

# **Change and Continuity in Cuban Diplomacy after 2008**

**Paper presented**

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# Purposes of Cuban Diplomacy

- \* Independence, sovereignty, security & self-determination.
- \* Economic & Social Development. Prosperity & Sustainability.
- \* Promote a fair international order without hegemonies.
- \* Project the cultural & political values of Cubans.
- \* Stability, Peace, Prosperity.
- \* Substantial continuities.
- \* Less antagonistic & more pragmatist, oriented towards the economy

# Cuba and the United States

- \* Three Permanent factors before 1959:
  - \* Closeness & Asymmetry.
  - \* Transcultural influences.
  - \* History & contradictions.
- \* Three strategies: redesign, resistance, defiance.
- \* ¿What changed from Bush to Obama?
- \* Raúl: a more civilized relationship & learn to mutually respect each other.
- \* The migratory factor: Law & reality.
- \* ¿What does this mean?

# Cuba & Latin America & the Caribbean

- \* The importance of Latin America & the Caribbean for Cuba.
- \* From OLAS (1965) to CELAC (2014). Two strategies.
- \* The context: The Pink Tides and the desire for autonomy.
- \* The two options: Venezuela & Brazil.
- \* Latin American & Caribbean integration: CELAC & ALBA.
- \* The Latin American & Caribbean factor in the Cuba-USA relationship: A dynamic triangle.

# Cuba & the World: Anti-hegemonic pragmatism

- \* Strategic partners:
  - \* China,
  - \* Russia,
  - \* South Africa,
  - \* Angola.
- \* South-South Cooperation. Medical Diplomacy.
- \* International organizations: NAM.
- \* The new: The case of a vote at the UNGA on an amendment with homophobic bias presented by traditional allies of Cuba. ¿Voting with the US in response to domestic demands?
- \* The old: Cuba & the Ukrainian crisis.

# Policy towards U.S. allies

- \* The two perspectives: main trade partners or American “hunting dogs”.
- \* The Canadian case and its success.
- \* The European Union as a problem.
  - \* The peculiarities of European attitudes towards Cuba. Western Europe (economic importance). The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
  - \* The long road towards an agreement.
  - \* Two previous attempts: 1995 & 2003.
  - \* The New stage and its logic: 4 factors.

# Challenges

- \* The updating of the economic system has to succeed in a relatively short time.
- \* Cuba has to achieve a situation of non dependence on external factors. The Venezuelan case.
- \* Taking the relationship with certain allies (China, Russia, Brazil) to a new level.
- \* Negotiating the cooperation agreement with the European Union in the best possible economic terms.
- \* Continuing an adequate level of insertion in LATAMCAR as a valid player and powerbroker.
- \* Maintaining its activism in the Third World.
- \* Managing the eventual normalization of relations with the US.