



BILDNER CENTER

FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE STUDIES

Colloquium

Session 3

Cuba and the World: The External Sector

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

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Change and Continuity in Cuban Diplomacy after 2008

Paper presented

**By Ambassador Carlos Alzugaray (PhD) at the
Colloquium**

**“The Cuban Economy: Recent Trends and
Developments”**

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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 protagonistic & 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.