Plan:

The United States federal government should substantially normalize trade relations with Cuba.

Transition – 1AC

Contention one is transition —-

Cuban reforms are inevitable but the loss of external investment risks economic and social collapse —- offering normal trade relations is vital

Ashby 13 (Timothy, Senior Research Fellow at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, He served in the U.S. Commerce Department’s International Trade Administration as Director of the Office of Mexico and the Caribbean and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere, "Preserving Stability in Cuba After Normalizing Relations with the United States – The Importance of Trading with State-Owned Enterprises", 3/29/13, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, http://www.coha.org/preserving-stability-in-cuba-timothy-ashby/)

Cuba under Raúl Castro has entered a new period of economic, social, and political transformation. …both of which are essential for the foundation of democratic institutions. Two-way trade must include both Cuba’s private sector as well as SOEs.

The unconditional offer of normal trade relations fosters a stable transition

Koenig 10 – US Army Colonel, paper submitted for a Masters in Strategic Studies at the US Army War College (Lance, "Time for a New Cuba Policy" http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA518130)

The option with the greatest possibility of success and reward for the United States is to support the Cuban people, … but must take this opportunity to create an inflection point for Cuba that guides her onto a path that will benefit the nations of the Americas.

Cuban instability destroys the global war on terror and makes conflicts in hotspots around the globe more likely

Gorrell 5 - Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, paper submitted for the USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT (Tim, "CUBA: THE NEXT UNANTICIPATED ANTICIPATED STRATEGIC CRISIS?" http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA433074)

\*GWOT = Global War on Terrorism

Regardless of the succession, under the current U.S. policy, Cuba’s problems of a post Castro transformation only worsen. …Or should the U.S. pursue a new approach to Cuba in an effort to facilitate a manageable transition to post-Castro Cuba?

And —- hotspots in North Korea, Pakistan, and Russia risk escalation to global nuclear war

Bosco 6 (David, Senior Editor – Foreign Policy Magazine, "Could This Be The Start of WWIII?", Los Angeles Times, 7-23, Lexis)

The understanding that small but violent acts can spark global conflagration is etched into the world’s consciousness. …. The United States, after all, invaded Iraq without U.N. approval and yet there was not even a hint that France, Russia or China would respond militarily.

Independently, the embargo itself overstretches the war on terror

Johnson 10 – Andy Johnson is a director in the national security program at The Third Way ("End the Embargo of Cuba", The National Security Program, 9/6/10, http://content.thirdway.org/publications/326/Third\_Way\_Memo\_-\_End\_the\_Embargo\_of\_Cuba.pdf)

Keeping the embargo in place requires that the US government devote time and resources to fighting a Cold War-era threat…instead use resources in the Western Hemisphere bureau to initiate a new path for engaging Cuba.

This risks a massive global nuclear war

Ayson 10 (Robert, Professor of Strategic Studies and Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies – Victoria University of Wellington, "After a Terrorist Nuclear Attack: Envisaging Catalytic Effects", Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 33(7), July, InformaWorld)

But these two nuclear worlds—a non-state actor nuclear attack and a catastrophic interstate nuclear exchange—are not necessarily separable. ….although it must be admitted that any preemption would probably still meet with a devastating response.

And —- terrorism is real and they want nukes —- ensures nuclear winter and extinction

Creamer 11 – political organizer and strategist, Strategic Consulting Group (Robert, "Post-Bin Laden, It’s Time to End the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism for Good," Huffington Post, 5/12, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/post-bin-laden—-it-is-ti\_b\_860954.html)

Worse, al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations have vowed to obtain and actually use nuclear weapons…. Much of the world’s surface would reach winter temperatures in the summer.

Reject their defense —- current studies underestimate the risk

Dahl 7-1 – Specialist Correspondent (Frederik, "Governments warn about nuclear terrorism threat," 7/1/13, http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/us-nuclear-security-idUSBRE96010E20130701)

(Reuters) - More action is needed to prevent militants acquiring plutonium or highly-enriched uranium that could be used in bombs, … to continue trying to achieve their nuclear ambitions," he said.

Leadership – 1AC

Contention two is leadership —-

US leadership is unsustainable without a highly visible commitment to multilateralism

Lake 10 – Professor of Social Sciences, distinguished professor of political science at UC San Diego (David A., "Making America Safe for the World: Multilateralism and the Rehabilitation of US authority", http://dss.ucsd.edu/~~dlake/documents/LakeMakingAmericaSafe.pdf)

The safeguarding of US authority requires multilateralism that is broader and certainly deeper than in the 1990s—… the United States should, in its own self-interest, lead the way to a new world order.

Only the plan resolves the rallying cry for Anti-Americanism

Perez 10 ¬– JD, Yale Law (David, "America’s Cuba Policy: The Way Forward: A Policy Recommendation for the U.S. State Department" 13 Harv. Latino L. Rev. 187, Spring, lexis)

Conclusion

For fifty years the Castro regime has ruled Cuba with an iron fist. … which could eventually be used as a stepping-stone towards the normalization of relations.

That Anti-Americanism prevents effective leverage

Sabatini and Berger 12 Christopher Sabatini is editor-in-chief of Americas Quarterly and senior director of policy at Americas Society/Council of the Americas. Ryan Berger is a policy associate at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas(Christopher/Ryan, "Why the U.S. can’t afford to ignore Latin America" 6/13/12, CNN/Global Public Square, http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2012/06/13/why-the-u-s-cant-afford-to-ignore-latin-america/)//AD

 Speaking in Santiago, Chile, in March of last year, President Obama called Latin America "a region on the move," one that is "more important to the prosperity and security of the United States than ever before." …We need to stop thinking of Latin America as the U.S. "backyard" that is outside broader, global strategic concerns.

Only the embargo perpetuates the Non Aligned Movement—pits multilateral regional blocs against us

Sittamparam 03 – A journalist in Malaysia who is following this story for the New Straits Times (R., "Cuba to continue revitalising NAM," New Straight Times, 1/23/13, High beam research)Bwang

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Cuba, which will assume the presidency of the NonAligned Movement in 2006, ..That and the prestige of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad have brought Malaysia to the forefront of NAM."

The plan creates a credible model for multilateral conflict resolution —- spills over to the Middle East and Kashmir

Dickerson 10 – Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, paper submitted in fulfillment of a Master of Strategic Studies Degree at the US Army War College (Sergio M, "UNITED STATES SECURITY STRATEGY TOWARDS CUBA," 1/14/10, http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a518053.pdf)//SJF

At the international political level, President Obama sees resuming relations with Cuba as a real step towards multilateralism and leadership. …The U.S. could begin to lead again and reverse its perceived decline in the greater global order bringing true peace for years to come.

Middle East War causes extinction

Stirling 11 (The Earl of Stirling, Governor and Lord Lieutenant of Canada, Lord High Admiral of Nova Scotia, B.Sc. in Political Science and History, M.A. in European Studies, "General Middle East War Nears - Syrian events more dangerous than even nuclear nightmare in Japan", March, http://europebusines.blogspot.com/2011/03/general-middle-east-war-nears-syrian.html)

Any Third Lebanon War/General Middle East War is apt to involve WMD on both side quickly as both sides know the stakes and that the Israelis are determined to end, …It is highly unlikely that a Third World War, fought with 21st Century weaponry will be anything but the Biblical Armageddon.

And —- Middle East war is highly likely —- only conflict resolution now solves

Beck 13 – Middle East Analyst at TheCommentator (Noah, "A nuclear Middle East is doomsday, 5/28/13, http://www.thecommentator.com/article/3633/a\_nuclear\_middle\_east\_is\_doomsday)

As the Obama administration tries to unbury itself from snowballing scandals, my apocalyptic thriller steadily crawls from fiction to fact. … watching the world gradually move in the same direction, knowing that it’s not my imagination this time, is far worse.

Nuclear conflict over Kashmir is inevitable absent new international action

Zargar 13 – Middle East reporter, Greater Kashmir News (Abdul Majid, "Kashmir Vs Global Community," 6/7/13, http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2013/Jun/8/kashmir-vs-global-community-57.asp)

Normal relations between India and Pakistan offer tremendous benefits 26 incentives to the global community. … If Kashmiris have been suffering for decades, it may take only minutes for the whole world to suffer 26 suffer irretrievably.

Water disputes make escalation uniquely probable

Overdorf 9 – Indian analyst for GlobalPost (Jason, "The coming war for water," 9/21/9, http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/india/090731/the-coming-war-water?page=0,1)

These troop movements are indeed a constant part of daily life in Indian-controlled Kashmir, … when India objected to a Pakistani proposal to build a new dam in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir with the help of the Chinese.

And —- all their impacts are inevitable absent the plan’s multilateralism

Tharoor 3 – Minister of State for Human Resources Development (Shashi, "Why America Still Needs the United Nations", p. 67)

Large portions of the world’s population require the UN’s assistance to surmount problems they cannot overcome on their own. … Instead, the UN provided a framework for them to work in partnership with the United States.

Multilateralism checks the worst abuses of the global system

Masciulli 11 — Professor of Political Science at St Thomas University (Joseph, "The Governance Challenge for Global Political and Technoscientific Leaders in an Era of Globalization and Globalizing Technologies," Bulletin of Science, Technology 26 Society February 2011 vol. 31 no. 1 pg. 3-5)

In this dangerous world, if people are to have their human dignity recognized and enjoy their human rights, above all, to life, …false values attached to the narrow self-interest of individuals, corporations, and states.

Any step short of unconditional removal means won’t create the same symbol of multilateralism

Vivanco 6 - LLM from Harvard Law School, Americas director of Humans Rights Watch (Jose Miguel, "Restraint, not force, will bring change to Cuba", humans rights watch, 12/22/06, http://www.hrw.org/news/2006/12/21/restraint-not-force-will-bring-change-cuba, google scholar)

This reluctance would be understandable but misguided. Most Cubans do want change. … Only when the US stops acting like Goliath will Cuba stop looking like David.

US leadership solves global conflict —- clinging means it is only a question of effectiveness

Brooks 13 (Stephen, Associate Professor of Government – Dartmouth College, John Ikenberry, Professor of Politics and International Affairs – Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, William C. Wohlforth, Professor of Government – Dartmouth College, "Don’t Come Home America: The Case Against Retrenchment", International Security, Vol. 37, No. 3, pg. 7-51, Winter 2012-2013)

A core premise of deep engagement is that it prevents the emergence of a far more dangerous global security environment. … (and which in any case would generate intensely competitive behavior, possibly including regional great power war).

Social science proves that there is no alternative to unipolarity

Wohlforth 09 – professor of government at Dartmouth (William, "Unipolarity, Status Competition, and Great Power War," World Affairs, January, project muse)

The upshot is a near scholarly consensus that unpolarity’s consequences for great power conflict are indeterminate … High status is thus inherently scarce, and competitions for status tend to be zero sum.9

Lifting the embargo is insufficient – normal trade relations is key

French, 9 – editor of and a frequent contributor to The Havana Note. She has led more than two dozen research trips to Cuba (Anya, "Options for Engagement A Resource Guide for Reforming U.S. Policy toward Cuba" http://www.lexingtoninstitute.org/library/resources/documents/Cuba/USPolicy/options-for-engagement.pdf)

the path to "normal" trade relations

If the United States were to lift its trade embargo against Cuba, …, as both countries would need to adopt statutory and regulatory changes. ¶

The plan solves counterbalancing – cooperation and support

Helis 06 – PhD of Philosophy in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University; Chairman of Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks (James A., “GUIDE TO NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND STRATEGY,” June 2006, pg. 14-15)//Bwang

Multilateralists agree that …. or challenged.