

Embargo and Engagement: Assessing the Landscape of US-Cuba Relations

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US-Cuban history is filled with many historical events. The history goes way back in 1900s when Cuba was a Spanish colony in the western hemisphere. The USA helped Cuba fight and win war against the Spanish. After that the relations entered into another phase. Cuba even stayed under the US influence due to threat of colonial powers. But major shift in relations came after the end of WW-II in the 1959 when Fidel Castro overthrew the regime of Batista after the Cuban revolution started in 1953 and ended in 1959 and rose to power. Initially the USA backed this activity of Castro but later regrated when the demeanor of Cuba changed and Castro brought communism to the island. This action led to a start of ideological difference between two nations. Further 1962 Cuban Missile incident added fuel to the fire. The USA had put Trade Embargo on the Cuba which stands still till the date. Many presidents came and go but the US policy towards Cuba remained the same, even after the end of cold war. The major significant change came in the second term of Barak Obama when he practically took actions to bring warmth in the US-Cuban relations.

1. Introduction

Relations between Cuba and USA has a rich and tangled history that dates all the way back to the 1800s, when the Cuban Island was still being ruled by Spain. Once the United States Ship (USS) Maine blew and destroyed in Cuban city Havana in the month of February of that year, the war between USA and Spain (Spanish-American War) started in the month of April in that very year (Wood, 2020). The United States backed and joined the war of independence by Cuba against Spanish empire following the Maine's explosions. Ultimately, the Spanish American War was ended by the Treaty of Paris, which was signed in December 1898 (Engel et al., 2023). As a result, the USA was able to seize control over Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

USA kept and maintained its control over the Cuban Island during the term of first Cuban President Tomas Estrada Palma up until 1902, just to keep it safe and free from further Spanish influence if there was any in the future (Foner, 1972; Foner, 2023). The Platt Amendment, which had been in effect the year before, set out seven conditions that had to be satisfied before the government of USA could retreat its army from Cuba (Lorenzo & Lorenzo, 2021). Few of these conditions were that the USA maintaining the power to intervene in Cuban affairs if required, Cuba refraining from signing treaties with other foreign governments, and the USA receiving territory use for military. The Platt Amendment greatly benefited the United States of America politically and economically. The Platt Amendment ensured that the United States retained a great deal of control in Cuba even after its withdrawal of military in 1902.

The expanding industry of sugar in Cuba was one of the Platt Amendment's economic benefits that was previously stated. As per Cesar Ayala, explosive growth of the sugar sector was promoted by the inclusion of Cuba on advantageous terms into the tariff system of USA. The United States reduced the import taxes on sugar from Cuba by 20% in 1903 (Ayala, 1999; Mosley et al., 2022) to boost the trade in that sector. Whilst it led to a significant increase in production of sugar in Cuba, it moreover made it possible for the United States to purchase a significant portion of sugar to be consumed in USA from Cuba at a lower cost. However, according to Ayala, within such a brief duration following USA's control of the country, people of USA possessed a higher percentage of the sugar production than both people of Cuba and Spain, indicating that the country reaping the benefits of the growth in the sugar sector in all respects had been indeed the USA.

The United States returned to Cuba in 1906, following Palma's resignation as head of state (Guillard, 2020). During an insurrection organised by José Miguel Gómez, Palma's administration ended its term. Three years after that, in 1909, Gómez won the presidential race. Even though Cuban administrations were frequently corrupted, the country's political situation remained relatively steady for the twenty years that followed until Fulgencio Batista orchestrated a coup d'état that toppled the government of Gerardo Machado the country's then-president (Julius, 2022).

In 1940, Fulgencio Batista took office as president of Cuba, serving a four-year tenure before resigning. He next made his way and for the next four years moved to Florida before coming back to Cuba to join the Senate there until 1952, when he decided to contest for the presidency a 2nd time (Bain, 2019). Batista orchestrated a military invasion of the country, nevertheless, and seized the presidency for himself in March 1952 before the polls were really

conducted (Lamrani, 2021). The United States refused to recognise the administration of Batista after the first coup of the country. Dean Acheson, the USA Secretary of State, ultimately decided to write to Harry Truman, the president, to express his belief that "under these circumstances I believe it would be detrimental to the special relations that this country has with Cuba to hold up any further," (Acheson, 1987; Ferguson et al., 2022) particularly in light of "our extremely special position in Cuba that includes heavy capital investment, immense global trade, the Nicaro nickel plant operation, the Guantánamo Naval Base, three armed segregationist organisations, and the Nicaro nickel plant operation" (Colhoun, 2013). Due to all this, late in March of 1952, the government of Cuba was eventually recognised. Batista had risen to power and assumed office in that same month (Lyne, 2023).

The United States had a significant capital flow in Cuba during that period, according to Acheson. regardless of Cuba's significance to the United States, relations between the two countries changed during administration of Batista. During his government, the United States gave up its power to meddle in Cuban affairs and altered the sugar allocation that had previously given it a competitive edge in trading with Cuba. Finally, in 1958—just one year before Fidel Castro was appointed Cuba's Prime Minister—the United States cut off all military support to the nation.

Castro rose to power and brought many changes with him. Changes that were not welcomed by the policy makers in the USA. He nationalized many US owned properties. Changed government structure and paved way for the communism in the region that was biggest threat to the USA's ideology. The USA imposed trade Embargo on the Island in 1959, which halted Cuban trade and dented its economy. Later, 1962 witnessed one of the biggest events of the 20th century and cold war when Castro along with USSR tried to deploy nuclear missiles on the Island. This literally brought the world to its first nuclear war and tensions remained high for next few days until issue was resolved through successful diplomacy and negotiations by the Washington and Moscow. The decision makers in the USA didn't take it lightly and kept tightening its grip over the Cuba via different policies. They even went to the extent to turn people of Cuba against the Cuban governments. Ever since there has not been any leniency in coming policies of the USA for Cuba.

2. Literature Review

"*Normalizing US—Cuba relations: escaping the shackles of the past*" by LeoGrande (2015), wrote that Government of Obama said that the failure of his 10 prior iterations' hostility policy made his historic change in American policy toward Cuba necessary. Nevertheless, the previous policy's failure was not anticipated, thus that was not a very good reason for the sudden shift. The ideas of narratives, failure of government, and policy shifts are used to describe the continuation of the American policy of hostility from 1958 to 2014 in addition to the policy shifts announced by ex-President Obama in December of 2014. Four fundamental areas can be used to describe the continuity of strategy as well as the final change in strategy as a result of small modifications in those qualities.

"*US-Cuba Relations*" by Triplett (2003), said that Cuba, a small island nation 144 KM from Miami, is home to 11 million people and has one of the few communist governments still in operation on the globe. Since 1959, American officials have had to consider the

ramifications of a communist adversary ruling within 144 KM. It is highly possible that a newly elected president in Havana will take office soon given Fidel's failing health and advanced age.

"Cuba's perilous political transition to the post-Castro era. Journal of Latin American Studies" by LeoGrande (2015) elaborated that just after Fidel Castro's illness and retirement, Raul Castro was elected to the presidency. Since then, Cuba has undergone four significant transition process almost instantaneously: a change in the way the ruling elite makes decisions; a shift from a centrally planned to a socialist economic system; a loosening of strict social restrictions that gives civil society more social autonomy and even some political decompression; and a change from the founding generation to the current one.

"Cuba and the US Empire: A Chronological History" by Franklin (2016) wrote that The Cuban Revolution of 1959 is still regarded as one of the pivotal moments in modern history of politics. In addition to declaring independence from the colonial giant 90 miles away in the north, a little island that was formerly an unofficial colonial possession of the USA also did so from capitalist development. Globally unique and unusual are Cuba's numerous accomplishments in the fields of education, health, healthcare equipment, participatory democratic representation, and collectivism with the downtrodden.

3 Research Methodology

Research methodology gives legitimacy and keeps track of a research, it becomes important in a conduct of a research. It keeps the research detailed and effective. This research is qualitative in nature and has tried to find out the answers to the questions and objectives drawn in the text accordingly. Since research is systematic form of drawing out knowledge about a particular topic, the research methodology becomes a core tool of maintaining that research according to the norms of social sciences. Thus, this research is conducted according to the rules of social sciences.

3.1 Castro's Rise to Power

The Cuban Revolution began in the month of July in 1953, when Fidel Castro and 165 other individuals invaded the Moncada Barracks. They undertook this in the anticipation that it would spark a massive uprising against the administration of Batista (Dirks, 2022). They were, nevertheless, swiftly put down by the army of Cuba and either murdered or imprisoned. After being released from prison, Fidel Castro escaped to Mexico. Fidel and 80 fellow revolutionary rebels in 1956 sailed the Granma to Cuba from Mexico after three years (Prados Ortiz de Solórzano et al., 2020). The two Castro brothers, Raul and Fidel, Che Guevara, a very well-known revolutionary who took part in numerous uprisings throughout Latin America, along with Camilo Cienfuegos, one more famous Cuban rebel, were among the most noteworthy individuals on the ship which sailed to Cuba from Mexico (Colhoun, 2013).

In 1956, the Granma landed in Cuba. After disembarking, the revolutionaries headed to Cuba's Sierra Maestra Mountains to reassemble and contact other militants across the island. Because of the island's deplorable economic situation, the Cuban Revolution didn't start as a communist movement but instead as an endeavor to oust Batista and abolish all American influence of the territory. The policy which was prioritized by economy then shifted from Economic to Political in 1957. The Communist Party was the only significant political

party established in the nation when the Revolution finally ended its course in 1959 and Fidel Castro assumed power in the nation (Cushion, 2015).

The US-Cuba relationship underwent a significant change when Fidel Castro became Cuba's president (Kumah-Abiwu et al., 2020). Dwight Eisenhower was the American head of the State of USA at that point, and he proceeded to cut further links with Cuba throughout his term in office. As per Josh DeWind, the relationship between the Cuba and United States of America underwent an entire transformation between 1959 and 1962, going from the ties of singular intimacy that had distinguished the two nations' relations since the 19th century to being one of the most confrontational relationships in the foreign policy of United States of America that brought Washington to the verge of nuclear war in October of 1962 with its adversary USSR famously known as Cuban Missile Crisis. (DeWind & Segura, 2014).

In 1960, Castro nationalized all of the American businesses in Cuba without compensation. This led to the withdrawal of American diplomats from Havana and the end of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Which further disconnected two neighboring states. Then came the era of John F. Kennedy.

4. History of US Policy

4.1 Ties during John F. Kennedy Era

The United States and Cuba were already engaged in a difficult relationship when Kennedy took office in 1961. The military invasion of Cuba known as the *Bay of Pigs* was already planned prior to him being assumed the presidency. Ultimately, Kennedy gave his approval to the plot, and in April 1961, 1,400 Cuban exiled citizens living in the United States assaulted Playa Girón (Smith, 2015). The United States retreated Cuba three days afterward. The Bay of Pigs disaster altered the policy of USA towards Cuba to a certain degree, but the fundamental objective to topple Castro with his freshly appointed government—remains largely unchanged.

Kennedy then implemented the Cuban Embargo, which forbade "the entry into the United States of all items of Cuban origins and of all goods imported from or via Cuba," in February 1962 (Styron, 2016). The cause that was given by US government was that the current Cuban administration is said to be contrary with the principles and goals of the Inter-American structure (Harmer, 2019). In addition, the member nations were encouraged to implement whatever measures they deemed necessary for their own personal and collective self-defense in light of the subversive campaign of Sino-Soviet Communist system, with which the Cuban government is openly associated. This became another hallmark of contention between the USA and Cuba which only expended in the coming policies of USA.

4.2 Lyndon B. Johnson's Government

Now Kennedy government was gone and came the Lyndon Johnson administration which brought a major change in US policy towards Cuba. He enacted the Cuban Adjustment Act in 1966 (Lamrani 2015). This was later revised and given title of Wet Foot, Dry Foot Act, permitted Cubans who entered the United States to become citizens after just one year of being here (Styron, 2016). As it typically requires a not less than five-year period of residence in the United States of America, this provided Cuban immigrants a major edge. All the people who came from Cuba and entered the country after January 1, 1959, were promised permission to stay after a year, according to the CAA. This served as a political gesture against Cuba's

communist government in addition to serving as an encouragement. According to Salim Lamrani, the Cuban Adjustment Act was unusual in the world because it promoted illegal immigration and made the immigration debate a part of the nation's ideological struggle with Cuba (Lamrani 2015).

4.3 Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter's election as head of state in 1977 marked the beginning of the next fundamental shift in American foreign policy towards Cuba (Harmer, 2019). Since the Cuban revolution had ended, Carter made possible the first communication between Cuban and American officials (Smith, 2015). However, while Carter seemed more than prepared to strive to improve ties with Cuba, a number of obstacles still existed to the desired normalisation. One of the greatest difficulties was participation of Cuba in the African revolutionary movements. By the end of his time as president, Jimmy had only succeeded in establishing a small outpost of American ambassadors in Havana under the protection of the Swiss consulate.

4.4 Term of Ronald Reagan

As President Reagan initially took office, he wished to strengthen the stance against Cuba that have been in place (Wang, 2022). He wasn't able to implement the substantial improvements he sought to bring in the relations, nevertheless, because of the majority democrats in the House. Despite these differences, the Reagan administration was a crucial period in the rise of political force of Cuban Americans in the USA. Prominent Republican politicians have been targeting the groups of Cubans based in America as recently as 1980, claimed Mr. Patrick Haney and Walt Vanderbush (Wang, 2022). It happened particularly the case of those who belonged to the Conservative Right, whose worldview was similar to the conservatives that a number of Cubans based in America had previously displayed in their engagement with foreign policy concerns (Haney & Vanderbush 2005).

The Cuban American National Fund was founded during the administration of Reagan. Haney and Vanderbush, claim that CANF has been established under the massive impact of the administration of Reagan in an endeavor to effect revolutionary change in regards to Havana, regardless of the absence of support from the House of representatives (Wang, 2022). The unshakable dedication to bringing democracy, justice, and the protection of human rights to Havana is what defines CANF's objective. Its objective is to recognize autonomous society organizations activists as change agents and assist their initiatives to reconstruct and repair community of Cubans, a community which has endured decades of dictatorial oppression. We do this because we understand that transformation would originate from the inside.

Furthermore, CANF made financial contributions via PACs like Free Cuba. The significance of Cuban-Americans has grown since CANF was founded. The subject of the Cold War was one of Reagan's top priorities while formulating policies. Due to the tight relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, close ties of Cuba to the USSR only made matters between the two countries more difficult (Haney & Vanderbush 2005). Both the CANF and administration of Reagan believed that communist regimes in Central America and the Caribbean—both ones that have already gained control, like those in Nicaragua and Cuba, as well as those that may take office, like those in El Salvador—had to be actively resisted (Haney & Vanderbush, 2005). There were no substantial improvements to policy of USA towards

Cuba during Reagan's administration because Congress refused to back the radical changes Ronald intended to make.

4.5 George H.W. Bush

The Cold War was at last reaching its end when George H. W. Bush was elected president. The bulk of Cuban Americans were still strongly against Fidel Castro notwithstanding the conclusion of the Cold War. When Bush won his first election in 1988, the political power of Cuban Americans was very helpful to him. Close fundraising and political links of Bush to CANF may be used as support for those who wanted the United States of America to keep and perhaps even intensify and tighten – its blockade on Havana (Haney & Vanderbush, 2005).

Congress put up bill before the end of the administration of Bush that would fundamentally alter USA's foreign policy towards Cuba (Haney & Vanderbush 2005). There were two important shifts in the political climate that contributed to the passage of this legislation, known as the Cuban Democracy Act (CDA). The first shift would have been the perception that there was persistent dissatisfaction, particularly among members of Congress, with the George H.W. Bush Government's absence of a constructive approach to speed the collapse of the Castro dictatorship and to support a nonviolent, peaceful democratic transition. The other significant development at this stage was the growing influence of Cuban Americans in USA politics. This law also represented the expansion of a politically engaged Cuban American population, who collaborated with Congressperson Torricelli as well as other elected officials of congress on the bill (Fisk & Perez, 2010).

George H.W. Bush eventually signed the CDA into legislation in 1992 as a result of pressure applied to him throughout the campaign, particularly due to Clinton's backing of the CDA. When Clinton came into office, the CDA already had imposed a number of new limitations on the economic side of policy towards Cuba (Haney & Vanderbush 2005). These limitations included preventing cargos and ships from accessing American harbors for 180 days after docking in ports of Cuba. In accordance with the policy, nations that conduct business with Cuba run the risk of losing access to funds of USA. These two new legislations discouraged other nations from doing business with Havana by extending the trade blockade and embargo by United States of America to the global scale.

4.6 Term of Bill Clinton

Bush hesitated to lend his allegiance to the CDA when it was initially proposed. Yet, since the CDA had been introduced in an election year, choice of Bush to support the law ultimately depended heavily on the election's final result. Bush later had to modify his position on the strategy because of the policy of Bill Clinton to the CDA as well. Bill Clinton, a Democrat candidate for the presidency in 1992, expressed both his commitment to maintaining this policy and his intention to put even more pressures on the Cuban economy during in the election period for the presidency. Clinton supported the Cuban Democracy Act, which increased the trade blockade against Havana, as part of his campaign plan. Clinton was more than eager to speak out in favour of the CDA, in contrast to Bush, who during his time in office had been at least as passionate as the Reaganites in pursuing the interpersonal, territorial, and global economic warfare towards Cuba (Petras, 1996; Haney & Vanderbush 2005).

Support of Clinton for CDA was perhaps an indication that he wanted to increase the support of Cuban Americans and that he recognises their importance in the current political climate. Another significant piece of legislation, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, popularly known as the Helms-Burton Act, was passed under second term in the office of Clinton. Additional set of limitations on Havana was imposed in this law with the intention of toppling Fidel Castro. Clinton initially objected the legislation due to its potential to penalise foreign companies doing trade with Cuba, which infuriated American friends and trading associates (Leogrande, 1997). But Clinton ultimately decided to sign the Helms-Burton.

4.7 Term of George W. Bush

By the time he entered the presidential race, George W. Bush was well-connected to the Cuban American population. In Florida, where his brother Jeb Bush served as governor and George W. Bush sought to keep up the substantial proportion of Cuban voters who had traditionally supported the Republican Party, he maintained strong connections to many conservative Cubans (Leogrande, 1997). Bush collected roughly 115,000 dollars from Cuban Americans during his first run for office. (Haney & Vanderbush. 2005). Most of the approach of Bush to Cuba was largely influenced by the backing he got from this faction. He associated himself with more conservative Cubans than any head of state before him and recruited more Cuban Americans to high-ranking positions in the government (LeoGrande, 1997). Bush, same as his predecessors, maintained a firm stance on relations between USA and Cuba despite the chance for Congressional backing of lifting the Cuban Embargo.

Regardless of half a century of evidence to the contrary, foreign policy team of Bush had no interest in having a conversation with an administration they were hopeful they could overthrow. Instead, administration of Bush believed that increased economic pressure and assistance to Cuban dissidents would topple the government (LeoGrande, 1997). Bush's government failed to carry out any significant policy adjustments, but it did work to further impose restrictions on travel to Island. Approach of Bush included restricting traveling from the USA in attempt to prevent the transfer of actual dollars to the government of Cuba. Most of the adjustments made during the government of Bus were reducing so-called people-to-people traveling to Havana. Such licences, which President Clinton had started, allowed citizens of USA to visit Cuba for the purpose of cultural interaction. Bush finally abolished people-to-people visas in March of 2003.

4.8 Obama term in the Office

Elections are crucial for Cuban Americans Due to the persistent significance of Cuban-American PACs like the US-Cuba Democracy PAC and the significance of the Cuban-American vote during his first campaign, Obama had to be especially cautious in his approach to US-Cuba diplomacy. According to estimates, USCD spent more than 700,000 dollars in 2008 to elect the candidates for the federal level. During his presidential campaign, Barack maintained a properly calculated stance on Cuba strategy throughout his presidential election campaign, one that was supported by three main tenets: assistance for letting Cuban Americans to travel to and send cash to family members in Cuba, conscientiousness to more discussion with the government of Cuba, and ability to adhere towards the embargo of USA (Erikson, 2008).

When the result of elections of 2008 came, it suggested that attitudes about relations between USA and Cuba may vary by generation. Although John McCain retained the Republican majority among Cuban Americans with 65% of the votes, Barack Obama established a new mark for the Democratic presidential candidates with 35% of the votes. Obama received 55% of the votes among people under the thirty-year mark. Eventual willingness of Obama to change relations of USA and Cuba was also influenced by his popularity among Cuban voters.

4.9 First Term of Obama and US-Cuban policy

Obama thought that Bush had significantly cut off Washington from a number of other nations when he first became office. The War in Iraq, the more severe elements of US war against Terrorism, and the occasionally Solipsistic attitude of Bush in post September 11 statesmanship, in opinion of Obama, had offended too many foreign spectators and cut off too many international prospects and diplomatic ties. As a result, plan of Obama included stepping up diplomacy with both allies and adversaries during his first term at the office (Brands, 2018).

Relationships between the USA and Cuba gradually improved after Obama's election in 2008, including the easing of travel restrictions for family members and the opening of the country to remittance. This adjustment was a component of enhanced engagement of Obama with friends and adversaries equally foreign policy strategy. Nevertheless, it wasn't until second term of President Obama that the preponderance of improvements to policy of USA towards Cuba materialised.

4.10 Obama's Second Term

Earlier in 2014, while Obama was only beginning his second administration, he declared that he intended to normalise relations with the island nation. Because of the constantly shifting nature of the negotiations between the parties and the strong likelihood that a negotiated settlement would not be reached, the revelation was received with great scepticism. There were many reasons for the two nations to reach a deal at this time, with the possibility of growth in the economy in both Havana and USA ranking among the strongest. When Obama took office, the USA Chamber of Commerce had estimated that the ban was now costing approximately US\$1.2 billion annually to the export market of USA. On the reverse side, the government of Cuba asserts that since 1960, the blockade has caused their nation quite so much as \$116 billion (Shifter, 2015).

Cuba had experienced a number of reforms when Obama took office at the White House, making alterations to ties between USA and Cuba simpler and much more acceptable. Raul Castro formally took over as president of Cuba in 2008 after Fidel Castro formally ceded power to him in 2006 due to deteriorating health. Even after he departed the government, Fidel was a strong opponent of a new alliance with the United States. He had never been interested in engaging in negotiations with the United States. None should believe that the citizens of this honourable and compassionate nation will give up the greatness, the privileges, or the divine riches they have accrued as a result of the advancement of science, education, and culture, according to Fidel after visit of Obama to Cuba in 2016. He made this statement in an open letter that was published in the state newspaper (The Gránma) of Cuba. The negotiations went ahead regardless Fidel's objections because authority had already been handed to Raul and Fidel no longer had a significant influence over the Communist Party of Cuba.

President Raul Castro instituted significant improvements during his time in office, which encouraged the United States to re-evaluate its relationship with the island nation. When Raul took office in 2008, Cuba's private sector economy was established. This, together with improved internet connection on the entire island, made it possible for the United States to restart economic relations with the communist nation. The government of Obama was wagering that increased participation and openness, along with the infusion of American goods, tourism, and press, would eventually 'empower' people of Cuba and support a younger generation that is pushing for more extensive political and more importantly economic changes (Shifter, 2015).

Obama was very well informed that the Congress was the only body with the authority to end the blockade on Havana. Regardless of the fact, he argued that you ought to try something different if you have been doing the very same activity for fifty years with nothing having evolved. Afterwards, he also said engagement which includes improving ties between our administrations and expanding interactions between our peoples is the best approach to promote values and interests of the United States of America and assist the people of Cuba to improve their lives (Obama, 2016).

4.11 The original statement of changes

In December of 2014, Barak Obama made his initial formal remarks about the shifts in policy of USA towards Cuba. This occurred more than 2 years before any meaningful policy changes. Obama stated that rather than continuing with an antiquated strategy which has failed to serve our interests for many years, we would start to normalise ties between two neighbouring nations. By making these reforms, we hope to give the people of Cuba and USA additional chances and begin an entirely novel phase in relations between the two continents (United States, 2016). Obama brought up the matter of how the United States of America has maintained ties with some other communist nations like China.

4.12 Presidential Policy Implementation

Obama travelled to Cuba in March of 2016, 2 years after declaring his plans to normalise ties with Cuba, to better establish his position on such connections. Since 1928, no head of state had made a trip to the island before him. The visit predicted a significant shift United States policy towards Havana, and seven months afterwards, in October of 2016, Obama enacted the Presidential Policy Directive titled *United States-Cuba Normalization* into law. The directive stated that in accordance with the policy change, the United States will expand and support approved interactions with Cuba in order to deepen collaboration on issues of shared interest, as well as to boost travel to, trade with, and information flow to Havana (Obama, 2016).

The strategy identifies four primary objectives: stronger defense, improved economy of Cuba, expanded rights, and inclusion of Cuba in international and regional organisations. The restoration of the embassies in Cuba and Washington D.C., as well as discussions about police departments coordination, issues of regularity, fiscal situation, policy regarding telecommunications and internet, were among the initial steps defined under the strategy. After just over a year, normalisation of relations and visitation of Obama to Havana had already had a profound effect on travel to Cuba among Americans. Throughout this time, internet access in Cuba increased, and the number of USA citizens visiting the country grew increasingly important for the development of the island's commercial sector.

Private sector of Cuba has grown significantly since 2010. More than 500,000 people are recognised as working in the private sector in Cuba as of 2016, and 353,000 of such people are employed in the industry of services. Advantageous external factors will widen the consumers pool and boost company earnings and sales. One example is the spike in tourism of USA brought on by the easing of travel restrictions. (White, 2019).

Obama repealed the Wet Foot, Dry Foot Act in 2017 as a result of the policy shift and the warming of ties between the United States and Cuba. The law, which went into effect in 1996, permitted Cuban immigrants to submit an application for permanent residency 1 year after arrival, as opposite to the usual 5 years. Strategy of Obama specified modifications that ten different governmental institutions would carry out. These are listed below:

4.13 Trump's Cuba Policy

Following Castro's ascent to power following the Cuban Revolution, relations between USA and Cuba have never been more amicable when Donald Trump was elected as the President of USA in 2017. As Obama loosened travel restrictions, the Miami Herald reports that Cuba saw visits by Cuban Americans and other visitors of USA up by 34%, approximate total of 614,433 in 2016. Even more American visitors were anticipated to travel to and visit Cuba in the year 2017, with Boston Consultancy Firm even predicting that there would be over 2 million Americans travelling there to Cuba. According to Donald Trump's manifesto commitments, many believed that as Trump's administration came to a conclusion, there would be substantial improvements to the relations between USA and Cuba. Obama had used executive orders to carry out all of his policies, so Donald Trump, the next president, would find it easy to reverse the normalisation of ties (Whitefield, 2017).

4.14 The Elections and Role of Cuban Americans

Trump made a number of modifications during his campaign of 2016, the most of which were rolling back Obama-era regulations and policies. Position of Trump on Cuba was significantly influenced by a number of important variables, including the Republican primary candidate field. Because they were both Cuban-Americans and opposed to Castro, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz received fundings from the Cuban American society. With his steadfast support for overturning Cuban policy of Obama, Donald Trump had managed to win a projected 54% of the vote among Cuban Americans in the elections held in November of 2016 (DeSilver, 2018).

Considering that just 26% of non-Cuban Latino voters in Florida supported Trump, this was a sizable proportion in relation to the rest of the Latin electorate. Yet, when compared to the success of earlier Republican candidates in Florida's community of Cuban Americans, this proportion is rather small. Cuban Americans remained to back politicians that want to take a tough stance on Cuba, even though many Latin American voters were probably dissuaded from supporting Donald Trump owing to his comments throughout the campaigns. Although the new generation is beginning to reverse that, Cuban Americans remain to be a crucial voting bloc for Republican politicians such as Trump.

4.15 Trumps Original Statement

As promised, Trump declared in the June of 2016 that he intended to change policy of the USA regarding Cuba, particularly that of the prior government. In Miami, where more than 35% of the populace classifies as Cubans, he announced his decision. Trump utilized forceful

language during the statement, stating that "large number you experienced horrendous crimes done in support of an ideology that was sick. You witnessed the aspirations of previous generations being taken hostage, and you only need to glance at what transpired and what communist ideology accomplished" (Trump, 2017).

However, he voiced blunt criticism of Obama's approach, claiming that the previous government's loosening of trade and tourist limitations doesn't really serve the people of Cuba - these simply benefit the regime of Cuba. The military directly benefits from tourism and investments income. The government owns the businesses and takes the earnings. The administrative step performed by the prior government simply resulted in increased oppression and efforts to suppress the nonviolent, political movement. He also declared that he was scrapping the policy of prior government at this address (Trump, 2017).

4.16 Implementation of New Policy

The same day as his address in Miami, Trump unveiled his new strategy, which is titled as Strengthening the Policy of the United States Regarding Cuba. The basic memorandum was published that day, but the Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce were required to enact the significant revisions to the policy. Four key changes were outlined in the policy: greater adherence to laws of USA, such as the tourism and embargo restrictions; increased accountability for the Cuban government regarding persecution and violations of human rights overlooked under the policy of Obama; continued to increase national security and increased investments in the interests of US foreign policy; and empowerment of the people of Cuba in terms of political and economic independence (Trump, 2017).

Although reversing the prior government's approach in general, Trump continued to retain the repeal of the Wet Foot Dry Foot Act and some travel options to Cuba. The prior increase of traveling to Island was retracted by policy of Trump, but only for self-directed traveling that was done for purposes other than academic and educational. (Trump, 2017). It indicated that even if independent traveling was no longer permitted, Cuba travel permits were still issued for professional or academic study, as well as for one of the other 12 reasons listed above.

4.17 Cuban Policy of Joe Biden

Presidency campaign of Joe Biden during 2020 made an attempt to speak less as it could regarding Cuba because it believed that anything he said would cause him to lose support from Cuban Americans in south Florida without winning any somewhere else. But he was unable to completely avoid the subject. He criticised Cuba policy of Trump during his campaign in Miami, saying that it had harmed the people of Cuba while accomplishing anything to promote human rights and democracy. He pledged to in large part continue interaction strategy of Obama, eliminate the damaging restrictions imposed by the Trump administration on families of Cuba, allow Americans to travel to Cuba once again, and cooperate with the government of Cuba politically. The Biden campaign referred to the choice made by Trump to shut down the primary route for sending money to the island in the final weeks of the campaign as a cruel diversion that was refuting Cuban Americans an opportunity to support them and their families (Reuters, 2021).

Although making these commitments, Joe did not do anything to lift any of economic restrictions imposed by Trump during his first six months in office. Government

representatives just reiterated campaign talk themes when asked about Cuba. White House Media Assistant Jen Psaki stated in March 2021 that first, backing for human rights and democracy is going to be at the centre of our initiatives via enabling the people of Cuba to make decisions about their own destinies. The best advocates for prosperity and liberty in Havana are Americans, particularly Cuban Americans. She said that the policy was being reviewed but that it wasn't the president's primary priority. Ignoring Cuba was an aggressive tactic that seemed to have carried over into the current government of Joe Biden (Psaki, 2021).

Biden didn't appear to be in a rush to adopt Obama's policies, according to early indications. The government reiterated in May 2021 that Havana wasn't aiding American counter-terrorism initiatives, despite the lack of any concrete proof to substantiate this claim. The United States of America voted against the annual resolution urging the United States to end the embargo in the General Assembly of the United Nations the following month. Israel voted the lone dissenting ballot, making the final result 184-2. The bill was adopted by the UNGA every year from 1992 until 2016, during which time the United States chose to abstain.

4.18 Cuba after July 11 Incident

Cuba became a hot topic after the demonstrations on July 11 and raced to the forefront of agenda of president. Escape became no more a possibility when videos of Cubans yelling anti-government slogans and clashing with police went viral. In a brief statement on July 12, Biden advised the government of Cuba to listen to its people and meet their needs at this crucial time rather than benefiting themselves (Biden, 2021).

Republicans pressed the White House to take action beyond just comments. Biden was criticised by Senator Rubio for failing to act sufficient to support the protesters. Conservative Cuban Americans protested in front of the White House and disrupted traffic in Miami, calling for military intervention of America. Some people in Florida attempted to put together a group of small sailboats to travel to Cuba on behalf of the protesters, running the possibility of a violent confrontation with Cuban Border Guards. On the opposite side, liberal Democrats argued that the humanitarian crisis in Cuba was at least partially to blame for the turmoil there and asked Biden to remove sanctions to lessen the anguish of Cuban people.

Biden made an attempt to appease both factions in an address on July 22. Sen. Rubio had requested all of the new penalties in his letter to Vice President Biden written ten days prior to his announcement. On July 11, the president issued individual sanctions, also referred to as Global Magnitsky sanctions, against the Cuban minister of armed forces and a special forces unit of the interior ministry. Over the following few weeks, there were three further rounds of individual penalties against senior members of the ministry of interior, the armed forces, national law enforcement, and military policemen (Biden, 2021).

By blocking their property in the United States and denying them entrance, the Magnitsky sanctions, which are named after the Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky who passed away while in custody of the state, target human rights violators and corrupt individuals around the world. Since not one of the individuals listed had properties in the United States of America, the embargo would have halted them, and nobody was anticipated to be applying for visas, the Cuban restrictions were purely symbolic.

Because the government of Cuba had on July 11 stopped some social media apps in an effort to prevent the protests from spreading quickly, Biden also pledged to enhance assistance

for Cuban dissidents and look into options for offering Cubans Internet connectivity that is independent of the authorities. Republicans proposed a variety of solutions, from satellites to a potent WiFi hotspot at the American embassy or Guantánamo Naval Station to stratospheric balloons (Shepardson, 2021).

Biden ordered the formation of a Remittances Working Group to discover a means to send money to Cuban households while sending as little money as feasible to the government of Cuba in order to appease Democrats who wanted involvement. He said that the State Department was examining ways to securely re-staff the American embassy in Havana, that had been running with a minimal staff since 2017 because to the enigmatic injuries to American workers that have come to be characterised as the Havana Syndrome. Restaffing would make it possible to reopen the consular division for Cubans looking for immigration visas, which is a crucial step in lowering the likelihood of another migration catastrophe. By terminating consulate amenities, the administration of Trump denied the majority of Cubans a secure, authorised means of emigration.

Cubans received 90% fewer immigrant visas throughout the Trump administration. Cubans attempting to traverse the Florida Straits on handmade rafts and small boats increased significantly in the first half of 2021 as the country's economy worsened, according to Coast Guard of the United States of America. Biden had designated the Cuban community as a vital partner of the US society and the foremost specialists on the issue since July 11, calling Cuban Americans the best experts on the issue. On July 19, at Sen. Menendez's recommendation, and following several prior meetings with Cuban Americans by White House officials, Biden met with nine important members of the community and pledged to "make sure that their voices are heard and elevated at each stage of the process" (Biden, 2021). An exiled group hasn't had this much influence over foreign policy of the USA since the China Lobby controlled it in East Asia. Cuban authorities were particularly incensed by the Biden administration's choice to base their approach to the country on domestic politics because they believed that practise had ceased with decision of Obama to normalise relationships.

5. Conclusion

The history of the USA and Cuba is filled with many events and happenings. The policy of the United States towards Cuba has always been strict somehow if not soft. Ever since the dawn of 20th century and Cuban Independence, the USA tried to keep its influence over the Island and kept it under its sphere of control. But things started to change with arrival of Fidel Castro in the Cuban politics and eventually in power. Castro led Cuba towards communism and maintained absolute control over the nation. This opened another chapter in the relations between the USA and Cuba. The USA kept tightening its grip over the island via means like embargo, involvement in the national politics of Cuba. Incident of 1962 better known as Cuban missile crisis set course of the US strict policy towards Cuba after the 2nd world war. Many presidents came and completed their terms in Oval Office but the US policy remained same towards Cuba until arrival of Barak Obama as the president of the USA. He relaxed up strict policy of the USA towards Cuba and brought many fundamental changes in the policy. He reopened US embassy in Havana and assigned many States departments with different takes regarding Cuba.

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