

Looking Ahead

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About the Cornell Roosevelt Institute

The Roosevelt Institute at Cornell University is a student-run policy institute that generates, advocates, and lobbies for progressive policy ideas and initiatives in local, university, state, and national government. Members write for our campus policy journals, complete advocacy and education projects in the local community, host research discussions with professors, write policy and political blogs, and organize campus political debates and policy seminars.

The Roosevelt Institute at Cornell University is divided into six policy centers:

Center for Economic Policy and Development
Center for Foreign Policy and International Studies
Center for Energy and Environmental Policy
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Letter from the Director

Dear Readers,

We are proud to present to you the fifth installment of *Looking Ahead: The Cornell Roosevelt Policy Journal* from the Center for Foreign Policy and International Studies. I have the unique pleasure of presenting a collection of policy proposals, representing the culmination of our analysts' research and hard-work over the course of the semester.

These proposals challenge the US, the UN, and other governments and organizations to take action. Addressing issues such as nuclear proliferation and international health, this year's analysts have proposed innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems of today. I am excited to share our work with you and hope you find it to be enjoyable and thought-provoking!

Sincerely,

Amy Frieder

Industrial Labor Relations (ILR '15)

Director, Center for Foreign Policy & International Studies



Insuring Africa: A Strategic Partnership to Ensure African Climate Risk

By Daniel Cohanpour, Government, '15, Email: dc743@cornell.edu

A policy to invest in African climate risk insurance while strengthening the United States' strategic partnership with the AU and its member nations.

History:

At the third Arab-African Summit on November 18, 2013, the continent of Africa pushed for a campaign for its global partners to invest in the development of the continent. At a summit symposium, Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Natama, Chief of Staff of the Bureau of the Chairperson at the African Union Commission, stressed that “Africa is not calling for aid” and is instead calling for “investment in the continent.” This demonstrates a trend, especially amongst international development, of more sustainable aid, with developing and least developed nations such as those in Africa no longer keen on constant and often unreliable injections of aid as a means to development and humanitarian assistance at the dawn of climate-related disasters and droughts.¹

A new African Union (AU) program known as “African Risk Capacity” (ARC) provides immediate funds to AU nations hit by severe drought or other climate-related disasters.² After the preparatory process, which takes approximately 12 months, African nations are quickly placed into a pan-African risk pool that aims to protect investments in agricultural development and increase agricultural resilience. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) cites that financial losses from climate-related disasters have increased over recent years. Additionally, from the past forty years, over 95 percent of disaster-related deaths occurred in developing nations. In sub-Saharan Africa, 36% of all World Food Programme (WFP) responses in 2002-2009 were related to drought, and since 1990, there have been approximately 130 recorded droughts.³ Thus, the ARC program will initially focus on drought.

For USAID's 2014 Financial Year, \$917 million is allocated to the “Feed the Future” (FTF) initiative, with a specific focus on chronic hunger and smallholder farmers. \$317 million will be allocated to global climate change (GCC) initiatives namely three pillar areas: adaptation, clean energy, and sustainable landscapes. FY 2014 also included an International Disaster Assistance (IDA) request of \$2,045 million to “save lives, reduce suffering, and mitigate and prepare for natural and complex emergencies overseas through food assistance, disaster relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance, including that for transition to development assistance programs, and through disaster preparedness/risk reduction activities”⁴ This amount also includes \$1,416 million for emergency food assistance.⁵ USAID has spent a sizeable, yet comparatively smaller percentage of its capital on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), but much of it is in the form of climate change adaptation and mitigation and is geographically focused on Asia.⁶

In July of last year, delegates from 41 African countries initiated the ARC Establishment Agreement. Since then, the AU, in conjunction with organizations such as the WFP, has worked to create a weather insurance scheme to decrease African reliance on external aid, especially with worsening droughts in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.⁷

This past month, nations turned in their contingency, or preparatory, plans. In order to lessen the burden off of national governments, ARC serves as a mutual insurance company that aims to respond to the current humanitarian assistance system not being as “timely” or “equitable” as it could be. The program shifts away from a system of simply treating devastation “after a crisis occurs” in order to improve African risk management. After the preparatory process, which takes approximately one year, AU nations are integrated into a pan-African risk pool intended to protect investments in agriculture and increase agricultural resilience. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) cites that economic losses from climate-related disasters have increased over recent years.⁸ Additionally, from 1970-2008, over 95 percent of disaster-related deaths occurred in developing nations.

Key Facts

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, since 1990, there have been approximately 130 recorded droughts.
- USAID has spent a sizeable, yet comparatively smaller percentage of its capital on Disaster Risk Reduction (

Analysis:

ARC was largely modeled off of an older successful Caribbean initiative entitled the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), which was engendered by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, a disaster which caused billions of dollars of losses in the Caribbeans. In the Grenada and the Cayman Islands, for example, financial losses were close to 200 percent of the national annual gross domestic product. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) political heads held an emergency meeting where they discussed the importance of including provisions for “catastrophe risk insurance,” which is where CCRIF was birthed from.⁹ CARICOM approached the World Bank for assistance and also received an initial financial grant from the Japanese government. It also receives injected capital from a Trust Fund composed of the Governments of Canada and the European Union.¹⁰ The Japanese grants, administered by the World Bank, totaled to \$1.8 million. The Japanese partnership led to great strides in human capital resources for this program, under the Policy and Human Resource Development program (PHRD) and other capacity building initiatives.¹¹

The African Risk Capacity works in a similar vein as CCRIF and aims to, in the form of an insurance-based proposition with participation from member states, make climate readiness more dependable and accessible in order to create a more sustainable process of humanitarian assistance and drought prevention. The United States can thus benefit these nations greatly as well as strengthen its partnership with the African Union, ARC’s umbrella organization (similar to CARICOM and CCRIF), by developing a partnership similar to the Japan-CARICOM one, with minor adjustments.

Next Steps:

In order to make African climate readiness and disaster relief more sustainable and less stagnant, the United States must support this ARC program at its start through a financial investment of \$3 million, allocated equally from the USAID FTF, GCC and IDA funds in order to ensure maximum agency collaboration. This will be an initial annual grant, but in the next three years, USAID will offer the African Union a \$2 million line of credit as-you-need-it basis in order to ensure maximum support. This will begin a new US-AU partnership, especially in the areas of sustainable development and disaster relief, at a time when the global community is looking to new initiatives to making development more sustainable (ie. UN’s post-2015 development agenda and institutional frameworks). The financing will go towards a. human capital resources for the initiative, b. administrative resources for the AU, and c. capacity-building efforts on a nation-by-nation basis based on when each nation begins its risk insurance policy (c will be the largest allocation).

End Notes:

¹⁴“Don’t Give us Aid.” National News. <http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php/news/national-news/138878-don-t-give-us-aid-invest-in-africa-au-tells-world-leaders>

²⁴“How A Country Gets a Payout.” African Risk Capacity. <http://www.africanriskcapacity.org/about/howarcworks>

³⁴“From Managing Crises to Managing Risks”. Swiss Re Center for Public Dialogue. http://cgd.swissre.com/features/From_managing_crises_to_managing_risks_The_African_Risk_Capacity_ARC.html

⁴Disaster Risk Reduction. USAID. <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/disaster-risk-reduction>

⁵⁴“FY 2014 Budget Highlights.” USAID. <http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/budget-spending>

⁶⁴“USAID Supports Disaster Risk.” USAID. <http://blog.usaid.gov/2013/05/u-s-aid-supports-disaster-risk-reduction-resiliency-and-climate-adaptation-engagement-in-asia-pacific/>

⁷⁴“How A Country Gets a Payout.” African Risk Capacity. <http://www.africanriskcapacity.org/about/howarcworks>

⁸⁴“AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN RISK CAPACITY (ARC) AGENCY.” IPCC. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

⁹⁴“Why was CCRIF Established?” CCRIF – CARICOM. <http://www.ccrif.org/node/34>

¹⁰Caribbean Community Secretariat. CARICOM. <http://caricom.org/>

¹¹Japan policy and human resources. The World Bank. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2002/12/2946735/japan-policy-human-resources-development-fund-annual-report-2002>

Talking Points

- The African Risk Capacity works in a similar vein as CCRIF and aims to, in the form of an insurance-based proposition with participation from member states, make climate readiness more dependable and accessible
- In order to make African climate readiness and disaster relief more sustainable and less stagnant, the United States must support this ARC program at its start

Climate Change: A Comprehensive Global Initiative

By Luka Jankovic, Applied Economics & Management, '16, Email: lmj57@cornell.edu

The United Nations should pursue global solutions for climate change.

History:

On November 11, 2013, the annual U.N. climate change summit took place in Warsaw, Poland. Over 200 nations attempted to develop a global treaty to devise solutions to tackle climate change head on. However, the summit did not generate any effective policy or regulations. Current attempts to formulate plans are focused on the national and not global level and while positive, lack strategic influence in countries that are the worst abusers.

A stronger global presence as opposed to individual national efforts in efforts to mitigate climate change will lead to more effective policy and environmental improvements. Global climate change initiatives will bring stricter controls to over-polluting nations such as China. In addition, global initiatives will help quickly diffuse environmental regulations and policies to developing countries. Finally, a global effort will likely create synergies that could accelerate the development of foreign policy and strengthen foreign relations among involved countries.

Past global attempts to stem climate change and enact robust policy have been largely ineffective due to lax standards, the large scale of the issue, and a lack of commitment from large nations. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) set regulations for nations that ratified the treaty to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by using targeted goals and pollution quotas. These pollution quotas can be traded among countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Over 190 nations have ratified the Protocol. However, several nations, including the United States and Canada have yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.²

The treaty split the greenhouse reduction goals into two commitment periods: 2008-2012 and 2013-2020. However, several nations such as Japan and Russia have not set new targets for the second commitment period and have thus had difficulty in further stemming their greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, many developing countries including China have signed the Kyoto Protocol but are not actually bound by greenhouse gas regulations. Rather, they are merely encouraged to follow its guidelines. Without strict regulations, developing nations, many of which are among the world's largest producers of greenhouse gases and emissions, go unchecked and lack accountability for their environmental policy.

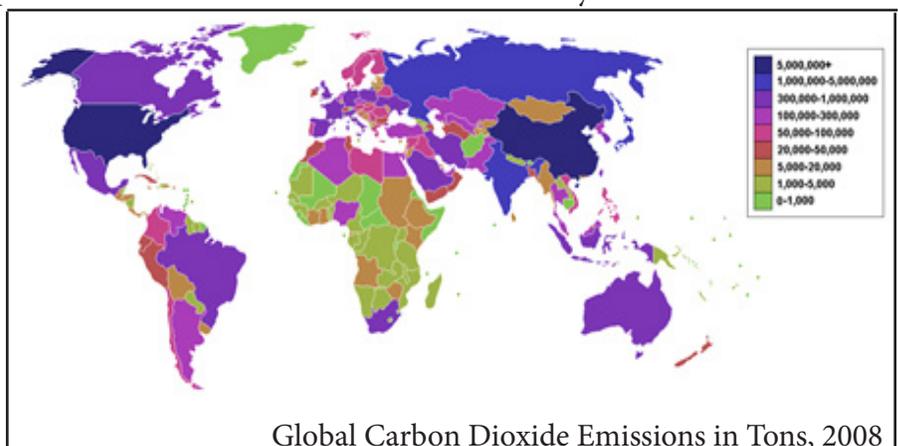
The most effective policy plans and implementation have taken place at the national level. In the United States, the Clean Air Act Amendment and the U.S. 1992 Energy Policy Act have enacted greenhouse emission regulations and provided private supply side incentives for the research and development of alternative forms of energy. A 2012 GLOBE International report revealed that 32 of the 33 countries surveyed have introduced impactful legislation and regulation. These countries accounted for nearly 85% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2012.¹ However, these domestic policies do not extend beyond the nation's borders and have little impact on developing nations.

Analysis:

A policy of strict environmental regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries could have large impacts in the global effort for climate

Key Facts

- Developing countries produce the most greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, yet are unregulated
- Domestic environmental initiatives have little to no effect on other nations
- Climate change is accelerating and adversely effecting global ecosystems



change. A strong global initiative from the United Nations in an effort to combat escalating climate change could have several far reaching influences. Many developing nations are the worst offenders and have gone unregulated by state or global bodies. China's pollution is such a problem that dense layers of smog in urban areas often make night and day virtually indistinguishable. A Reuters report estimated that the smog level in Harbin, China, an urban city near the Russian border, is approximately 40 times higher than what the World Health Organization deems safe.⁴ High levels of energy production and industrialization in developing nations have had an adverse effect on the environment; BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, & China) countries have seen record levels of pollutions. Figure 1 below shows global carbon dioxide emissions. Developing nations and large producers produce the most emissions.³ A global initiative with tighter regulations would mandate pollution control in developing nations and would have significant effects on global greenhouse emissions.

Talking Points

- National climate change are effective, but global efforts could have positive effects on developing country regulation, policy diffusion, and foreign relations
- A potential overhaul of the UN climate change summit would result in the formation of a comprehensive, global governing body that would develop stricter pollution regulations such as higher emissions standards and restricted trading of emission quotas
- Developing a coalition that's in the best interest of all the parties involved would improve foreign relations that have remained strained due to economic troubles and espionage allegations

A global governing body with tighter regulations would also help the diffusion of effective policy and regulation to developing nations. Currently, many developing nations are focusing on economic growth and global trade. However, the unintended consequence of pollution has plagued several developing nations and has hindered social progress. Many developing nations are inexperienced in the development and implementation of effective environmental policies. A global initiative would aid the diffusion of knowledge of policy development to these young governments and aid in the formation of effective regulations. In addition, the global initiative could aid developing governments in the implementation of these regulations through the establishment of domestic governing bodies. Interactions between established and emerging countries could also promote the development of foreign relation ties. For example, the development of environmental standards in China with the United States' aid could foster stronger ties and lead to more efficient international negotiations. A global initiative has the potential to promote the development of environmental standards and governments in emerging economies.

Finally, an initiative with global backing could have strong, positive influences on foreign relations. Improved communication between many countries will help create more open dialogues in the future and allow for more efficient negotiations between countries on other matters. Global foreign relations have generally been strained, exacerbated by economic troubles and recent reports of espionage on allies. As climate change is a global issue and is not restrained to any specific country. It is in the best interest of all countries to develop stronger regulations for greenhouse gas emission and pollution as global ecosystems and diversity become increasingly threatened. Therefore, collective efforts that benefit all parties involved will force nations to put aside differences and discuss potential strategies. As a result, communication and relations between countries will be improved as they will begin to work together toward a common goal.

Next Steps:

A new UN climate change summit should be enacted for the specific goal of creating a global initiative designed to promote stricter international regulations for greenhouse gases and pollution in an effort to reduce climate change worldwide. This body should work with developing nations to develop domestic governing bodies and improve the quality of ecosystems across the world.

End Notes:

¹Hammond, A. (2013). Climate change: Why nations, not global talks, are leading the fight. Retrieved from http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/11/opinion/climate-change-hammond/index.html?hpt=ieu_c2

²United Nations. (2013). Kyoto protocol. Retrieved from http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

³United States Department of Energy. (2008). Carbon dioxide information analysis center. Retrieved from <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/>

⁴Walsh, B. (2013). In china's polluted cities, the smog may be here to stay. Retrieved from <http://world.time.com/2013/10/21/in-chinas-polluted-cities-the-smog-may-be-here-to-stay/>

⁵Photo courtesy of www.en.wikipedia.org

Rethinking USAID: Towards Flexible, Nutrition-Based Food Aid

By Svati Pazhyanur, Policy Analysis and Management, '16, Email: sp836@cornell.edu

Measuring the nutritional outcomes of food aid will allow US aid agencies to better cater their product to the specific needs of recipients, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such programs in addressing malnutrition and food insecurity.

History:

For decades, the United States has been the world's leading provider of food aid to vulnerable and malnourished people. US food aid has typically been in the form of farm bills authorizing the purchase of American crops, and sending them to local distributors (usually NGOs) in the recipient country. The US government began purchasing American crops to export as food aid with the 1954 Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act. In April, President Obama's budget proposed to modernize food aid programs by ending wasteful practices and eliminating programs that are saddled with outdated regulations. The changes would use the savings to boost programs like the Emergency Food Security program that have a proven track-record of success. In the last decade, the United States has provided more than \$2.9 billion annually of food assistance to 45 developing countries, providing approximately 2.8 million metric tons and reaching over 70 million people.¹

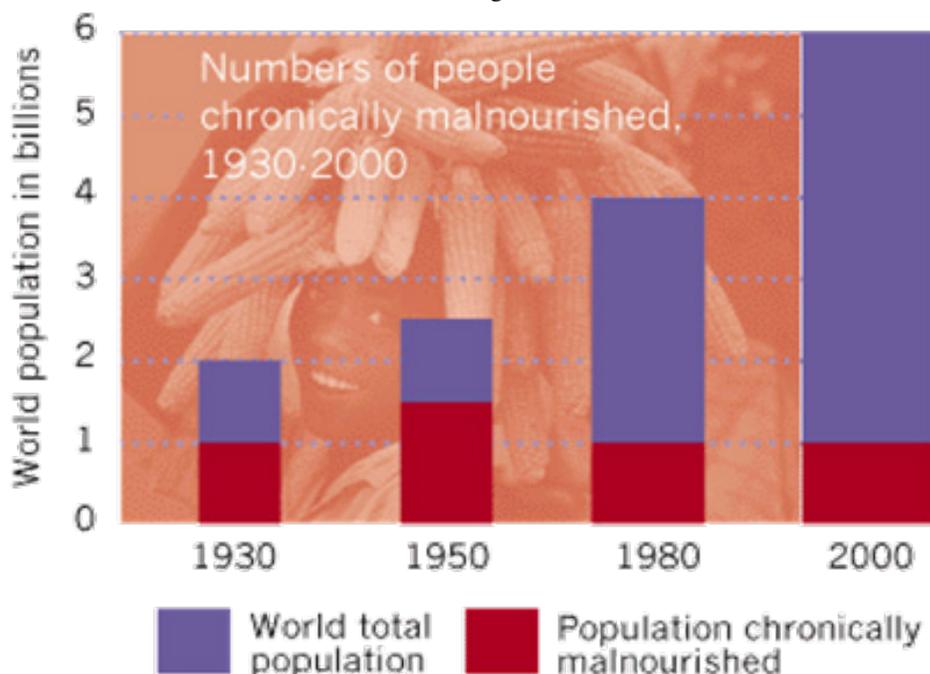
Key Facts:

- The US currently spends about \$20 billion on foreign assistance, \$5 billion of which goes directly to food aid (as part of the Feed the Future Initiative and International Disaster Assistance).⁷
- The total amount of food aid from the United States has been falling since the late 1990s, mirroring patterns globally. During that time, the share of emergency food aid has become more important with increased natural disasters and domestic conflict.⁸
- Diets deficient in vitamin A, zinc, iron and iodine (micronutrients found in MNPs) are responsible for 2.2 million deaths per year in children under age 5 and contribute to mortality from HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases.⁹

Analysis:

Currently, the composition of food aid is determined by the needs of entire areas with malnourished populations. However, one-size-fits-all approaches cannot meet the specific nutritional needs of all people and groups, which is especially problematic for vulnerable populations such as malnourished children. Aid designed with the entire population in mind, or "general distribution" food aid is usually a dry whole grain such as rice, corn, wheat or sorghum because large quantities are required. However, such grains are more difficult than blended food products to fortify with macronutrients either in the field or at the production plant.²

Thus, food provided by general distribution aid falls short of addressing the nutritional needs of numerous groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children, and people with compromised health (especially with populations with high HIV/AIDS prevalence). This is exacerbated by chronic food shortage emergencies, during which food aid is the main source of nutrition for extended periods of time. Chronic situations are becoming increasingly common; now, more than half of the emergency food aid provided by the United States is distributed in multi-year programs.³



Next Steps:

To better address the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations, nutrition outcomes from current food aid programs must be studied, reported and shared. Currently, the end-of-year reporting required of implementing partners of USAID does not require empirical reporting on nutrition and local food consumption.⁴ An emphasis on the nutritional outcomes of food interventions (such as measurements of child stunting and birth defects caused by malnutrition) rather than simply tons of food delivered will benefit the groups most desperately in need of assistance. Many agencies implementing programs using Title II (USAID) foods have been working in the same area for many years.⁵ Encouraging and assisting these agencies to incorporate their knowledge of local food availability and food consumption into studying samples of the recipients of aid is entirely feasible, especially if the information is made available so that not every agency would need to repeat the same studies.

Grain-based rations (the bulk of “general food aid”) cost as little as 2-5 cents per daily ration, while fortified foods (such as micronutrient powders-MNPs) can cost from 6-24 cents for the same amount. Yet, the health benefits of simply grain rations for pregnant women and their future children is valued at about 3 cents per day compared with 35-47 cents per ration from MNPs.⁶ Tailoring food aid to nutritional needs is an effective means of improving the cost-benefit ratio of aid in a time when many governments, facing budgetary strains, have started to cut back on aid budgets.

Talking Points:

- Using a results-driven approach to customize nutritional support will increase the cost-effectiveness of aid and help some of the most vulnerable populations in impoverished countries.
- Current “General distribution” food aid, usually dry grains, provides few benefits to pregnant women, young children, and severely ill recipients.

End Notes:

¹Paganelli, Susan. “Africa Aid Success: 4 Keys”. University of Denver, Center for Human Rights and Human Welfare. June 2010.

²Bleggi, Scott. “Improving Food Aid to Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition”. Bread for the World Institute. February 2012.

³U.S. Agency for International Development, Food for Peace Office (2010), Fiscal Year 2010; Title II Proposal, Annex H; Food Aid Commodities Availability List.

⁴U.S. Agency for International Development, Office for Food for Peace. “Description of FFP Awardee Reporting Requirements”. July 30, 2010

⁵<http://nutrition.tufts.edu/documents/ImprovingtheNutritionalQuality.pdf>.

⁶“The Role of Food Fortification in the Control of Micronutrient Malnutrition”. World Health Organization. Winter 2012.

⁷“FY 2013 Budget Highlights and Past Trends”. USAID. January 2013.

⁸“Improving the Nutritional Quality of Food Aid: Recommendations for Changes to Products and Programs”. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. August 18, 2011.

⁹Horton, Richard. “Maternal and child undernutrition: an urgent opportunity”. The Lancet Medical Journal. Elsevier. 2008.

¹⁰Photo courtesy of <http://newint.org>

Nuclear Proliferation: Preventing a Middle Eastern Arms Race

By Sanat Valecha, Government & Economics, '16, Email: sv286@cornell.edu

To avert the further destabilization of the Middle East, the United Nations Security Council, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the P5+1 group, and other international organizations should take measures to prevent the potential transfer of Pakistani nuclear warheads to Saudi Arabia.

History:

Throughout their existence, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have had what has been termed a “special relationship.”¹ Since the late 1990s, rumors, denied vehemently by both sides, have surfaced regarding an agreement in which Pakistan would sell its Arab ally nuclear warheads should stability in the Gulf deteriorate.² More recently, an investigative report published by the BBC has presented concrete evidence that Saudi Arabia has warheads “on order,” ready for delivery from Pakistan at a moment’s notice.³

There are various reasons the Saudi monarchy is pursuing a weaponized nuclear program. Principal among these is Iran’s own nuclear program, which is becoming increasingly capable of building a nuclear bomb itself. Although Saudi Arabia previously signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and called for a nuclear-free Middle East, a nuclear weapon in the hands of arguably its greatest rival would threaten Gulf security and push the nation toward acquiring its own weapon as a deterrent.⁴

While there is considerable literature extolling the virtues of nuclear proliferation as a stabilizing force in the international system, what with the nuclear taboo and the doctrine of mutually assured destruction, it is highly plausible for this to not be the case should Iran and Saudi Arabia acquire nuclear weapons. The two states have been embroiled in the new Middle Eastern Cold War essentially since Iran’s Islamic Revolution in 1979. This “cold war” has played out in various domestically weak states such as Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine and now Syria.⁵ As the two states vie for supremacy in the Muslim world, the introduction of Pakistani nuclear weapons would only serve to further destabilize the region.

Analysis:

There are numerous causal mechanisms that illustrate how Saudi Arabia acquiring Pakistani nuclear warheads as a deterrence against Iran would hinder security and stability in the region and inflame the new Middle East Cold War. Firstly, a Saudi nuclear weapon, no matter how defensively minded the rationale behind its acquisition, would worsen the already strained relations and exacerbate the enmity between the two regional powers. An arms race between the adversaries would cast its looming shadow over their already bitter exchanges, much like it did to the United States’ relationship with the Soviet Union at various points in the Cold War. In short, nuclear weapons would become yet another point of contention in a rivalry that has already manifested in such a brutal, devastating fashion. With Syria’s implosion into civil war destabilizing its neighbors, an arms race between two of the most relevant foreign actors could certainly spread the conflict beyond its current range into Iraq, Lebanon, and even Jordan.

Another explanation for Pakistani nuclear weapons in Saudi Arabia being a destabilizing force in the region revolves around the stability-instability paradox. The stability-instability paradox posits that nuclear proliferation may lead to stability at the highest levels of conflict, namely, total nuclear war. However, it does not prevent conflict at lower levels of violence, and even facilitates localized conflicts, often in the form of proxy wars.⁶ In a sense, the logics behind deterrence allow states a greater degree of freedom to engage in moderate conflicts that do not escalate to nuclear war.⁷ Therefore, even if nuclear warheads serve purely as a deterrent for Saudi Arabia, they could very conceivably lead to a widespread escalation of the proxy wars that characterize its rivalry with Iran.

Key Facts

- In the 1970s, following both Israel and India’s development of nuclear weapons, Saudi Arabia in large part financed Pakistan’s burgeoning nuclear capabilities.⁹
- Iran has won a series of victories in the new Middle Eastern Cold War, although Saudi Arabia is currently on the offensive in Syria, sensing weakness in Iran’s support of the country’s ruthless authoritarian dictatorship.¹⁰

Next Steps:

If Pakistan's nuclear arsenal in and of itself defies the NPT, the distribution of this arsenal would represent an even greater violation of the treaty. Although it is not within the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) right to actively enforce the NPT, it should convince the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary actions to deter the spread of nuclear weapons into the Gulf. Realistically, given Saudi Arabia's grave importance to the global petroleum market, the Security Council is unlikely to place any meaningful economic or political sanctions against the country.

There are, however, various options in dissuading Pakistan from giving warheads to its Arab ally. Pakistan receives tremendous amounts of financial aid from both the United States and international organizations such as the World Bank.⁸ These entities should threaten to cut off, or at least significantly reduce, aid to Pakistan to coerce the state into terminating its agreement with Saudi Arabia. While Security Council-mandated sanctions are another alternative in discouraging Pakistan, they should be employed more so as a last resort given Pakistan's tedious status as a Western ally and strategic importance in the global War on Terror.

A final option to prevent the spread of nuclear warheads from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia would be an increase in regulation and control of the former's nuclear program. The IAEA and the P5+1 group, composing of the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, plus Germany, should demand further oversight and inspection power in Pakistan's nuclear program, along the lines of the initiative they are putting in motion with Iran. In doing so, the two organizations would have greater latent ability to enforce the NPT with regards to Pakistan's nuclear program, even if negotiations with Iran go sour and it builds a nuclear arsenal.

End Notes:

¹Bruce Riedel, The Brookings Institution, "Saudi Arabia: Nervously Watching Pakistan," Last modified January 28, 2008. <http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2008/01/28-saudi-arabia-riedel>.

²Hugh Tomlinson, The Times, "Saudi Arabia threatens to go nuclear 'within weeks' if Iran gets the bomb," Last modified February 10, 2012. <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/article3315479.ece>.

³Mark Urban, BBC News, "Saudi nuclear weapons 'on order' from Pakistan," Last modified November 06, 2013. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24823846>.

⁴Ibid.

⁵David S. Patel, "The New Middle Eastern Cold War" (Lecture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 28 February 2013).

⁶Robert Jervis, "The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons: A Comment," *International Security* 13 (Autumn 1988): 81.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Urban, "Saudi nuclear weapons 'on order' from Pakistan."

⁹Riedel, "Saudi Arabia: Nervously Watching Pakistan."

¹⁰Patel, "New Middle Eastern Cold War."

Talking Points

- While nuclear deterrence works to prevent all out nuclear war, it tends to allow for increased instances of conflict on a smaller scale in the form of localized, proxy wars.
- Sanctions against Saudi Arabia may not be effective or even feasible, but Pakistan, which is heavily dependent on foreign aid, can be dissuaded from giving weapons to Saudi Arabia.
- Preventing Iran from weaponizing its nuclear material might be the greatest way to ensure Saudi Arabia does not acquire warheads, but deterring Pakistan from proliferating its arsenal gives the international community a contingency plan should Iran build weapons.

Ending the Embargo: It's Time to Trade with Cuba Again

By Usamah Andrabi, Industrial & Labor Relations, '15, Email: usa2@cornell.edu

The United States should repeal the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act (Helms-Burton Act) of 1996, ending America's 40-year embargo on Cuba and opening free trade with Cuba.

History:

The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 put into the law the US' economic embargo that had previously been a number of executive orders introduced in 1960 by President John F. Kennedy.¹ After the success of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the United States implemented an executive order trade embargo after the new communist state “nationalized all US assets in Cuba”.² The United States intended the ban to initiate a shift of government from Fidel Castro's communism to an American-backed democracy. This executive order allowed for continuing executive orders with the US embargo on Cuba under the discretion of the President. The embargo was first codified into law in 1992 through the Cuban Democracy Act, which outlined the continuation of the embargo unless the Castro regime moved toward “democratization and a greater respect for human rights.”³ This act was strengthened in 1996 through the passage of the Helms-Burton Act. The Act was passed with public support after the Cuban air force shot down a private aircraft from Florida that was attempting to aid Cuban refugees in February of 1996.⁴ This second act strengthened the embargo by opposing Cuban membership in international financial organizations and “blocking importation” of Cuban-made goods from any country.⁵ Opposition groups argue that the acts are archaic and have failed their purpose. Meanwhile, supporters of the act believe the embargo to be a necessity if Cuba is ever to return to an American-supported government.

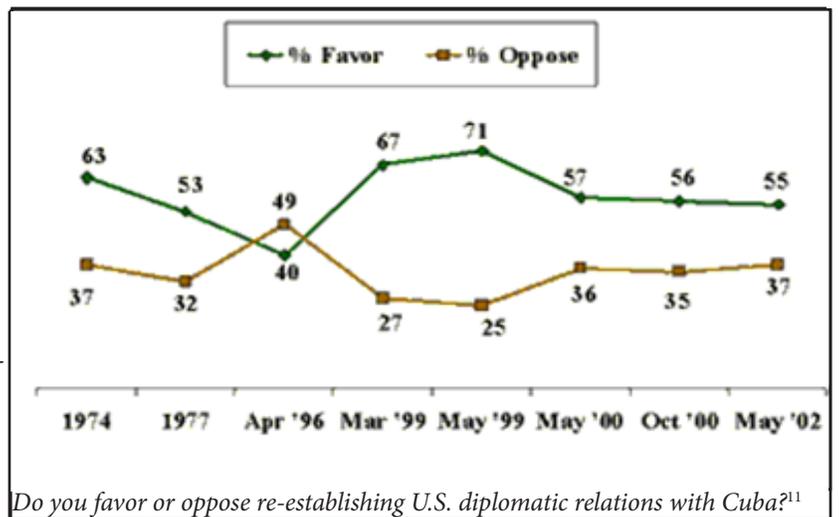
Key Facts

- The US is losing \$3.6 billion a year through the embargo
- The United States would gain \$1.7 billion in tourist revenue and 10,000 jobs after 5 years of lifting the ban
- Raul Castro has implemented 300 financial reforms to deregulate the economy

The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 put into the law the US' economic embargo that had previously been a number of executive orders introduced in 1960 by President John F. Kennedy.¹ After the success of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the United States implemented an executive order trade embargo after the new communist state “nationalized all US assets in Cuba”.² The United States intended the ban to initiate a shift of government from Fidel Castro's communism to an American-backed democracy. This executive order allowed for continuing executive orders with the US embargo on Cuba under the discretion of the President. The embargo was first codified into law in 1992 through the Cuban Democracy Act, which outlined the continuation of the embargo unless the Castro regime moved toward “democratization and a greater respect for human rights.”³ This act was strengthened in 1996 through the passage of the Helms-Burton Act. The Act was passed with public support after the Cuban air force shot down a private aircraft from Florida that was attempting to aid Cuban refugees in February of 1996.⁴ This second act strengthened the embargo by opposing Cuban membership in international financial organizations and “blocking importation” of Cuban-made goods from any country.⁵ Opposition groups argue that the acts are archaic and have failed their purpose. Meanwhile, supporters of the act believe the embargo to be a necessity if Cuba is ever to return to an American-supported government.

Analysis:

These Acts have cost the American economy upwards of \$3.6 billion a year in resources and lost agricultural trade.⁶ Also, Foreign Direct Investment has only increased in Cuba since 1996 from \$2 million in 1990 to \$185 million in 2008, signaling that the embargo is no longer effective at hindering economic growth.⁷ Repealing the embargo would also bring new growth to the US economy through increased tourism and job creation, a study finding gains of \$1.7 billion and 10,000 new American jobs after 5 years without the embargo.⁸ These economic possibilities should be equally paired with the political capabilities of lifting the ban. Fidel Castro's successor, Raul Castro, has implemented over 300 financial reforms shifting the Cuban communist economy towards a free market economy.⁹ Though there remains various human rights violations, Cuba is taking steps in a direction that should be supported by the American democratic state. In fact, the American people have already shown their support for ending the embargo. A 2009 poll indicated that 60% of Americans believe in reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cuba up from the 40% in 1996.¹⁰ Steps towards Cuban capitalism will only gain momentum through enhanced US-Cuban relations.



Next Steps:

The repeal of the Cuban Democracy Act and the Helms-Burton Act would lift the archaic American embargo on Cuba. In doing so, trade lines would open up between the two states allowing for a massive exchange of agricultural products. The lifting of travel bans would allow for the free travel between the two countries bringing what is currently an untapped tourist industry to both nations. Most importantly, this repeal would allow for a US-Cuban relationship to be formed that is of increasing importance for America especially in Central and South America where their allies are historically limited. Also, the US is directly preventing its capitalist influence in Cuba by continuing its embargo. Historically, free market exchange with America has led to the spread of its democratic ideals to these nations. This new, open exchange would allow for the free and unregulated sharing of ideas and people between the United States and Cuba.

Talking Points

- The US embargo is an aged and failed attempt of curbing Cuban communism
- Lifting the embargo would allow for billions of dollars of growth to both economies
- Better US-Cuban relations would allow for a stable ally in Central and South America

End Notes:

¹Bearden, Tim. "Helms-Burton Act: Resurrecting the Iron Curtain.", last modified June 10, 2011 2013.

²Ibid.

³USLegal.com. "Cuban Democracy Act Law & Legal Definition." 2013.

⁴Bearden, Tim. "Helms-Burton Act: Resurrecting the Iron Curtain.", last modified June 10, 2011 2013.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Hanson, Daniel, Batten, Dayne and Ealey, Harrison. "it's Time for the U.S. to End its Senseless Embargo of Cuba.", last modified January 16, 2013 2013.

⁷Bearden, Tim. "Helms-Burton Act: Resurrecting the Iron Curtain.", last modified June 10, 2011 2013.

⁸Cuba Policy Foundation. "Why Change US Policy Towards Cuba?" 2013.

⁹Hanson, Daniel, Batten, Dayne and Ealey, Harrison. "it's Time for the U.S. to End its Senseless Embargo of Cuba .", last modified January 16, 2013 2013.

¹⁰Gallup. "Gallup Historical Trends: Cuba." Gallup.2013, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1630/cuba.aspx>.

¹¹Saad, Lydia. "The Cuban Missile Crisis: 40 Years Later.", last modified October 14, 20022013, "<http://www.gallup.com/poll/6979/cuban-missile-crisis-years-later.aspx>" \n

Perceptions, Reality, and Trust in the Sino-American Relationship

By Max Zimmerman, Asian Studies & Economics, '15, Email: mwz6@cornell.edu

Despite increasing feels of distrust on both sides of the China-US relationship, the perception of these fears may not align with reality. The challenge then is to successfully communicate the inaccuracy of these perceptions to the governments and their people.

History:

Political discourse over the last several years has shifted toward a growing environment of distrust between China and America. Several prominent analysts and scholars such as Lieberthal, Jisi, Goldstein, Scobell, and Harold have noted a growing level of insecurity on behalf of the United States toward China. Some have interpreted this insecurity to reflect China's growing capabilities and perceptions of increased assertiveness in foreign affairs.

The roots of this particular debate on the widening gap in trust between China and America can be traced to the 2008 financial crisis. The 2008 financial crisis brought with it a growing skepticism of how much longer US unipolarity would last. It is important to note that this is not the first time China, and other nations, have predicted the downfall of the US, but in this particular era of growing distrust the 2008 financial crisis is the root of this sentiment. As the crisis deepened, China's economy was still growing at an astonishing rate while the US floundered giving increasing confidence to the Chinese government. Surely, the US took notice of the global rhetoric spelling its decline while China's economy was being praised internationally, as well as coming to the rescue of the US in the form of big loans. China's growing confidence and the US's concern about its decline have created a tenuous security environment in which China has had more leverage to bargain for its interests as its relative power increases and the US becomes more involved in Asia as it looks to maintain its influence in the region.

Key Facts

- The last war the People's Republic of China fought was in 1979 against Vietnam
- China's assertiveness is not unique to recent years, as China has engaged in aggressive stances on several disputes such as 2004 over the Daiyou Islands and in 1995-6 over Taiwan.
- China is involved in major international organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, ASEAN Regional Forum, and many more

Analysis:

The growing concern among many foreign policy circles is that China's growing confidence and America's increasing concern about its decline in the region could cause the outbreak of war. The idea is that as America declines it will more likely resort to force to keep its influence in the face of China's newfound assertiveness thanks to its growing confidence and capabilities. However, the reality of China's assertive attitude is difficult to determine. While many analysts argue today that China is developing an assertive attitude and becoming increasingly threatening as a result scholars have fought back citing China's high level of cooperation in international organizations and its lack of conflict over the last 40 years. Time and again the Chinese government have shown a proclivity for foreign policy geared toward joint development and stable environment so that it can fulfill its core interest of economic development. Recent studies by scholars such as James Reilly have even showed that the Chinese Communist Party demonstrates a remarkable level of moderation and frequently tries to contain Chinese public opinion that calls for increasing Chinese aggression and nationalism.

Predicting the decline of a nation is not an easy task and often time's predictions are inaccurate. If anything, the unexpected collapse of the USSR and many false predictions of US decline should be ample enough. Additionally, while China's power is growing relative to the US there is still an enormous gap in technological and military capabilities that will take considerable time, on the order of a few decades, for China to catch up to. This leaves us with a very different picture than what we started with. Rather than Chinese aggression, China has shown a proclivity for moderate resolutions and America is not necessarily declining and maintains an enormous advantage over China militarily. For an example, we can look to the dispute over the Daiyou Islands and other island disputes in the South China Sea. China originally took a soft stance on this issues and shifted their

rhetoric and symbol policy moves after nationalist sentiment rose. After the wave of activism by the public subsided the Chinese government looked to quell unrest further and return to their original policy path and friendly relations.

Next Steps:

This proposal is based on perceptions in the China-US relationship. The fundamental problem is changing the perceptions between the US and Chinese governments. While the reality maybe be that China is more moderate than believed despite its enhancing capabilities and that America is not necessarily in decline and has no reason to use force, the fact is, perceptions do not always line up with the reality. Therefore the next step in the US-China relationship should be a concerted effort from both sides to change their perceptions of one another and enhance their understanding. For example, the US should further distance itself from contentious issues such as Taiwan that are held in a stalemate and only serve to highlight differences between China and America. China on the other hand could increase its transparency reducing the anxieties of US officials. However, I am not just talking about the governments of these two nations. Both nations also need to promote the value of trust between China and the US to its own people. Both countries have painted the other as a competitor, a position bordering on the edges of friend and foe. However, the line between competitor and foe can be slim and national perceptions certainly affect foreign policy, even in authoritarian China. Promoting Chinese FDI is one effective idea to stimulate positive public opinion because it encourages both sides to have a vested interest in positive relations and image. A sensible combination of reducing confrontational action and improving perceptions of friendship could help to promote a healthier relationship between China and America.

End Notes:

¹James Reilly, Strong Society, Smart State: The Rise of Public Opinion in China, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), 55.

²Ibid

³Avery Goldstein, "First Things First-The Pressing Danger of Crisis Instability in US-China Relations by Goldstein," International Security, 37, no. 4 (2013): 62

⁴James Reilly, Strong Society, Smart State: The Rise of Public Opinion in China, (New York: Columbia University Pres, 2012), 8.

Talking Points

- In the 1990s despite growing capabilities, China repeatedly ceded territory to weaker nations when negotiating territorial disputes, demonstrating moderate foreign policy preferences
- The US announced a pivot toward Asia in recent years reflecting the growing influence of Asia on Am

Improving the Effectiveness of US International Health Aid

By Deborah Egbo, Human Biology, Health and Society, '14, Email: doe4@cornell.edu

Increasing the technical assistance provided to aid recipient countries as a means of improving the utilization of the US international health aid

History:

The US provides foreign health aid to developing countries through the Department of State and the US-AID. During the Bush administration in 2004, the US switched its major form of aid to recipient countries from technical assistance to financial assistance. Technical assistance includes technical advice, training, scholarships, construction and commodities. On the other hand financial assistance involves supplying cash to developing country organizations to support their budget. Financial assistance is usually provided to governments in form of bilateral grant agreements, specifically, strategic objective grant agreement or limited scope grant agreement. The reason for the switch from technical assistance to financial assistance was not made known to the general public. However, according to the USAID, donor countries benefit more from financial assistance. Additionally, its provision is dependent on a written assurance to the US president to contribute at least twenty five percent of the cost of the program.

Contributions may be made in cash or in-kind and in the host government-owned foreign currency. A waiver can be made available for a host county's contribution on a case-by-case basis if the country is considered relatively least developed. US foreign health aid programs are directed, amongst others, towards maternal and child nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, international disaster assistance, emergency food aid, HIV/AIDS prevention, the presidents malaria initiative, pandemic influenza and other emerging threats. Increasing the emphasis on technical assistance for the provision of health aid would better address health problems in aid recipient countries than providing financial assistance considering most of the tools needed to improve health-care in donor countries are not readily available locally.

Key Facts

- The USAID's emphasis on financial assistance rather than technical assistance to aid recipient countries is favorable to some sectors and disadvantageous to others.
- Financial assistance is usually provided to aid recipient countries in form of bilateral grants. These bilateral grants are either in form of strategic objective grant agreement or limited scope grant agreement.
- Aid recipient countries have to provide a written assurance to contribute at least twenty five percent of the cost of the program to the US president except the countries that are relatively least develop

Analysis:

The US provides both technical assistance and financial assistance to donor countries for health aid. However technical assistance is mostly provided to grassroots projects and training while financial assistance is mostly provided to the government to improve its health care facilities and increase the access of health care facilities available to its citizens. While it seems practical for the US to provide financial assistance to governments for these reasons, the population sometimes never reap the benefits of the aid. In such cases, the most frequent cause is corruption. Government officials might divert the spending to other sectors or might keep the money for personal use. Additionally, financial assistance might be disadvantageous to the population if the government invests in less durable medical equipment in a bid to maximize the money or if they are unaware of the best suited or most technological advanced equipment for its population.

Technical assistance, on the other hand, prevents the occurrence of both scenarios and can provide direct benefits to both the US government and the host country. The provision of expertise and technical advisory can improve the host country's health care while the US can benefit from an increase in job opportunity available to its citizens from the provision of expertise and supply of medical equipment.

Next Steps:

The US government should revisit its policies on the methods of assistance provided to recipient countries and make decisions on a case-by-case basis. A larger emphasis should be placed on the provision of technical assistance for health aid, rather than financial assistance. The US Department of State and the USAID should expand their policies on training medical personnel, providing scholarships, providing technical advice and improving the relationships between US universities and universities in the aid recipient country. Additionally, the US should adopt the Lockheed Martin military aid approach for the provision of health care equipment like CT scans to host countries because such equipment are not produced in most aid recipient countries. This not only ensures that the population benefits from the aid because of the availability of such equipment, but also increases job production and productivity in that sector in the US because of the increased demand of medical technology. Furthermore, the US Department of State and the USAID should adopt the Chinese government's method of infrastructural aid. The Chinese government utilizes its own contractors and expertise for the construction of infrastructure in developing countries, which ensures better quality and total implementation of the project. Instead of employing US experts and contractors, the US should control the selection of local contractors and experts.

End Notes:

¹ "ADS chapter 350 grants to foreign governments," last modified July 23, 2003. <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1876/350.pdf>

² "Executive Budget Summary Function 150 & Other International Programs Fiscal Year 2014," Department of State United States of America, accessed November 14, 2013. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/207305.pdf>

³ "USAID history," last modified October 4, 2013. <http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/usaid-history>

⁴ "United States Agency for International Development," last modified November 1, 2013. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development#Modes_of_assistance

Talking Points

- The mode of assistance used for different sectors in aid recipient countries should be determined on a case-by-case basis
- Financial assistance is beneficial is not beneficial to the health sector because of corruption in most aid recipient countries and their lack of knowledge about the best and most suitable medical technology for their population.
- Technical assistance provides the necessary backbone necessary to improve health care in aid recipient countries because it provides support to its citizens, ensures the best medical technology is available in health care centers to meet the needs of the population's health, and ensures the completion of infrastructural projects.

The Power of Coffee: How U.S. Agricultural Subsidies Could End International War on Drugs

By Morgan Greene, Government & Near Eastern Studies, '16, Email: mhg84@cornell.edu

U.S. funded agricultural subsidies in areas deeply dependent on the cultivation of poppy and coca could create an economically feasible and legal agricultural alternative to drug commerce, thus undermining income for criminal and terrorist organizations, reducing food insecurity, and eventually ending the war on drugs.

History:

With the assistance of the U.S., Afghanistan and certain Latin American countries have been fighting a losing war on drugs for the last few decades, causing rampant violence, instability, and expanding the power of terrorist and criminal organizations. In June of 1971, President Nixon laid the foundation for the War on Drugs deeming drug abuse “public enemy number one.”⁵ Despite billions invested and unwavering efforts within the target countries receiving assistance from the U.S., the Global Commission on Drug Policy deemed the War on Drugs a failure as of 2011.⁶

In Colombia, the U.S. has provided billions of dollars in support during the last decade to aid the country in its battle against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC), a group of drug-trafficking rebels. Despite these actions, the production of coca, from which cocaine is derived, has not declined.⁷ In other countries, such as Peru and Bolivia, cocaine production has increased dramatically during the last decade. In particular, the Peruvian Valley of the Apurimac and Ene Rivers (VRAE) has become a hotspot for the cultivation of coca.⁸ Ollanta Humala, Peru’s president is committed to eradicating cultivation of this plant by dispatching armed police to uproot the plant. Fredy Linares, from the village of Otari in the VRAE region states that, “No one is going to put up with having their crops destroyed. Of course, people are going to rise up.”⁹ These villagers are locked into a cycle of dependence on coca that they cannot escape, as they have no alternative livelihoods.

The elimination of drug trafficking in Afghanistan has been a key foreign policy concern of the U.S. since 2004, when Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense, stated that “the danger a large drug trade poses in this country is too serious to ignore, the inevitable result is to corrupt the government and way of life, and that would be most unfortunate.”¹⁰ Despite the validity of this argument, the 264,000 or so families that grow opium poppies and depend on it for their livelihood cannot be ignored. In the past, when compared to legal crops, opium was 10 to 30 times more profitable.¹¹

Analysis:

Ending the War on Drugs is imperative for American foreign policy, as it would provide stability in war-torn regions, including many Central and South American countries and Afghanistan, signaling America’s ability to encourage democratic reforms in these regions. Drug trafficking plays a key role in the financing and continuation of criminal, extremist and terrorist groups. Clearly current U.S. policies of providing support for military actions against the drug trade have been unsuccessful and have further alienated rural populations, including innocent farmers.¹²

To undercut the proliferation of cocaine, the U.S. could adopt a policy of subsidizing alternative crops, such as coffee, to provide economically viable alternatives to the cultivation of coca. Susana Lima, Secretary General of the Federation of Bolivia’s Export Coffee Growers, found that Bolivia is currently exporting 40,000 less bags of coffee today than it did in 2005. Lima sites the lack of government incentives as a deterrent to coffee growth. Thus, because the cultivation of coffee beans has become less profitable, coffee producers in many South American countries have turned towards coca as a more profitable crop.¹³ Subsequently, and luckily for the U.S., the opposite also holds true. If the U.S. government were to create subsidies to encourage the cultivation of legal

Key Facts

- Afghan Farmers supply 90% of the world’s opium ¹
- The Taliban receives \$700 million from the drug trafficking according to the UN²
- Peru’s coca farmland is currently the size of Chicago³
- Drug commerce accounts for between 40 and 60% of Afghanistan’s GDP, about \$2.3 billion according to the IMF⁴

crops in areas prone to drug trafficking, then the War on Drugs could be nipped at the root.

In 2007, farmers earned about \$640 for an acre of poppy compared with \$320 for an acre of wheat. Yet, a recent food crisis dramatically reversed this trend, putting the profit of an acre of poppy at \$400 compared with \$840 for an acre of wheat.¹⁴ While these circumstances may be a special case, this shows the interrelatedness of these two exports and thus the willingness of farmers to adhere to supply and demand, reducing and eventually eliminating their cultivation of poppy, if economically viable.

Next Steps:

The U.S. must pursue a policy of subsidizing the cultivation of coffee or wheat in these problem regions so that legal agricultural activities provide a viable alternative to growing coca and poppy for the drug trade. While this practice alone cannot fully eliminate drug trafficking, it will reduce the cultivation of these crops, thus increasing the price of illegal drugs and solving the supply side of the problem. In conjunction with a continued strong government stance against drugs, this could bring an end to the war on drugs, undermine key sources of income for criminal and terrorist groups, and reduce food insecurity. These subsidies would fit well within the USAID framework in the Agriculture and Food Security Department. This would be the less expensive and more effective method of combating the proliferation of illegal drugs.

End Notes:

¹Sisk, Richard "Sputtering War on Drugs In Afghanistan." Military.com. <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2013/08/09/sputtering-war-on-drugs-in-afghanistan.html> (accessed November 13th, 2013).

²Carpenter, Ted. "How the Drug War in Afghanistan Undermines America's War on Terror." Foreign Policy Briefing. <http://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/fpb84.pdf> (accessed November 13th, 2013). Page 5.

³Tegel, Ibid.

⁴Carpenter, Ibid. Page 3.

⁵"Nixon Calls War on Drugs." The Palm Beach Post. 18 June 1971.

⁶"War on Drugs: Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy." Open Society Foundations. <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/war-drugs-report-global-commission-drug-policy> (accessed November 13th, 2013).

⁷O'Grady, Mary. "No Peace in Colombia With A War on Drugs." The Wall Street Journal. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303796404579099481912356294> (accessed November 13th, 2013).

⁸Tegel, Simeon. "As US ups aid to Peru's drug battle, farmers say they will fight to defend cocaine source." NBC News. http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/10/12/20920291-as-us-ups-aid-to-perus-drug-battle-farmers-say-they-will-fight-to-defend-cocaine-source (accessed November 13th, 2013).

⁹Tegel, Ibid.

¹⁰Carpenter, Ibid. Page 5.

¹¹Carpenter, Ibid. Page 5.

¹²Carpenter, Ibid. Page 8.

¹³Keating, Joshua. "Fight the war on drugs by drinking more coffee." Foreign Policy. <http://ideas.foreignpolicy.com/?page=12> (accessed November 13th, 2013).

¹⁴"The Poppy Trade." Foreign Policy. http://foreignpolicy.com/articles/2008/08/12/the_poppy_trade (accessed November 13th, 2013).

Talking Points

- U.S. subsidies for legal crops in drug-trafficking hotspots would reduce dependence on coca, poppy and other drug cash crops
- Terrorist organizations would lose key sources of funding if drug commerce was undermined
- U.S. agricultural subsidies abroad would be less expensive and more successful for the U.S. than the continued war on drug

The Future of Disaster Relief

By Patrick Casey, Industrial & Labor Relations, '16, Email: pec73@cornell.edu

In a world where, given the realities of climate change, massive natural catastrophes are becoming increasingly more regular, it is in the United States' best geostrategic interests to significantly increase its budget for foreign disaster relief.

History:

Disaster relief, in its modern form, began in the aftermath of World War II with the Marshall Plan. Named after then-Secretary of State George Marshall, the plan called for unprecedented American economic support to rebuild Europe's infrastructure and financial markets after the war largely in the hope that such efforts would prevent the spread of communism throughout the region. The program was overwhelmingly successful and, in halting the spread of Soviet influence from reaching Western Europe, preserved American interests in the region heading into the Cold War. A similar narrative played out on a smaller scale following the tsunami that ravaged parts Southeast Asia in 2004.

The number of massive environmental disasters is increasing and will continue to increase in the future, a direct result of global climate change. This trend, while tragic and hopefully reversible in the long run, does provide the United States an opportunity to better its image and foster international support by taking the lead in the disaster relief movement. Investing in these efforts as a matter of national priority will yield enormous dividends for the United States moving forward.

Analysis:

In a political environment with a singular and almost paranoid focus on debt reduction, the notion of drastically increasing the federal spending for foreign disaster relief might seem to be little more than a fairy-tale. That, however, is not necessarily the case. Increasing foreign disaster aid, in the long run, will most likely invigorate the economy. For one, helping nations rebuild after environmental catastrophes preserves those markets for American businesses. Increasing the disaster relief budget will also strengthen relationships and build allegiances abroad, potentially winning the United States more international trade partners.

Next Steps:

As the Obama administration continues to slim defense spending by crafting a leaner and more efficient military, the money saved can be used to fund an increase in foreign disaster relief efforts.

Key Facts

- President Obama's 2013 Budget proposed a \$3.9-million decrease in defense spending from 2012 levels.
- In the aftermath of the recent "Super Typhoon" in the Philippines, the President has sent the USS George Washington, an aircraft carrier with 5,000 crewmen, to assist in search-and-rescue efforts.

Talking Points

- It is in the United States' best interest to take charge and lead future efforts for foreign disaster relief.
- Disaster relief, dollar for dollar, is a better long term investment than equivalent military spending.

End Notes:

¹ “Climate Change: melting ice will trigger wave of natural disasters,” last modified 5 September 2009. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2009/sep/06/global-warming-natural-disasters-conference>

² “China Increases Aid to Philippines,” last modified 14 November 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/15/world/asia/chinese-aid-to-philippines.html>

³ “Rising Despair as Officials Struggle to Get Aid to Typhoon Victims,” last modified 12 November 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/13/world/asia/concerns-grow-over-pace-of-aid-to-philippines.html?hpw&rrref=world>

⁴ “On Philippines Relief, Comparing the U.S. and China,” last modified 14 November 2013. <http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/14/on-philippines-relief-comparing-the-u-s-and-china/>

Meet Our Foreign Policy Center



Usamah Andrabi

Usamah Shafi Andrabi is a junior at Cornell University studying Industrial and Labor Relations and minoring in Law and Society. He is a born-and-raised Texan who has been active in Texas Democratic politics in the past and intends to continue his participation next summer as a campaign manager for a Texas House of Representatives campaign.

Daniel Cohanpour

Daniel Cohanpour is a junior Government and Information Science major, specializing in International Development. He is interested in the roles of government and non-profit actors in promoting sustainability in the developing world. On campus, Daniel is project manager for the Social Business Consulting Club, Caller for the Cornell Annual Fund, and Under-Secretary General of Committees for the Cornell International Affairs Conference. He writes for the United Nations as well as MediaGlobal News and hopes to build a career in capacity building and economic development.



Max Zimmerman

Max is currently a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in Asian Studies and Economics. He is currently focusing his studies on Japanese history, culture, and politics as well as Asian international relations. Max will be studying in and traveling Japan for 5 months starting in January.



Svati Pazhyanur

Svati is a sophomore in the College of Human Ecology majoring in Policy Analysis and Management. Outside of the Roosevelt Institute, Svati is a member of the Cornell Forensics Society on the world's style debate team.



Luka Jankovic

Luka is a sophomore majoring in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management concentrating in Finance and Strategy and minoring in Philosophy. He is also a Project Manager at the Cornell Consulting Club, a Sector Analyst in the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell, brother in Phi Sigma Kappa, and Investment Associate at Silver Spoon Personal Financial Officers, LLC. In his lack of free time, he enjoys following Chelsea F.C., cooking, and snowboarding.





Sanat Valecha

Sanat Valecha is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, pursuing a double major in Economics and Government and a minor in Film. This is his first semester writing for the Cornell Roosevelt Institute's Center for Foreign Policy and International Studies. He has a passion for international relations and foreign affairs, particularly in the Middle East and South Asia. Sanat grew up in three countries, has been to many more, and hopes to add to both lists in the coming years.

Morgan Greene

Morgan H. Greene is a sophomore in the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in Government and Near Eastern Studies. Morgan is interested in relations between the Middle East and U.S. and plans to work in the NGO sector after graduation to promote democratic development as well as stability and peace in these relations. In her free time Morgan enjoys travelling, hiking, and skiing.



Pat Casey

Pat Casey is a sophomore at Cornell University studying Industrial & Labor Relations who writes for the Cornell Roosevelt Institute as a Foreign Policy Analyst. His areas of interest are the Middle East and international trade.

Deborah Egbo

Deborah is a Human Biology Health and Society major interested in infectious disease control and health policy. She was born and raised in Nigeria for sixteen years and enjoys travelling, shopping and drawing. Someday, she hopes to be instrumental in creating policies that would drastically reduce the prevalence of preventable infectious diseases like malaria.



Amy Frieder, Director

Amy is a junior in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, minoring in International Relations as well as Law and Society. As an analyst, Amy was published in the Roosevelt Institute|Campus Network's *10 Ideas* journal and published her blogs on Policymic.com. On campus, she is a managing editor of the *Undergraduate Law & Society Review*, a writer for the *Cornell Progressive*, and an organizer with the Cornell Organization for Labor Action. She was a delegate to the United Nations Commission on Social Development (cSocD) through SustainUS - a non-profit, nonpartisan, youth-led advocacy group - last year and is a co-delegation leader for the Commission this year.



"In every country the people themselves are more peaceably and liberally inclined than their governments."
-Franklin Delano Roosevelt