Think Tanked

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Cato: If You Really Want Communism in Cuba to Fail, Drop the Embargo

Ian Vásquez, director of Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, writes on the Cato underline>blog</underline> that it's time to do away with the U.S. embargo on Cuba; it's done no good, argues Vasquez, and may have even strengthened authoritarian rule.

> It is time to lift the embargo. Doing so will not save communism from its inherent flaws; that system collapsed spectacularly elsewhere around the world in places where the West maintained or established trade. Keeping the sanctions will only further allow the dictatorship and its sympathizers to explain away the regime's own failings. It would be better for Cubans and the world to see the unraveling of Cuban communism without U.S. intervention. When a free Cuba is eventually born, it will more easily flourish if enemies of the open society cannot rely on a false narrative about how the colossus of the North finally killed off the island's socialist experiment.

> A good way to start would be by lifting the travel portion of the embargo. That measure would expose ordinary Cubans to hundreds of thousands of American citizens, thus inevitably expanding Cuba's informal economy and establishing innumerable relationships that would make Cuban citizens more independent of the state. The regime may try to reap the benefits of increased revenues, but it will have unleashed a social dynamic that will be difficult to control.

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