

THE POLITICAL VOICE

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La Habana Vieja

AMERICAN IN HAVANA

Visiting Family in the Cuban Capital City

by Alec Puig

Let it be clear that these ears have heard all the stories about the island, the government, and the people; yet, my fears of the unknown were still very much alive as I got off my charter flight in Havana, Cuba. Jose Marti International was small, but that was to be expected of an impoverished nation, What I did not expect, however, was how well painted and decorated the inside of the building was. "Maybe Cuba is not as bad as people make it out to be," I dared to consider. Sure enough, it soon became apparent that even though Cuba was open to tourism, it was nothing more than a façade cloaking the reality of tyranny and poverty.

I exited the airport lugging six army bags filled with food, clothes, and medicine then I laid my eyes upon my cousins and their families, whom I could only recognize from the photos and rare phone calls we previously shared. Before I could really say anything, I was smothered by their hugs and their kisses. By the time I was released, my shoulders were wet

with their tears and I knew I could never forget them or that moment. I will not address any of my relatives by name to be sure that their safety and livelihood will not be endangered,

We rented a van for the week and began by visiting the childhood home of my grandfather and grandmother. Immediately outside of the airport, we witnessed

our first of many examples of propaganda – a billboard commemorating the 52nd anniversary of La Revolución. My grandfather sarcastically laughed, "They knew we were coming so they wanted to congratulate us." From then on, I sat in amazement at the way my grandparents could name the streets and neighborhoods of the past as if they had never left.

The vast majority of the homes and apartments in Havana were constructed in a Spanish neoclassical style and were usually only separated by a shared wall. Sadly, decades of decay and neglect have left the buildings and infrastructure of Havana in shambles. Some of the buildings had fractured columns barely supporting the anterior portion of the upper floors and trenches along the sidewalks drained raw sewage off the roads for those without plumbing.

Before going to dinner, we came back to my cousin's apartment in the Santo Suarez neighborhood, and

I showed my little cousins my iPhone to play with. I wouldn't see it again until the morning of our departure. We treated our family to dinner at a Spanish restaurant and had dessert at the national ice cream shop, Coppelía, named after a French ballet from the late 1800s. The line stretched from the entrance of the building to the street and around the corner, but we were served immediately. In Cuba, there are two currencies; the peso and the convertible peso. The peso or "la moneda nacional" (translated as the national currency) is what Cuban workers are paid with, while the convertible peso or "el chavito" (informal name) is pegged to \$1.08 U.S. and is the only currency tourists can use. The chavito is approximately 25 times more valuable than the peso. My cousin, a surgeon and cardiologist, normally makes 20 pesos a day. We had chavitos, so we were told to skip the enormous line and be served at a separate area guarded by a policeman, which we did fraught with guilt.

The next morning I decided to bathe, but was mildly shocked when I attempted to move the showerhead. Poverty and lack of materials have made Cubans master engineers. There is no other explanation as to why cars from the 1940s still run, U.S. cable television can be illegally installed, and the shower head has an electric current running through it. Afterwards, my cousin, who's a surgeon, and I went to purchase cigars at the historic Partagás Royal Tobacco Factory (the chavito was the only currency accepted). We were given VIP treatment because my cousin's mother-in-law had worked for the store owner. Dressed in an Italian suit and wearing a Rolex, the owner brought me into a back room where we drank Cuban coffee, had a cigar, and talked politics in Spanglish. This man had stores around the world including two in Miami and had photos of himself with Steven Spielberg, Jack Nicholson, Danny Glover, Whoopi Goldberg, and Matt Dillon all in the very same room we were in. Midway through our conversation, he said something that effectively summarized the economic nature of the so-called Cuban Republic, "Everyone who works for me and buys from me must understand one basic rule. Outside of these doors communism prevails, but once you step foot into my business communism doesn't exist – we're capitalists." It seemed to me at that point that Cuba was neither truly communist nor capitalist but rather a mixed economy of corruption, aristocracy, and dictatorship not much different than pre-Castro Cuba.

Finally, after begging and pleading for most of the week, we went to see the public hospital where my cousin works. I had heard about Cuba's prestigious health-care system and I had watched Michael Moore's *Sicko*, so naturally I wanted to witness the facilities for myself. The hospital we entered was called La Beneficiencia (The Charity) and was, at night, almost reminiscent of a horror film. There were spots of dried blood on the floor, the halls were dimly lit, and we were informed that the elevator used to transport patients in stretchers had fallen



Hospital room at La Beneficiencia

on multiple occasions. The mattresses were nothing but dirty foam pads. The toilets lacked seats or working plumbing. Disposable medical equipment was not incinerated or designated as biohazard either. I have no doubt that Cuba possesses some of the best hospitals in the world, considering medical tourism is a multimillion dollar a year enterprise for the island, but from what I witnessed, it was obvious that the same resources are not being allocated to the masses.

The rest of the trip comprised mainly of sightseeing and visiting the childhood friends of my grandparents. We wet our feet in the clearest water I had ever seen at a beach called Santa Maria del Mar and visited La Habana Vieja (Old Havana). La Habana Vieja was absolutely beautiful, with colorful buildings, cathedrals, fortresses, and cobblestone roads all left by the Spanish; a testament to what Havana looked like prior to dictatorship and embargo. It was restored as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and remains the hub of tour-

ism in the city. The second-to-last night in Cuba we visited my grandfather's best friend growing up. The neighborhood in which this man and his family lived was noticeably nicer than the conditions our cousins were living in. As I would discover when I entered the man's house, it was a neighborhood reserved for high-ranking party members. Although the situation was visibly awkward, it was great to see my grandfather reminisce about his life in Cuba without the interference of ideology.

The final day before our departure we spent the entire night talking, hoping to delay time's steady advance, but when the sun came up, it was time to say the hardest goodbye of my life. Within a week, I grew to love the family I never knew and as we parted I couldn't keep myself from thinking that my fears had come true. I would now continue to take for granted my freedoms and my blessings while my family would continue suffer under the firm grip of oppression.



THE BALKANS TODAY

by Dino Jahic

I knew that a trip back to Bosnia, the country I was born in, was imminent. When that time came this past summer, I braced myself for what I was about to see, knowing that the country changed drastically in the past several decades.

After Marshal Josip Broz Tito's death in 1980, there was no true leader to suppress the ever-increasing ethnic tensions within Yugoslavia. Finally, starting with Slovenia in 1990 and then Croatia in 1991, the states within Yugoslavia declared independence. The ethnic tensions reached the boiling point when the ethnically diverse Bosnia-Herzegovina declared independence and the territorial war broke out, with Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs all claiming a stake in the country. Since the end of the war in 1996, the entire region, particularly Bosnia, is struggling with democratization.

My visit to Bosnia was mostly spent in the capital city of Sarajevo. The political and economic struggles were extremely evident, even an outsider. I met with an old friend of mine, Adnan, who lives in Sarajevo and he filled me in about the more complex inner workings of the political system and economy in Bosnia. As we talked, all of my preconceived notions about the current situation in the state were confirmed. Almost all of the money that the country earns goes to rebuilding and modernizing Sarajevo, with little to none going to the other cities and rural areas. For those travelers visiting from the more developed Western states, living in Bosnia is relatively cheap. Food and travel is inexpensive compared to the United

States. The bakeries sell ten bread sticks for one Bosnian Mark, or about 70 cents. The one exception is the sale of commercial brands of goods such as clothes, electronics, and cars, which are more expensive in Bosnia than in the Western states. The average salary per citizens that lives in Bosnia ranges from 500 to 600 Marks per month. This is not nearly enough to afford the expensive commercial goods, but only enough to meet the necessary needs for living. For many of these people, the "piazza," or a flea market-type square, is a source for cheaper goods that would otherwise be too expensive for them to purchase. The current level of employment is low because many of the industries, especially factories, were destroyed

during the war and have not been rebuilt. Thus, Bosnia does not produce many domestic goods, which means it has to import more goods than it exports.

The political system in Bosnia is quite a unique structure. Since the Dayton Accords, the country was politically split into two sides: the Federation, consisting of Croats and Bosnians, and the Republika Srpska, consisting of the Bosnian Serbs. The state has three presidents, one for each ethnic group that is populated in certain parts of the country. Even 15 years after the war, the voters in the country largely vote for the Parliamentary candidates that are of their same ethnic group to represent them, deepening the ethnic divisions instead of uniting the people. Corruption within the government is rampant and does not seem to be waning. As my friend Adnan said, during the most recent elections, a politician approached him and bluntly asked to buy his vote. As many of the citizens in Bosnia want to unite the country and progress towards possible European Union accession, the older government officials continue to hinder the progress, while the Republika Srpska politicians seek secession from the state.

Many people believe that the transition from a socialist to a democratic state is the beginning of great times ahead for a country. However, times are tough in Bosnia at the moment. The time I spent there with family and old friends was great and enlightening. I am convinced that change is occurring and the country's younger, more creative minds and their values are making a significant impact in their society.

THE DEADLIEST TRIBE

by Edgar Rodriguez

In recent years, Mexico has been torn apart by violent drug cartels that routinely kill anyone that stands in their way. The most dangerous of these alliances is the infamous Los Zetas cartel. The cartel's acts of violence are well known in Mexico. Decapitated heads and hanged victims are typical scenes in areas where Los Zetas is active. Most cities and towns can no longer maintain effective police forces, because few people are willing to do the job, lest they be the next victims. The situation has gotten so violent that many civilians have fled Mexico as refugees, making many cities ghost towns.

The only Mexican officials that have been able to hold their ground against Los Zetas are the Mexican army, and even that is in debate. U.S. officials have also been victims of Los Zeta violence. The El Paso Times reported that Los Zetas is strongly suspected of attacking two ICE agents, Victor Avila and Jamie Zapata, on February 15. Avila survived the attack, but Zapata died of his wounds. The Los Zetas' threat even extends to U.S. oil interests. Last December, the "Center for a New Security," a Washington D.C. think tank, reported on their "Natural Security" blog that Los Zetas has stolen \$1 billion worth of oil from Mexican oil companies over the last two years, a serious matter considering that Mexico is the second largest supplier of oil to the United States.

What makes Los Zetas unique from the other drug cartels in Mexico is that all of its founding members were once part of the Mexican Army Special Forces. In an attempt to combat rival cartels, the Gulf Cartel recruited members of the elite Mexican Special Forces group, Grupo Aeromóvil de Fuerzas Especiales (GAFE) to provide protection and engage in offensive operations. The most influential member that the Gulf cartel recruited was army lieutenant Arturo Decena. When Decena deserted the army, he convinced thirty other GAFE members to go with him. It was these men that formed Los Zetas. However, Decena's success as a cartel leader was short lived—in 2002, a rival cartel member killed Decena in the city of Matamoros, as reported by The Brownsville Herald. After Decena's death, leadership of Los Zetas was passed down to his second in command, Heriberto Lazcano, who is still at large.

Originally, Los Zetas members were only supposed to be enforcers for the Gulf Cartel. All that changed in 2003 when the Gulf Cartel's boss was arrested by Mexican police. The Gulf Cartel, weakened and off balance,

saw no choice but to work in collaboration with Los Zetas, increasingly letting Los Zetas take a more active role in cartel operations. Having already gained a fearsome reputation through its exploits, Los Zetas welcomed the chance for greater profits and power. As it became more successful, Los Zetas continued to grow as an organization. In expanding, they not only recruited deserters from the army, but also criminals, corrupt law enforcement officers and even mercenaries from other parts of Latin America. The variety of weapons Los Zetas has access to is also extensive. In 2008, "the Foreign Policy Research Institute" reported on its website the weapons Los Zetas has include "AR-15 and AK-47 assault rifles, MP5s submachine guns, 50-mm machine guns, grenade launchers, ground-to-air missiles, dynamite, bazookas, and helicopters." The Brownsville Herald recently interviewed a Los Zetas defector who went by the fake name "Antonio." In the interview, he regretfully described the horrific details of life within Los Zetas, at one point stating that he is personally responsible for the murders of 32 people, stating later "I am only here by the grace of God."

While the Mexican government has used tough tactics against Los Zetas, the cartel still maintains de facto control over several parts of Mexico. It is still unclear why the founding members of Los Zetas decided to turn to a life of crime. Many say they simply did it for money. However, this makes little sense. Given the accomplices' high level of expertise and training, they could have easily taken well-paying jobs in the security industry, while maintaining a reputable life. Considering that many of the original members have been killed, no one will ever likely know why they betrayed their country. Whatever the reasons, the pain and suffering they have caused Mexican citizens will remain a legacy of that betrayal.





DON'T PANIC

by Jeff Ablos

Within the United States, the rise of China is seen as an alarming threat by some and as a beacon for progress by others. There is ample support for both opinions. The alarmist opinion is supported by the fact that the Chinese military, the PLA, takes a continually cold stance toward improving relations with the United States. Along with this, recent Chinese inroads into anti-ship and anti-satellite missile technology worry U.S. military strategists who fear a loss of America's supremacy in the west Pacific. Not everything done by the Chinese emits an aggressive stance though. China has entered both the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the World Trade Organization within the last two decades, displaying hope for a China which settles its problems through cooperation rather than strong-armed power politics. Their level of commitment to these international institutions is yet to be determined.

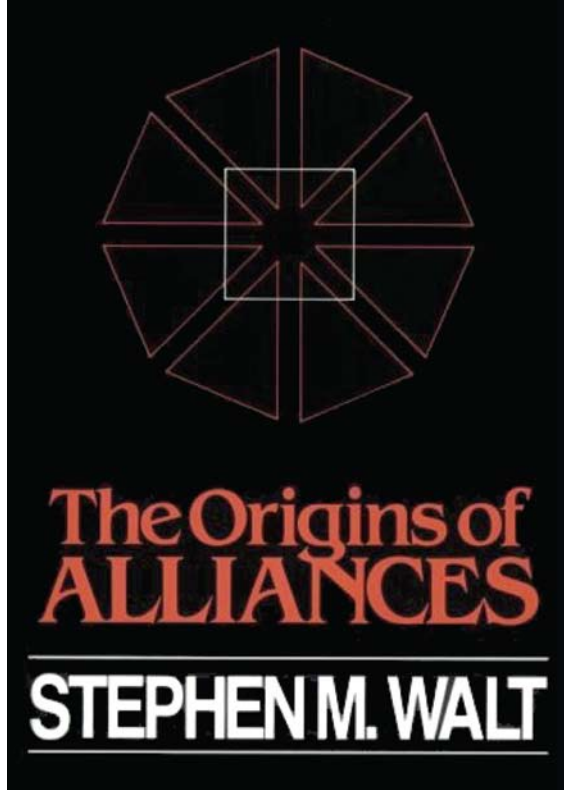
Chinese fears of American hegemony are not entirely unfounded. The United States' defensive agreements with Japan are a serious source of tension, especially when combined with the issue of the contested Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. The Senkaku Islands were the source of new conflict just this last year between China and Japan. Although the United States affirms that the islands are outside of their defensive agreements with Japan, China

surely must worry about the level of aggression the United States will permit in the west Pacific as China flexes its new muscles. America's continued support for Taiwan, including continuing arms sales, also angers a China who still sees the separation of the island from mainland domination as illegitimate.

China's economy has seen massive growth for several decades, much of which has been channeled into in-

creasingly efficient military spending. Economists are indecisive about whether such economic growth can be sustained. Some think that Chinese economic growth will eventually reach a leveling point, or at least a more horizontal growth pattern, at which the current levels of increasing Chinese military expenditure will be unsustainable.

What is occurring in the west Pacific -- from incidents with Japanese fishing boats to increased military posturing -- is merely an emerging power flexing its new muscles. It is akin to a young United States asserting its sphere of influence in the Americas. This is not to say that American policy makers should not pay careful attention to what China does. China is an essential part of the global economy and can affect it drastically if it wishes. Neither leaders in China nor America want another conflict in the Pacific. With the threat of nuclear weapons present on both sides, it is important that political posturing, possibly fueled by hardliners within the Chinese ruling elite, not be seen as foreshadowing looming conflict. The United States must walk a fine line between maintaining a strong presence in the west Pacific to ensure its interests and rustling the feathers of an emerging China.



BOOK REVIEW: **THE ORIGIN OF ALLIANCES** **STEPHEN M. WALT**

reviewed by Tiffany Miles

If you're an international relations student looking to get a well-rounded understanding of the field, *The Origins of Alliances* by Stephen M. Walt is a must read. Packed with analysis and detailed examples, his book will greatly broaden your understanding of foreign relations. "Balancing versus bandwagoning." -- ever heard of these terms? If you've heard of the author in any previous context then you surely have. Walt purports his theory that "states seek to form alliances with other states, in response to international threats." In other words, he manipulates the traditional "balance of power" theory to a "balance of threat theory," claiming that states do not align or end alliances because of power struggles, but rather in order to protect their nations' interests.

With his arguments elegantly laid out, Walt goes on to explain why a state "chooses their friends." Foundationally, this book is imperative to understanding foreign relations, as many political scientists like Fareed Zakaria and Jack Snyder

have either strongly agreed or openly disputed his arguments. The chapters following his overarching theory of balancing versus bandwagoning provide a well written historical and political perspective of Middle Eastern countries, citing key reasons as to why some countries are no longer in existence, and how others experienced times of great power. You'll learn about past world leaders like Gamal Abdul Nasser, the Hashemite Dynasty, the historically and modern day significant Ba'ath Islamic Party, and everything in-between.

Reading *The Origins of Alliances* is much like unfolding a murder mystery: as you keep reading, you almost won't believe these events happened. So whether you're just beginning to learn about international relations or are already well versed in it, *The Origins of Alliances* is a must read. Approach with a highlighter in hand and you'll be surprised by how much you learn.

GET INVOLVED

by Laura Mutis

Are you looking for an internship?
Here are a few links to get you started:

THE WASHINGTON CENTER

Competitive Deadline: May 02, 2011

Regular Deadline: June 10, 2011

Website: www.twc.edu

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE

Fall Deadline: April 29th, 2011

Website: www.chci.org/internships

PROWORLD SERVICE CORPS

Deadline: Varies based on the destination country—Peru, Mexico, Ghana, or India

Website: www.myproworld.org/internships

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE?

by Trevor Myers

Whether you're just beginning or graduating this spring, earning a degree in Political Science will open doors for you regardless of your area of concentration. However, a lot of political science majors find themselves questioning exactly what they want to do after they graduate. According to the Princeton Review, political science is the ninth most popular major in the United States and one of the top three majors among Law School applicants (in addition to English and Liberal Arts). The objective of this article is to highlight some of the most popular post-graduate options among political science undergraduates so that you have a better idea of the direction you want to go.

Law School

Law School gives students who have earned an undergraduate degree the chance to obtain a professional education in law by earning either a Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.), Master of Laws (LL.M.), or Doctor of Juridical Sciences (J.S.D.). Admission into Law School can be quite competitive with most schools requiring a Bachelor's degree, satisfying grade point average,

Typically, the first year curriculum of law school delves into topics such as Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Legal Writing, just to name a few. In 2008, approximately 142,000 students were enrolled in a J.D. program at the 199 ABA-accredited schools. So if you are thinking about going to law school, you are probably wondering when is the best time to take the LSAT and apply? According to the website Moststronglysupported.com,

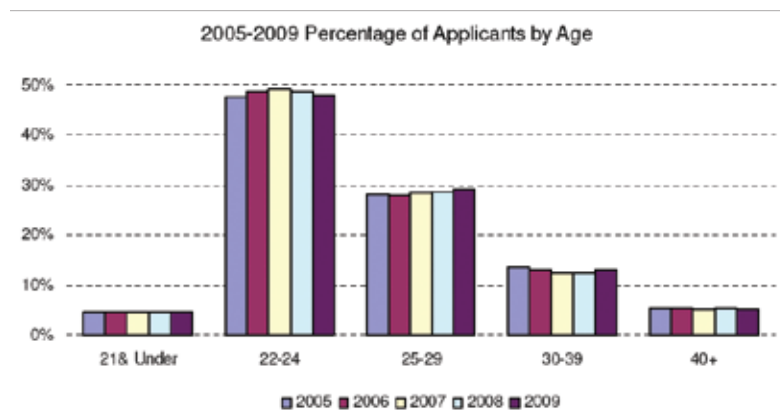


Figure 1. Courtesy of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC)

and favorable LSAT score; not to mention letters of recommendation and law-related internships that greatly contribute to one's application. Currently, the American Bar Association recognizes around 199 law schools as ABA-accredited, meaning that in order to sit for the Bar Exam, most state bar associations require that you attend an accredited school.

most law schools work on a rolling admissions process so in order to increase the chances of being accepted into the law school of your choice, it is best to submit all your materials before the application deadline (around sixty percent of applicants submit their applications a couple days before or the day of the deadline).

Graduate School

For students wanting to focus more on a particular concentration of political science or perhaps have an interest in conducting research, a Masters or Ph.D. program might be a better option. Graduate Schools that focus on International Relations/Affairs, such as Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies offer intensive two-year degrees and Ph.D. programs that focus on International Relations, economics, a specific area of study and a language chosen by the student. Most graduate schools in International Relations prefer that applicants have real world experience, considering the median age of students is around 27.

In addition, graduate schools in Public Policy (e.g. University of California-Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy) allow students to concentrate on policy studies, political economy, public administration and urban planning while earning a variety of Master's and Doctorate degrees. Most graduate schools require the GRE, in addition to application essays and letters of recommendation. It also wouldn't hurt to have experience conducting research at some point during your undergrad in the area of your interest.

Business School

Approximately 33 percent of political science majors find themselves working in the business world. According to rubabataineh.com, social science majors are attractive to business because their liberal arts education and skills in analysis and communication mean not only do they have a well-rounded set of skills, but they are also quick to adapt to future changes. The common misconception about graduate business schools is that you must have majored in a business discipline during your undergraduate. Wrong. In fact, roughly 25 percent of business school applicants majored in the social sciences or humanities. Graduate business schools offer masters of Business administration (MBA) in all disciplines in business ranging from Finance to marketing, in addition to Ph.D. programs. Most business schools recommend experience in the work force (average of 2-4 years), high GMAT scores, and letters of recommendation.



Alternative Options

A good percentage of political science majors prefer to skip or put graduate school on hold to begin a commitment with the Peace Corps, Teach For America, or another organization that seeks to better the local, national, or global community. The Peace Corps is a volunteer agency run by the United States Government that usually sends college-educated American citizens abroad for a two-year commitment to work with foreign governments, schools, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations, or non-profit organizations. The mission of the Peace Corps is to provide technical assistance, help people outside the United States to understand U.S. culture, and help Americans understand the cultures of other countries.

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER STATISTICS (source: peacecorps.gov)

Volunteers by Work Area

- Education: 37%
- Health & HIV/AIDS: 22%
- Business Development: 14%
- Environment: 13%
- Agriculture: 4%
- Youth Development: 5%
- Other: 5%

Where Volunteers Serve

- Africa: 37%
- Latin America: 24%
- Eastern Europe/Central Asia: 21%
- Asia: 7%
- The Caribbean: 5%
- North Africa/Middle East: 4%
- Pacific Islands: 3%

If you do not want to leave the US or would prefer to focus on domestic development, Teach For America is a non-profit organization that recruits promising individuals for two-year teaching commitments in low-income communities throughout the United States to eliminate education inequality. According to their website, the goal of Teach For America is for its members not only to make a short-term impact on their students, but also to become lifelong leaders in pursuing educational equality.

Political science majors have plenty of options after graduation. If graduate school isn't in your cards, maybe a community service commitment or the work force is. Overall, political scientists share a common goal of wanting to make a difference in the world and with a major that is far from one-sided, the opportunities are limitless.



LITERATURE & UNDERDEVELOPMENT

by Lauren Parater

According to the well-known United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 22,000 children die each day due to poverty and they "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on Earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death." 1 With over eighty-percent of the world living on under \$10 a day, it is hard to deny that underdevelopment isn't an issue at the forefront of international anxieties. The question of why countries do or do not develop is a constant debate within the realm of political science. Many authors often discuss why such underdevelopment occurs but never expand on how to truly fix or even relieve the disconcerting numbers that accompany underdevelopment.

A number of authors attempt to explain the reasons behind development. Beginning with Oscar Lewis whose concept of a "culture of poverty" is exemplified in *A Study of Slum Culture: Background for La Vida*. Lewis explains that living in a culture of poverty enables the people of a society to limit themselves and in turn prevent development or modernization within their culture. The culture of poverty can transpire in a number of contexts but Lewis singularizes the conditions where the culture of poverty tends to generally flourish and thus limits people's social and economic mobility in the long run. The set of conditions set out are: "1) a cash economy, wage labor and production for profit; 2) a persistently high

rate of unemployment and underemployment for unskilled labor; 3) low wages; 4) failure to provide social, political and economic organization for the low-income population; 5) the existence of a bilateral kinship system rather than a unilateral one and 6) the existence in the dominant class of a set of values that stresses the accumulation of wealth and property and thrift and explains low economic status as the result of personal inadequacy" (Lewis 1968: pg 111). This culture often extends its effects through generations, creating a continuing system of poverty and feelings of inferiority within society. Development of the culture of poverty often develops during the breakdown or replacement of a social or economic

system or during rapid change in technology or general advancement (Lewis 1969: pg 111). The concept may be studied from various points of view: "the relationship between the subculture and larger society; the nature of the slum community; the nature of the family; and the attitudes, values, and character structure of the individual," (Lewis 1969: pg 112). Conditions surrounding the culture of poverty often are the explanations behind the lack of participation in the major institutions of society made by the people of the culture of poverty. This subculture develops mechanisms which tend to perpetuate and create a persistence of the subculture, making it difficult for members to escape this frustration and exploitation of the poor. Lewis suggests that it is easier for one to try and eliminate poverty, while the culture of poverty is a much harder eradicate from society. The perpetuity of this culture within society is one way to view underdeveloped cultures

The perpetuity of underdevelopment as a whole in a global context is better explained by the dependency theory, a concept developed around the idea that less-developed nations share dependent on wealthier nations where they are often exploited and held within an inescapable realm of poverty and underdevelopment. The dependency theory offers a logical and direct way of explaining why underdevelopment occurs in the world, and why specific parts of the world suffer more. With wealthier nations using methods associated with impe-

rialism and authority, they can literally entrap and lock poorer nations at the very bottom of the global economy specifically by exploiting their resources. Gunder Frank suggests that while “capitalism produces wealth and furthers development in the “core” countries, it creates poverty and underdevelopment in the “satellite” countries,” (Gunder Frank 1969: pg 159). While theorists often speculate that it is simply the outdated institutions and lack of revenue that isolate these undeveloped countries, Gunder Frank advocates that the same historical capitalist process which stimulates development in some countries, ultimately impedes any such process of true development within other regions of the world. Another hypothesis proposed in the article is that “satellites experience their greatest economic development and especially their most classically capitalist industrial development if and when their ties to their metropolis are the weakest,” (Gunder Frank 1969: pg 164). This hypothesis appears to be confirmed when one examines the two different instances of isolation that Latin America has experienced from its metropolis. Although while development began within these Latin American areas, once the metropolis has recovered and initiates trade and relations with their satellite, the development seen within the satellite country is quickly “choked off” and “reversed” and thus “channeled into directions which are not self-perpetuating and promising,” (Gunder Frank 1969: pg 165). A third hypothesis regarding the metropolis-satellite relationship is the concept that “the regions which are the most underdeveloped and feudal-seeming today are the ones which has the closest ties to the metropolis in the past,” (Gunder Frank 1969: pg 166). Gunder Frank exemplifies this relationship in the evidence surrounding the former “super satellites” and present “ultra underdevelopment of the once sugar-exporting West Indies, Northeastern Brazil, the ex-mining districts of Minas Gerais in Brazil, highland Peru and Bolivia, etc.” (Gunder Frank 1969: pg 166). It is hard to deny the relationship of the metropolis-satellite system and the uneven development throughout history between the two. While the dependency theory is not the only explanation of underdevelopment among nations, it extends a strong correlation based on the exploitation and perpetuity of impoverished societies.

Focusing again on the idea that exploitation of people and resources plays a role in the continuity of underdevelopment, Fernando Henrique Cardoso explores the role of imperialism tactics within unfledged societies. Cardoso elaborates on the consequences of imperialism with respect to dependent economies and finds that “inequality among nations and economies results from imperialism’s development to the extent that import of raw materials and export of manufactured goods were the bases of imperialist-colonial relationship,” (Cardoso 1972: pg 171). The repetition of this inequality between economies developed because of this metropolis-satellite



lite system and the actual process of capitalism. Imperialism in turn restricts basic economic growth of “backwards countries” to mineral and agricultural sectors because it was the elite of the metropolis who controlled the “patterns of exploitation” (Cardoso 1972: pg 171). Cardoso’s main point of relevance is that imperialist profit was based on “unequal trade and financial exploitation” (Cardoso 1972: pg 171). Cardoso’s expansion on the capitalist pattern of development leads to the conclusions that “internal fragmentation and inequalities, values related to national integrity and social participation might be transformed into instruments of political struggle” (Cardoso 1972: pg 178).

There is a level of ignorance for one to suggest that it is a culture which is the true cause of underdevelopment or the nonsensical idea that “one is poor because he or she wants to be poor”. International systems, relations between nations, imperialism and dependence are the true causes behind the lack of development and equality found within society today. By evaluating the histories of imperialist nations and colonized regions, one can correlate the lack of development with the volume and extent of exploitation and management found within distinct sectors. Lewis, Gunder Frank and Cardoso all offer separate concepts behind a persistent and systematic means of dependence and continued inferiority. Underdevelopment cannot just be explained by one factor, and different levels of manipulation can be seen

within separate regions. It is hard to pinpoint the foremost reason some societies develop and others do not, but the dependency theory offers a leading justification and account for why so many nations cannot break the cycle of poverty. The lack of balance among nations in the global economy is staggering. While over forty percent of the world’s population accounts for merely five percent of the global income, the richest twenty percent hoard over seventy-five percent of the world’s wealth.² More importantly, 1 billion children live in poverty (1 in 2 children in the world), 640 million children are living without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to safe water, 270 million have no access to health services and 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (or roughly 29,000 children per day).² These statistics are sickening to read, and while recognizing the economic defects surrounding underdevelopment is important, there are societal implications to the lost children who suffer from a lack of basic resources. By understanding some of the main contributing factors which are attributed to the lack of development seen within regions of the world, humanity can come together to eliminate economic and social inequality worldwide and attempt to eliminate the unyielding grasps of poverty and underdevelopment.

1. State of the World’s Children, United Nations Children’s Fund 2009

2. 2007 Human Development Report, Nations Development Program, November 27, 2007, p.25

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Contributors:

Jeff Ablos	Lauren Parater
Jane Dominguez	Jeannette Paulino
Brooke Hettig	Alec Puig
Dino Jahic	Edgar Rodriguez
Tiffany Miles	Dayme Sanchez
Laura Mutis	Aubrey Siegel
Trevor Myers	Jonathan Urrutia

GEORGE SMATHERS

UF ALUMNUS & AMERICAN SENATOR

by Brooke Hettig

Most students at the University of Florida know George Smathers as the man after whom our library system is named. But what few know is that Smathers was a United States congressional representative and an influential senator. Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1913, Smathers grew up in Miami, Florida. He attended the University of Florida for both undergraduate and law school, graduating in 1938. After serving as a Marine Corps officer during World War II, Smathers was elected as a Democratic representative to Congress in 1946. There he first met fellow congressional freshman John F. Kennedy. Smathers remained in the House for two sessions, after which he was elected to the Senate in 1950 and served there until 1969 when he retired from politics.

As senators, Smathers and Kennedy worked closely together and became good friends. Smathers even served as a groomsman in Kennedy's wedding to Jackie. It was Smathers who first spoke out in Congress against Fidel Castro, warning of his communistic tendencies.

Kennedy relied heavily on Smathers' counsel and was one of the men he turned to when deciding how to handle the communist situation in Cuba. Smathers was involved in both the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

As a Senator, Smathers was very involved in Latin American affairs. In addition to his involvement in American-Cuban affairs, Smathers served as head

of the Latin American subcommittee of the Senate's Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. While there, he worked to increase funds toward fighting communism in Latin American countries. Senator Smathers encouraged the "recall of the U.S. ambassador [to Cuba], a limited embargo," and made U.S. immigration easier for Cuban exiles.¹

For his work as an advocate for Latin American affairs in the Senate, as well as for drawing funding, industry and tourism to the state, George Smathers is today regarded as one of Florida's greatest political figures.



¹ Patricia R. Wickman. *The Uncommon Man: George Smathers of Florida* (Florida: 1993).