE MEDIA AND POLITICIANS]

Important to the discussion of political capital is whether or not it can be replenished

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. Before determining this, a definition of a lame duck President must be

developed.

**b) Obama cannot win – legislative wins don’t spillover**

\*prefer Obama specific evidence – even if other presidents are able to regenerate capital quickly, Obama cannot – every time Obama allocates political capital on unpopular legislation it turns into a journalistic convention of pointing fingers – makes it impossible to get legislation through

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As Barack Obama prepares to be sworn in for the second time as president of the United States, he faces the stark reality that **little of what he hopes to accomplish** in a second term **will** likely **come to pass**. Mr. Obama occupies an office that many assume to be all powerful, but like so many of his recent predecessors, the president knows better. He faces a political capital problem and a power trap.¶ … and one that will likely weigh heavily on the current president's mind today as he takes his second oath of office.