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A Comparative Study of the Political and Social Structure of Mexico (Bucerias), Cuba and the U.S. (Atlanta): A First Impression

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
STRUCTURE OF MEXICO (BUCERIAS) CUBA AND THE U S
(ATLANTA) A FIRST IMPRESSION

Frank J. Vandall*

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I. Introduction

The goal of this paper is to begin to examine the widely disparate social, political and legal systems of three (3) countries. The purpose is to explore the question of whether a less intrusive or a more intrusive governmental model works best. Bucerias is a beach community in Mexico. Cuba is one of the few remaining communist countries in the world. Atlanta is the jewel of the southeastern United States. Each city or country will be evaluated based on five factors: politics, infrastructure, taxes, family, and education.

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II. Bucerias, Mexico

Bucerias is a small ocean side resort on the west coast of Mexico. It is twenty miles north of Puerto Vallarta and hundreds of miles south of Galveston, Texas. Tourists from the U.S. and Canada call it paradise.

A. Politics

Mexico has a unique two-party democratic system in which all eligible persons are required to vote.¹ On a day-to-day basis, there is no visible evidence of politics at play in Bucerias. No political brochures are distributed and no posters are manifest. Mexicans do not raise the question of politics in casual discussions.

B. Police

On very rare occasions, police officers observe the movements of the tourists and the Mexican people. Once I observed a truck filled with soldiers driving down a main street. A soldier on the truck appeared to have an automatic weapon at the ready.

While visiting a larger nearby town, Puerto Vallarta, I saw a female police officer dressed in white and wearing a white cap. This went far to lighten the image of the police as their uniforms are traditionally black, dark blue or military tan. It was a nice touch for a town that thrives on tourism.

C. Infrastructure

Roads

Many of the streets in Bucerias and Puerto Vallarta are constructed of cobblestones. This ancient material is apparently used in order to enhance the quaint feeling of the towns. It is successful, but surely at a substantial cost to the suspensions of automobiles, trucks and the taxis. The noise and vibration from riding on cobblestones cries that the wheels are about to fall off. As a footnote, the cobblestones appear to help reduce the speeds of vehicles.² Large potholes are common in Bucerias.³

Bridges

On the main highway in Bucerias, the two-lane bridge appears well-made, but the road to Sayulita is filled with large, deep potholes. Sayulita is an ocean-side surfer's mecca. In contrast, the nearby road to La Cruz is smooth, except for

¹ *The World Factbook: Mexico*, U.S. CENT. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html> (last updated Jan. 20, 2016).

² Speed bumps were observed outside of Bucerias.

³ See Linda Shaw, *Sun, Sand, & Silence—Bucerias: Near, But a World Away, From Tourist Swager*, SEATTLE TIMES (Apr. 28, 1996), <http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=19960428&slug=2326327> ("Twenty minutes after we leave the airport, our taxi turns left off the two-lane highway, then bounces down the hill toward the beach, weaving around potholes big enough to be effective speed bumps.").

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several speed bumps. However, this road leads to the Four Seasons resort development, Punta Mita, that Bill Gates purchased.⁴

The ocean-side street in Bucerias, Lazarus Cardenas, stops at an arroyo. There it meets a narrow pedestrian bridge that connects the east side of Bucerias with the west. This tiny pedestrian bridge is fine for tourists, but is for people only, not cars. It seems appropriate for this remote beach-side resort.

Mass Transportation

There are three options for public transportation in Bucerias. First, taxis. The Toyotas are new, clean, expensive and air-conditioned. It costs about seven (7) U.S. dollars for a short five mile trip for two.

The second option is the camioneta. These are large Toyota vans that hold anywhere from 10 to 14 passengers. These are air-conditioned, and the charge about seven pesos each (about seventy U.S. cents in 2015) for the same five mile trip. Finally, there are small buses (holding perhaps 40 passengers) that stop very often (until full) and cost about the same or less than the camionetas. They are not air-conditioned.

The last two are great fun. During one of my camioneta rides, the bus was full of teen-aged school boys and girls, plus two American tourists. The driver played loud rock music and the passengers on the bus swayed to the music. All the passengers agreed it was the “party bus”. Not wanting to be out done, a man boarded one of the big buses, put a large, stuffed duck puppet over his hand and told jokes in Spanish while speaking like a duck. Many passengers laughed and gave him small tips. Sometimes jugglers perform at stoplights and drivers provide tips.

Mexican workers, school-aged children, and tourists ride the camionetas and buses. Cabs were used mainly by tourists.

A new modern airport is located only 30 minutes from Bucerias in Puerto Vallarta. The road between the two is a good, but it is also a busy four-lane highway with limited access.

D. Taxes

The good news is that the highest Mexican income tax rate is 30 percent. The bad news is that there is a hefty sales tax (16%) on most products including food.⁵ The yearly property tax is low at .01 percent of assessed value.⁶ Foreigners do not actually own real property. What “ownership” of real property by

⁴ Janet I. Tu, *Bill Gates Buys Resort Near Puerto Vallarta for \$200 Million*, SEATTLE TIMES: MICROSOFT PRIO (Dec. 16, 2013, 3:30 PM), <http://blogs.seattletimes.com/microsoftprio/2013/12/16/bill-gates-buys-resort-near-puerto-vallarta-for-200-million/> (“Bill Gates . . . is purchasing the Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita for \$200 million . . . in early 2014.”).

⁵ Personal Income Tax Rates: Mexico, PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, (Jan. 20, 2016), <http://taxsummaries.pwc.com/uk/taxsummaries/wwts.nsf/ID/Mexico-Individual-Taxes-on-personal-income>. See also PKF INT’L, *WORLDWIDE TAX GUIDE* (2014), <http://www.pkf.com/media/4335950/worldwide%20tax%20guide%202014%20v3.pdf> (describing Mexico’s income tax rates); *VAT and Sales Tax Rates in Mexico for 2016*, WORLD.TAX-RATES.ORG, <http://world.tax-rates.org/mexico/sales-tax> (last visited Feb. 2, 2016) (referring to sales tax as “value added tax”).

non-Mexicans means is a 50-year renewable lease.⁷ In contrast, foreigners cannot own houses or property in Cuba.⁸

E. Family

The family structure in Bucerias is as if taken from a fairy tale. Parents keep their children close at hand. Waiters often bring their children to the ocean-side restaurants where they work. Men and women selling trinkets in kiosks or on the beach often take their young children with them.

Children are required to attend school through the sixth grade.⁹ However, they only attend until about 1:00 p.m. After that, it is common for them to work with their parents. The result is that children dressed in school uniform are often seen throughout the town in the afternoons. High School matriculation is not required.¹⁰ Marriage and divorce are expensive so Mexican couples often ignore these institutions.¹¹

F. Education

Mexico has a large number of educational institutions.¹² To a tourist eye, they are not visible in Bucerias, except for several grade schools and the sight of high school children dressed in school uniforms.¹³ From two short visits to Bucerias, it appears that many young people opt not to pursue education beyond sixth grade¹⁴, preferring to work with their families in kiosks, restaurants, or walking on the beach selling trinkets. Only 46 percent of the young people decide to pursue education beyond the sixth grade.¹⁵

⁶ Alicia Parra, *Property Taxes in Mexico*, THE SETTLEMENT COMPANY (Feb. 2, 2016), http://www.settlement-co.com/articles/Property_Taxes.pdf.

⁷ Jorge A. Garcia, *The Mexican Trust*, 2, MDTLAW.COM, http://www.mdltlaw.com/images/uploads/The_Mexican_Trust_Fideicomiso1.pdf (Aug. 16, 2015, 2:03PM) (stating that the leases through a bank trust are known in Mexico as a “Fideicomiso”).

⁸ Nick Miroff, *\$75,000 Will Get You A Lot of House in Havana – If You’re Cuban*, WASHINGTON POST (May 25, 2015), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/75000-will-get-you-a-lot-of-house-in-havana—if-youre-cuban/2015/05/25/bbed3d78-fd8f-11e4-8c77-bf274685e1df_story.html.

⁹ See Mexico’s Education System: Overview, STATEUNIVERSITY.COM, (Feb. 2, 2016), <http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/981/Mexico-EDUCATIONAL-SYSTEM-OVERVIEW.html> [hereinafter Mexico’s Education System] (noting that mandatory school age is from age 6 to age 14; that approximately 92.08% of all children attend school until age 14, when, after that age, the enrollment percentage drops dramatically to about 46%).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See Woodrow Borah & Sherburne F. Cook, *Marriage and Legitimacy in Mexican Culture: Mexico and California*, 54 CAL. L. REV. 946, 946-47 (1966), <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/californialawreview/vol54/iss2/24>.

¹² Higher Education in State of Veracruz Mexico, OECF PUBLISHING (Sept. 7, 2015), <https://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/46826830.pdf> (noting that “currently Mexico has 1,892 tertiary education institutions, of which 50 are federal and state institutions, 289 are technical institutions, 4 are intercultural universities, 995 are private institutions and 25 are public research centers.”).

¹³ See *Back to School Around the World*, 8, SMARTLING (2014), https://www.smartling.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Smartling_eBook_BackToSchoolAroundTheWorld1.pdf.

¹⁴ See Mexico’s Education System, *supra* note 9.

¹⁵ *Id.*

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G Conclusion

A brief overview of Bucarias, Mexico suggests what small government and less taxes actually mean. Compulsory education ends in the sixth grade, and some busy roads have huge, destructive pot-holes. While there is minimal police presence, it may be that they are not apparently necessary because in Bucarias, crime is not a demanding issue.¹⁶ Also, public transportation is readily available and cheap, particularly in comparison with some cities in the United States, such as Atlanta.

There is a wealthy class in Mexico, but there is also a substantial portion of the population that is poor.¹⁷ Perhaps the large gap is due to limited public education and the absence of a progressive income tax.¹⁸

III. Cuba

Cuba is an island 90 miles east of Key West, Florida with a population of over 11 million.¹⁹ The people represent many racial backgrounds and speak Spanish. Cuba is one of a few remaining communist countries in the world.²⁰ In 1960 the Revolutionary Army led by Fidel Castro overthrew the dictatorship of Juan Manuel Batista, who had been strongly supported by the U.S.²¹ Shortly after the revolution, Castro nationalized all industries.²²

Early in 1960, Cuba aligned itself with the U.S.S.R.²³ During this time the U.S. imposed a complete embargo on Cuba.²⁴ Essentially, nothing American could be sold to Cuba and nothing could be imported from Cuba to the US.²⁵ The U.S.S.R. infused oil and money into Cuba until 1990 when the Soviet system

¹⁶ *Mexico Travel Warnings*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Aug. 16, 2015), <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>. According to the US State Department, there is a travel warning for the State of Jalisco, where Bucarias is located. However, the travel warning only warns of the rural areas that are near the bordering states of Michoacán and Zacatecas. *Id.*

¹⁷ Mexico Poverty and Wealth, NATIONS ENCYCLOPEDIA (Sept. 7, 2015), <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economics/Americas/Mexico-POVERTY-AND-WEALTH.html>. "Only 10 percent of Mexicans are wealthy. Another 30 percent are middle class. Fully 60 percent of Mexicans are poor, including peasants and industrial workers." *Id.*

¹⁸ "Gerardo Esquivel Hernandez, *Extreme Inequality in Mexico Concentration of Economic and Political Power*, OXFAM (2015), <http://cambialasreglas.org/images/inequality.pdf>.

¹⁹ See *The World FactBook: Cuba*, U.S. CENT. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (Aug. 1, 2015), <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cu.html> (estimating the total Cuban population at 11,031,433 as of July 2015).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Batista forced out by Castro-led Revolution*, HISTORY CHANNEL (Aug. 2, 2015), <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/batista-forced-out-by-castro-led-revolution>.

²² See TOM GJELTEN, *BACARDI AND THE LONG FIGHT FOR CUBA: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A CAUSE* 224-245 (Penguin Books 2009).

²³ FIDEL CASTRO, JEFFERY M. ELLIOT & MERVYN M. DYMALLY, *FIDEL BY FIDEL: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ*, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA 10 (Borgo Press 2007).

²⁴ *Id.*; see also Gary Clyde et al., *Case Studies in Economic Sanctions and Terrorism*, Peterson Inst. for Int'l Econ. 1 (2011); see also Christopher P. Baker, *Organic Chemistry* 516 (5th ed. 2010); see also *U.S. Relations with Cuba*, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (July 21, 2015), <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2886.htm>.

²⁵ See CASTRO, *supra* note 23.

collapsed.²⁶ What followed for Cuba was referred to by Cubans as the “special period.”²⁷ This meant near starvation and many black-outs due to oil shortages.²⁸ Times were so bad that “pre-rats,” or nutria, were sometimes eaten for food.²⁹

As is the norm in a communist regime, everything is given to the Cuban government and then doled out as the government deems appropriate.³⁰ All workers are government employees.³¹ Health care, housing,³² and food are free. Education is free and compulsory up to age 15 for boys and girls.³³ There may not be enough food available, however. For example, people are limited to 5 eggs per month. The “free” food typically runs out the third week of each month.³⁴

Before addressing the details, Cuba is beautiful, hot, unique, colorful, and a wonderful place to visit. There is much to see and do. The Cubans go out of their way to make American visitors feel welcome. All musical concerts and dance recitals concluded on my eight-day “Person-to-Person” tour of Cuba with the hope stated by the performers that the embargo will soon be lifted and the expression “We are amigos.”

Free Cuban health care means it is available to everyone at no charge.³⁵ Visitors pay \$37.00 for eight days of health care coverage.³⁶ Doctors are reported to be outstanding,³⁷ and they receive a free education.³⁸ Presently some Cuban doctors are being sent to Africa to fight Ebola.³⁹

Housing is free, if available.⁴⁰ If your husband or wife has a house you can live there. Often many generations live together.⁴¹ If no housing is presently available, a Cuban may have to live in a shelter.⁴² Often people without a great

²⁶ *Id.* at 14; *see also* Clyde, *supra* note 24.

²⁷ *See* Clyde, *supra* note 24.

²⁸ LOUIS A. PEREZ JR., *CUBA: BETWEEN REFORM AND REVOLUTION* 381-387 (Oxford U. Press 4th ed. 2010).

²⁹ *See* BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 496.

³⁰ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 522, 538, 539.

³¹ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 547.

³² BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 553-54.

³³ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 522.

³⁴ Joe Lamar, *For Cubans, the Struggle to Supplement Meagre Rations is a Consuming Obsession*, THE GUARDIAN, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/24/cubans-food-struggle-rations-consuming-obsession>; *see also* BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 551.

³⁵ BAKER, *supra* note 24 at 560.

³⁶ Paid by the author, April 2015. *See* BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 559-60.

³⁷ JULIA COOKE, *THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE: LIFE IN THE NEW CUBA* 86, 165, 187 (2014) [hereinafter “COOKE”].

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Benny Avni, *To Fight Ebola, Cuba Is Sending Its Biggest Export – Doctors*, NEWSWEEK (Dec. 15, 2014), <http://www.newsweek.com/cubas-biggest-export-doctors-292067>.

⁴⁰ COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 153. Bedrooms with high ceilings are often divided vertically and called *barbacoa*. *Id.*

⁴¹ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 553. .

⁴² Fernando Ravsberg, *Housing in Cuba: An Unresolved Nightmare*, HAVANA TIMES (Oct. 7, 2013), <http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=99258> (explaining that “nearly 28 Thousand (housing) units would have to be constructed in Havana alone [to remove Cubans from shelters].”).

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deal of money live in impressive old houses in Havana. But the houses need paint and repair. Not surprisingly, architecturally impressive houses are often in a state of substantial deterioration.⁴³

Each Cuban owns his house or condominium, but no one owns the building.⁴⁴ The land under the building is owned by the state.⁴⁵ This creates huge problems for the historical restoration program.⁴⁶ People cannot be forced out during repairs and restorations because the residents own their homes and have nowhere to go.⁴⁷

A. Education

For those Cubans wishing to go to school beyond age 15, they can do so free of charge. They are not required to attend high school.⁴⁸ Literacy is stated to be 99 percent.⁴⁹ For those desiring graduate education, there are three critical requirements. First, there must be a need for their profession. For example, Cubans have little manufacturing, so it is very hard to get a mechanical engineering degree.⁵⁰ Second, graduate student applicants must do well on the state administered tests.⁵¹ Third, each student is required to perform two years of governmental service after graduation.⁵²

B. Family

It is common in Cuba for several generations often live together. A recent college graduate may have to live with his mother or grandmother.⁵³ Julia Cooke finds this to be one of the most pleasant cornerstones of Cuban life because political and intellectual discussions go on for hours.⁵⁴

⁴³ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 553.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 190.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ BAKER, *supra* note 24 at 158.

⁴⁹ See generally COOKE, *supra* note 37 (explaining that "prior to the nineties . . . Literacy rates hit 99 percent . . .").

⁵⁰ Baker, *supra* note 24 at 558, 559 (stating that "children with special talents may opt to attend specialist schools that foster skills in art, music, or sports . . . Cuba had four universities. [T]he hyper educated population is hard pressed to find books . . . The state often dictates what university students will study. . . . And thousands of qualified Cuban school graduates are denied university place reserved for Venezuelans and other "solidarity" students.").

⁵¹ *Id.*; see also COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 68.

⁵² COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 17. "After graduating from the University of Havana, Lucía was putting in the two years of social service that paid for the degree." *Id.*

⁵³ COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 153 (noting that Barbacoa are "Cuban lofts constructed to divide a room vertically into four floors . . . The four of them lived in one bedroom.").

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 134-135, 144, 207, 225.

C. Infrastructure: Roads

In the historical parts of Camaguey and Havana, the streets are paved with cobblestones and there are numerous potholes. Other streets in Camaguey are in fair condition but also filled with potholes. It is the same case in Havana. A substantial part of the road from Camaguey to Havana is apportioned in three lanes on each side, and heavily populated with old-cars, trucks, buses, new cars and cattle. Vehicle traffic is light, however,⁵⁵ and it is a crime to hit a steer that wanders onto the highway.⁵⁶ However, the infrastructure and stability of the roads in and around Havana are much better than in the countryside.

D. Public Transportation

At the bottom of the Cuban transportation chain is the *bicitaxi*.⁵⁷ This is a bike with a seat in the back that holds two people (similar to a rickshaw). Next is the horse-drawn wagon. These wagons carry up to eight people and are very common in Camaguey and the countryside, but are not seen in Havana.⁵⁸ The *peditaxi* almost always has a roof of some type (cloth, leather, blue or gray plastic tarps). Perhaps the most shocking mode of transportation is the truck-bus. These are trucks with huge boxes in the back painted gray or black.⁵⁹ There are holes at about head height and are packed as tightly as possible with people, even in 100 degree temperatures.⁶⁰ The truck buses are privately owned and charge about 25 cents (USD) for a short trip. Although they have roofs, they look like vehicles used to transport German prisoners during World War II.

Buses come in two other varieties as well. Old, dilapidated buses are found in the cities. These are cheap to ride and have fares about the same as the truck-buses. They are also packed with passengers.⁶¹ Of course, the tour companies use clean, new, air-conditioned buses. These are often Lutong buses made in China.⁶²

⁵⁵ *Message for U.S. Citizens – Traffic Accidents and Road Safety*, U.S. EMBASSY, HAVANA CUBA (June 27, 3013), http://photos.state.gov/libraries/havana/231771/PDFs_001/Traffic-Accidents-and-Road-Safety-06-27-13M2.pdf. (Highlighting that in the past two years there has been a marked increase in the number of [traffic] accidents. Vehicles are now the leading cause of accidental death in Cuba.)

⁵⁶ Gary Marx, *Cubans have beef with chronic cattle shortage*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Mar. 18, 2004), http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2004-03-18/news/0403180191_1_pedro-alvarez-cattle-cuban-economy. (Noting that in Cuba, citizens who kill a cow can get a 10 year prison sentence. The same thing can occur if a cow is hit by a car.)

⁵⁷ Ana Lorena Fernandez, *Bicitaxis*, LAHABANA (May 2012), http://www.lahabana.com/Travel/article_transport.php?id=Bicitaxis. The *bicitaxi* is “a small human powered means of transport” in Cuba. *Id.*

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ Tyler Westermall, *Our Girl in Havana: The Necessary Hazard of Cuba’s Trucks*, HUFFINGTON POST TRAVEL (Mar. 28, 2013), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tyler-wetherall/cuba-camiones-travel_b_2544565.html.

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² Michael Martinez, *Cuba Puts Humped Camel Bus Out to Pasture*, CHI. TRIB. (Nov. 19, 2007), http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2007-11-19/news/0711190093_1_raul-castro-cuban-american-studies-months-after-fidel-castro.

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At the very top of the transportation chain, are a large number of old cars from before 1960, which are used as taxis.⁶³ Many are apparently in excellent condition, but some appear tired and are covered in bondo.⁶⁴ The prices for riding in these is the same as the state-owned, new yellow-cabs.⁶⁵ Many of these old-cars have worn-out their original engines and now have Russian imported diesel engines. They are often loud and smoke profusely.⁶⁶

Unique to Havana are “coco” taxis. These are two passenger, three-wheeled cabs with small gas engines. They have fiberglass wraparound roofs painted bright yellow, and they look like half a peanut shell.⁶⁷

Cabs come in two versions. First, there are the yellow state-owned cabs. They are new and air-conditioned.⁶⁸ Second, there are old, privately owned cars. The problem with the old cars used as cabs in Cuba is that they are in disrepair and are unavailable. Often they are frequently out of service.

E. Government

When Raul Castro finishes his second term in 2018, there are 600 representatives who will determine his successor. The representatives are elected by the people, but there is only one party. It is not clear when or where the 600 representatives will meet to elect the successor.

In both Camaguey and Havana, the police (male and female) are seen in groups of three or more.⁶⁹ Their uniforms are blue or brown and appear freshly pressed. They are armed and do not smile. The streets are reported to be safe for visitors in Havana.⁷⁰

Compared to Atlanta, it was a pleasure to walk the dark streets of Cuba without fear of being mugged or robbed.⁷¹

⁶³ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 588-589.

⁶⁴ See generally BONDO, <http://www.bondo.com> (last visited May 2, 2016). Bondo is a plastic resin used to fill holes and dents in metal. *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Bradford Wernle, *On the Streets of Cuba*, AUTOMOTIVE NEWS (Jun. 28, 2015), <http://www.autonews.com/article/20150628/OEM/150629921/on-the-streets-of-cuba>.

⁶⁷ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 590.

⁶⁸ BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 588-590.

⁶⁹ COOKE, *supra* note 37, at 129, 140 (reporting that a person is assigned to each block in Havana, and reports to the government on the comings and goings of visitors. Fines may be issued for not having a carnet.).

⁷⁰ See *Is it safe to walk the streets of Cuba?* HAVANA TIMES, (Mar. 7, 2009).

⁷¹ Overseas Security Advisory Council, *Cuba 2015 Crime and Safety Report* (Mar. 3, 2015), <https://www.osac.gov/pages/contentreportdetails.aspx?cid=17198>. In Cuba, “Pickpocketing and purse snatching continue to be a problem. . . . Violent crimes is not common.” *Id.*

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F. Taxes

The tax rate in Cuba is 100 percent and everyone is employed by the state.⁷² Workers receive back what the government deems appropriate.⁷³ There are some new exceptions to state ownership of all property and means of production. Paladares are privately owned restaurants that now can seat up to fifty people. A portion of what the restaurant owner brings – in goes to the state. Similarly, the privately-owned cabs owned by farmers can use a portion of their farm to raise personal crops or sell at the market. Not all farm products go to the state. *Paladares*, cabs, and farms are experiments in capitalism.

G. Conclusion

A person does not necessarily receive more government services or choices as a result of more taxes. He or she may receive additional free health care, education and housing, but he or she may also experience disadvantages, such as poorly constructed roads, dilapidated houses, no meaningful work, boredom, food shortages, no parts to repair vehicles, and the loss of freedom to travel, or the lack of resources to start a business. Hope in Cuba is in short supply, except in regard to the ending of the embargo. Cubans live with the understanding that their entire future lies with the U.S. embargo being lifted. They have no dream that anything will improve substantially under Castro-communism.

IV. Atlanta, Georgia, United States

Atlanta, Georgia, located in the southern part of the United States, is one of the most beautiful and livable cities in the world.⁷⁴ With a population of 450,000,⁷⁵ it is located on low rolling hills. To the north by 50 miles is a large, beautiful, and popular body of water: Lake Lanier.⁷⁶ Thirty miles further to the north are gorgeous low-rolling mountains.⁷⁷

⁷² BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 547.

⁷³ *Id.* at 548.

⁷⁴ *World's most livable city is . . .*, CNN TRAVEL (Aug. 15, 2012), <http://travel.cnn.com/explorations/life/worlds-most-livable-city-525619/>; The Livability Index: The 35 Best U.S. Cities for People 35 and Under, VOCATIV, <http://www.vocativ.com/culture/media/livability/>; see also *Best cities ranking and report*, THE ECONOMIST (Aug 15., 2012), http://pages.eiu.com/rs/eiu2/images/EIU_BestCities.pdf; Todd Elrick, *Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker 2015: Top 10 Big Cities*, MOVIE MAKER (Jan. 22, 2015), <http://www.moviemaker.com/archives/news/best-places-to-live-and-work-as-a-movie-maker-2015-top-10-big-cities/5/>; Kenneth Rapoza, *The Best (And Worst) Cities On Earth*, FORBES (Aug. 28, 2013), <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2013/08/28/the-best-and-worst-cities-on-earth/#7b819aad7f3c>; Gilly Wright & Valentina Pasquali, *The Best Cities to Live in the World*, GLOBAL FINANCE (Aug. 16, 2015), <https://www.gfmag.com/global-data/non-economic-data/best-cities-to-live>.

⁷⁵ See 2011 Transportation Fact Book, Atlanta Region Commission 8 (2011), (http://documents.atlantaregional.com/transportation/TPD2011factbook_v04.pdf). There are 1.46 registered cars per household in Fulton and DeKalb, the lowest of the 10 county region. The average for the 10 county area was 1.84 for 2010. *Id.*

⁷⁶ See generally LANIER ISLANDS, <http://www.lanierislands.com> (last visited May 2, 2016) (explaining that the Lanier Island feature the unparalleled natural beauty of North Georgia).

⁷⁷ See generally GEORGIA MOUNTAINS, <http://www.georgiamountains.org/> (last visited May 2, 2016) (describing the “Lush green forests” of Georgia).

Political and Social Structure of Mexico, Cuba and the U.S.

A. Education

Education in Atlanta and the United States is free of cost through the 12th grade.⁷⁸ This also includes kindergarten education.⁷⁹ Some states even provide free pre-kindergarten education to young children.⁸⁰ Several years ago, Georgia permitted gambling in the form of a lottery, with the understanding that the proceeds would fund college education.⁸¹ The promise is that if a high school student maintains a “B” average, he or she can go to a state college for “free.”⁸²

There are numerous outstanding state universities and community colleges in Georgia as well as private colleges and universities.⁸³ Many of these are located in Atlanta.⁸⁴ Private universities can cost as much as \$50,000 per year for tuition.⁸⁵

There is no free housing, food, or medicine in Atlanta as in Cuba (food banks are an exception). A year ago, President Obama developed a program that requires each person to purchase health insurance (“Obamacare”)⁸⁶. Insurance is not provided by the government like in Cuba, but rather is available through private insurance carriers.⁸⁷ A large portion of the population now has the mandated health insurance.⁸⁸ Before “Obamacare,” 40 percent of Americans did not have health insurance.⁸⁹

⁷⁸ 20 U.S.C. § 3401 (1979).

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ *Pre-K Funding Overview*, ATLAS (Jun. 8, 2015), <http://atlas.newamerica.org/pre-k-funding#toc-child-care-programs-that-receive-public-subsidies>. “[S]tates that do not fund any state pre-K programs are Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.” *Id.*

⁸¹ O.C.G.A. § 50-27-3(11) (2010); *see also* Kim Severson, *Georgia Facing a Hard Choice on Free Tuition*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 7, 2011), http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/07/us/07hope.html?_r=0 (discussing how the Georgia education lottery has become so popular that budget shortfalls may cause a rollback of the program).

⁸² *See* GACOLLEGE411.ORG, https://secure.gacollege411.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/HOPE_Program/Georgia_s_HOPE_Scholarship_Program_Overview.aspx (last visited Aug. 2, 2015) (noting that a 3.0 GPA is required; the ‘promise’ of the free education has been called in to question. The program is so popular that it is draining the fund); *See also* Kim Severson, *supra* note 81.

⁸³ *See e.g.* Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech) – Atlanta, Clark Atlanta, University of Georgia – Athens, Georgia State University – Atlanta, Georgia Southern University – Statesboro, Kennesaw State University – Kennesaw, Albany State University – Albany, Emory University – Atlanta, Mercer University – Macon, Morehouse College – Atlanta, Oglethorpe – Atlanta, Spelman College – Atlanta.

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ *See* Emory University, *Tuition and Fees*, EMORY.EDU, <http://apply.emory.edu/apply/tuition.php> (last visited Aug. 16, 2015). Tuition and fees for Emory – tuition is \$45,700; estimated cost of attendance is an additional \$36,058 over the cost of tuition. *Id.*

⁸⁶ *See generally* Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590, 111th Cong. (2010) (enacted).

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ *See generally* *The Affordable Care Act Is Working*, HHS (Jun. 24, 2015) (<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/factsheets/2014/10/affordable-care-act-is-working.html/>) (noting that especially among the traditionally uninsured/underinsured, the number of persons gaining access to healthcare has increased by tens of millions); *See also* *ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers*, OBAMACARE FACTS (Feb. 5, 2015), <http://obamacarefacts.com/sign-ups/obamacare-enrollment-numbers/> (noting the uninsured percentage of Americans is the lowest in over 50 years).

⁸⁹ *Id.*

B Infrastructure

The roads in Atlanta are smooth and generally free of potholes. Atlanta is ringed by an eight to twelve lane perimeter highway that is part of the federal interstate highway system.⁹⁰ The majority of the population in Atlanta has one or more cars.⁹¹ This is a necessity because there is essentially no public transportation.⁹² Clean modern buses travel from the center to the outside of the city and back but not across town. This means that a car is a practical necessity to get from east to west anywhere except for central Atlanta. For example, my friend's car broke down and it took him three hours and several bus transfers to get to his work, which is located only six miles from his home.

There is a modern, short subway system, but a car or taxi is necessary to reach a subway station.⁹³ It costs \$2.50 to travel twelve miles. Taxicabs fill the huge gap left by public transportation. Uber cabs owned by individuals (and not a cab company such as Yellow Cab) have begun to make a dent in the taxi service available in Atlanta.⁹⁴

C. Form of Government

The United States, is a democracy.⁹⁵ This is an oversimplification because most important questions track corporate policy.⁹⁶ Every financial interest of meaningful size has a political lobby and the lobbies educate and persuade the

⁹⁰ Mitchell Landsberg, *After 35 Years, Nation's Ribbon of Interstates Nearly Complete: Transportation: It has profoundly influenced the country's evolution. When Eisenhower began the system, he envisioned an American Autobahn*, L.A. TIMES, (Jul. 23, 2000), http://articles.latimes.com/1991-07-21/news/mn-198_1_interstate-highway-system.

⁹¹ See *2011 Transportation Fact Book*, ATLANTA REGION COMMISSION (Jul. 2011), http://documents.atlantaregional.com/transportation/TPD2011factbook_v04.pdf. The 2010 census has approximately 4,107,750 living in the 10 county Atlanta Regional Commission's area. *Id.* Those counties are; Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale. *Id.*

⁹² See MARTA, <http://www.itsmarta.com> (last visited Feb. 5, 2016). MARTA (Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) operates the public transportation system; while there is public transportation in Atlanta (buses, trains, and a trolley), there is no easy route to take across the metro area. *Id.* Transfers are not free, are limited to 4 per 3 hour period, and to travel across the Metro Area requires at least one transfer on the bus. *Id.*

⁹³ *Rail Stations & Schedules*, MARTA (Jul. 31, 2015), <http://www.itsmarta.com/rail-schedules-or-route.aspx>. The train system is both above and below ground. There are parking areas at the end of the 4 lines (Red and Gold go N-S, Blue and Green go W-E). *Id.*

⁹⁴ See Thomas Wheatley, *Atlanta's taxi industry declares war on Uber, Lyft*, CREATIVE LOAFING ATLANTA (Jan. 30, 2014), <http://clatl.com/atlanta/atlas-taxi-industry-declares-war-on-uber-lyft/Content?oid=10295234>; See also Erica Byfield, *Channel 2 investigates Uber drivers ticketed, impounded at Atlanta airport*, WSB-TV ATLANTA 2 (Apr. 27, 2015) <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/channel-2-investigates-uber-drivers-ticketed-impou/nk4TC/> (stating that "Yonis said profits are down 40 percent for taxicab drivers operating out of the airport, a dip he blames on rideshares like Uber.").

⁹⁵ See U.S. CONST.; see GA CONST.; see also Atlanta City Charter (1996).

⁹⁶ See Frank Vandall, HISTORY OF CIVIL LITIGATION: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES, 209 (2011); See also Joanna Shepherd & Michael S. Kang, *Citizens United, Television Advertising and State and State Supreme Court Justices' Decision in Criminal Cases*, SKEWED JUSTICE (Feb. 5, 2016), <http://skewedjustice.org>.

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elected representatives.⁹⁷ The recent Supreme Court case *Citizens United*,⁹⁸ supports and encourages this. *Citizens United* held that money can be given to political action committees and they can use the donations as they wish to support or attack political candidates.

Jack Paar, a TV host in the 1960's, visited Cuba and reported that the U.S. offered aid to Cuba after the overthrow of the Batista government, but Fidel Castro rejected U.S. aid because it would be tied to a substantial American corporate presence and influence in Cuba.⁹⁹ Cuba instead turned instead to the U.S.S.R. for assistance and the U.S. responded with the Cuban embargo.¹⁰⁰ U.S. governmental leaders are elected by the people of the United States, but the leaders tend to follow the guidance of financial lobbies.¹⁰¹

D. Taxes

The maximum federal income tax rate is 39.6 percent¹⁰² and the maximum income tax rate in the state of Georgia is 6 percent.¹⁰³ Atlanta is located in Fulton County and collects its money from a tax of 7 percent on each sale.¹⁰⁴ Food bought in a supermarket is not taxed, but food purchased in a restaurant is taxed.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁷ *Id.* at. 138-39. Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard Law School professor has announced his candidacy for president. *Id.* His campaign is that "the system is broken" and that Congress does the bidding of the corporations, not the people. *Id.*

⁹⁸ *Citizens United v. Federal Election Com'n*, 588 U.S. 310 (2010).

⁹⁹ Fidel Castro, THE JACK PAAR TONIGHT SHOW (NBC, 1959).; see also Nan Robertson, *Jack Paar Reminisces*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 20, 1984), <http://www.nytimes.com/1984/02/20/arts/jack-paar-reminisces.html>.

¹⁰⁰ Vandall, *supra* note 96, at 139 (stating that political candidates must early-on in their campaigns secure financial support).; see also Shepherd & Kang, *supra* note 96.

¹⁰¹ Frank Vandall, *History of Civil Litigation: Political and Economic Perspectives*, 139 (2011) (stating that, "almost every major financial interest seeks to lobby state law makers. Georgia is a good example."); see also Joanna Shepherd and Michael S. Kang, *Skewed Justice Citizens United, Television Advertising and State and State Supreme Court Justices' Decision in Criminal Cases*, SKEWEDJUSTICE.org (Aug. 1, 2015), <http://skewedjustice.org>.

¹⁰² See *Tax Forms and Instructions*, GPO (Aug. 1, 2015), <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2012-title26-vol20/CFR-2012-title26-vol20-sec601-602>.

¹⁰³ See St. of Ga., DEPT. OF REV. 2014 INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX 500 AND 500EZ FORMS AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS 24 (2014); See also *Schedule for Estimating Ga. Income Taxes*, Official Ga. Dept. of Rev. (2009), http://dor.georgia.gov/sites/dor.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/TSD/Form/TSD_Individual_Estimated_Tax_Worksheet_and_Tax_Rates_1.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ 2015 *Fulton County, Georgia Sales Tax*, TAX-RATES.org (Aug. 1, 2015), http://www.tax-rates.org/georgia/fulton_county_sales_tax. The City of Atlanta collects the 4% St. of Ga. sales tax, plus an additional local 3% sales tax, for a combined total of 7%. *Id.*

¹⁰⁵ O.G.C.A. § 48-8-3(57)(A) (noting that food purchased for off-premises human consumption exempt); see also O.G.C.A. § 48-3-3(57)(B) (prepared food not exempt).

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E. Crime

Atlanta has a substantial crime rate.¹⁰⁶ The U.S. has no meaningful gun control therefore guns are freely sold and there are about 400 million guns in the U.S.¹⁰⁷ Between 25,000 and 36,000 people die in the U.S. each year from gun violence.¹⁰⁸ By comparison, there is no omnipresent risk of death from being murdered in Cuba or Bucierias.¹⁰⁹

F. Conclusion

In regard to government, it is often true that citizens get what they pay for. The taxes are lower in Atlanta than Cuba, but there is little public transportation, and having a car is necessary. There is no free food (except for food banks), free healthcare or free housing in Atlanta.¹¹⁰ Crime is substantial in Atlanta but sta-

¹⁰⁶ See Danielle Kurtzleben, *The 11 Most Dangerous Cities*, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REP. (Feb. 16, 2011), <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2011/02/16/the-11-most-dangerous-cities>; see also Les Christie, *Most Dangerous U.S. Cities*, CNN (Jan. 23, 2013), http://money.cnn.com/gallery/real_estate/2013/01/23/dangerous-cities/7.html; see also Julie Wolfe, *Atlanta named No. 9 'Most Dangerous' city*, CHANNEL 11 ATLANTA 11 ALIVE (Oct. 28, 2013), <http://archive.11alive.com/news/article/311371/40/Atlanta-named-No-9-Most-Dangerous-city> (explaining that since 2011, three different news orgs. compiled stat. about Atlanta and came to the conclusion that Atlanta is a “most dangerous city”. Regardless of how Atlanta is ranked by various news organizations, crime continues to be a problem.).

¹⁰⁷ William J. Krouse, *Gun Control Legislation*, FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS (Nov. 14, 2012), <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32842.pdf>. Krouse cites the number of guns available to civilians in 2009 as approximately 310 million. *Id.* However, this number does not include antique guns, unregistered guns, or the guns in use by the United States military. *Id.* Report notes that approximately 1-2 million handguns are manufactured each year; 1-1.5 million rifles and fewer than 1 million shotguns. *Id.* There were approximately 2 million handguns imported, 864,000 rifles and 559,000 shotguns by 2009. By 2009, there was at least 1:1 civilian to gun ratio in the US.). *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ See Donna L. Hoyert and Jiaquan Xu, *Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011*, 61 Nat'l Vital Stat. Rep., U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Oct. 10, 2012), http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_06.pdf (stating that for the years 2010-2011, the number of gun-related deaths in the U.S. (homicide and suicide) were 30,470 and 30,867, respectively).

¹⁰⁹ Martin Evans, *Teacher who visited Cuba to study 'low crime rate' strangled in hotel room*, THE TELEGRAPH (Sept. 24 2013), <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/10330241/Teacher-who-visited-Cuba-due-to-low-crime-rate-strangled-in-hotel-room.html>. Cuba does not have an official report for murders; there have been several high profile cases in recent years, including British teacher Lara Jones who was asphyxiated in March of 2012 by a hotel security guard. *Id.*

¹¹⁰ While true there is no widespread “free” food, healthcare, or housing in Atlanta, the U.S. government does have programs that supplement food (previously known as ‘food stamps’, now known as ‘EBT’ benefits), health insurance (Medicaid, if a citizen can find a doctor that accepts Medicaid), and housing (Known as ‘Section 8’ housing; the name refers to the section of U.S. Code that defines the program). However, these programs are only ‘supplemental’, that is, not intended to provide for all a person will need. There is no guarantee of benefits, the benefit must be applied for – often through an intrusive process that in some states that require drug screenings – and can be easily lost; *contra* GA. FOOD STAMPS, <http://food-stamps.com/Georgia> (last visited May 2, 2016) (noting that Georgia does not require drug screenings).

tistically rarer than in Cuba and Mexico.¹¹¹ There are violent kidnappings and drug wars in parts of Mexico, however.¹¹²

Education at the lower grade levels is free in Mexico, Cuba and Atlanta. But at \$25,000 to \$50,000 in Atlanta, a college education can bankrupt a family or put a student in substantial debt for 20 to 25 years.¹¹³ Roads are smooth and plentiful in Atlanta because they are a necessity. Navigating Atlanta requires a car. Unemployment is at 13 percent in the black community of Atlanta.¹¹⁴ Cuba promises free housing, education and healthcare, but food is often in short supply and depleted by the end of week three.¹¹⁵ Some Cubans have cars, but they are from before 1960.¹¹⁶ There is almost no visible unemployment in Cuba, but the American CIA suggests unemployment to be close to 8 percent.¹¹⁷ The Soviet collapse and withdrawal from Cuba in 1990 and the U.S. embargo has left Cuba on the verge of starvation.¹¹⁸ Fifty years after the imposition of the Cuban embargo, the Cuban people live at a subsistence level.¹¹⁹ The Economist reports “Nobody starves, but hard-currency supermarkets go for weeks without basics such as milk and bread.”¹²⁰

¹¹¹ *Murders with Firearms Per Million: Countries Compared*, NATIONMASTER (Aug. 1, 2015), <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Crime/Murders-with-firearms-per-million>. When it comes to crime, especially gun crimes, the U.S. has 19 times the rate of gun crimes in Cuba and 6 times more than Mexico. *Id.* The U.S. has 8 times more total crime than Mexico, and the U.S. murder rate is 23 times more than Cuba. *Id.*

¹¹² Joshua Partlow, *Kidnappings in Mexico surge to highest number on record*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Aug. 15, 2014), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/kidnappings-in-mexico-surge-to-the-highest-number-on-record/2014/08/15/3f8ee2d2-1e6e-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4_story.html.

¹¹³ Allie Bidwell, *Student Loan Expectations: Myth vs. Reality*, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT (Oct. 7, 2015), <http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/10/07/student-loan-expectations-myth-vs-reality> (explaining that student loan debt is a burden taken on by many to pay for school. A law student with approximately \$100,000.00 in school debt, stands a chance of actually paying off the debt. Others that do not enter careers with an expectation of good pay do not have such an optimistic outlook. There are programs that allow for persons in the public sector to have their loans forgiven after completing a certain number of payments, but that does not help students entering the private sector.).

¹¹⁴ See Valerie Wilson, Josh Bivens, *Fact Sheet: Estimates of Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity at the MSA Level for the Third Quarter of 2014*, ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE (Nov. 12, 2014), http://www.epi.org/files/2013/fed_fact_sheet.pdf. Actual unemployment rate was at 13.67% for the black community in Atlanta, compared with 4.64% for whites and 6.02% for Hispanics. Asian community unemployment rate was unknown. *Id.*

¹¹⁵ Rosa Tania Valdes, *Raul Castro's reforms fail to end Cuba's chronic shortages*, REUTERS U.S. (May 9, 2014), <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/09/us-cuba-shortages-idUSBREA480DC20140509>; see also *Cuban Government Acknowledges Food Shortages*, LATIN AMERICAN HERALD TRIBUNE (Aug. 2, 2015), <http://laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=353160&CategoryId=14510>.

¹¹⁶ Jonathan Watts, *Cuba's classic cars set to disappear with rule change on new vehicle imports*, THE GUARDIAN (Jan. 3, 2014), <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/03/cuba-classic-car-streets-rule-change-new-purchase>.

¹¹⁷ Ian Talley, *5 Things You Need to Know about Cuba's Economy*, THE WALL STREET J. BLOG (Dec. 17, 2014), <http://blogs.wsj.com/briefly/2014/12/17/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-cubas-economy/> (explaining that “while the Cuban government says the unemployment rate in 2013 was around 4.13%, the CIA says unofficial estimates are likely double that rate.”).

¹¹⁸ BAKER, *supra* note 24; see also COOKE, *supra* note 37.

¹¹⁹ COOKE, *supra* note 37. Returning Cubans bring toilets, toilet lids, and feminine napkins. *Id.*

¹²⁰ *Cuban Food Shortages: Hungry for Change*, THE ECONOMIST (Mar. 25, 2010), <http://www.economist.com/node/15769891>.

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From a socio-economic perspective, Mexico lies somewhere in the middle between the U.S. and Cuba. Food is available, as are public transportation and public healthcare.¹²¹ Taxes, in Cuba are 100 percent because everything is owned by the state and all products go to the state.¹²² In contrast, U.S. taxes (a maximum of 39.6 percent) are less than Cuba's 100 percent "tax rate."¹²³ Mexican taxes are lower still. There is much less government intrusion in the U.S. than in Cuba. However, government presence is almost invisible in Bucierias.

In the U.S., the Republican party argues for less governmental intrusion and lower taxes. This sounds like Mexico, where the results of such policies are poor roads, free education up to the age of 14, and few students matriculating from high school to college. Public transportation is widely available, however. The Democrats in the U.S., on the other hand, are traditionally depicted as favoring more governmental intrusion and higher taxes. This sounds something like Cuba where the result of these policies, at the extreme, are a 99% literacy rate, free housing, food and healthcare, but the food runs out before the end of the month. Hope is also in short supply in Cuba.

This preliminary comparison suggests that a careful evaluation of socio-economic policies is needed before implementation. Perhaps the best form of government is one that is not set in stone and takes the best ideas from several economies.

¹²¹ Karen Feldscher, *Mexico achieves universal health coverage, enrolls 52.6 million people in less than a decade*, Harvard SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Aug. 15, 2012), <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/mexico-universal-health/>.

¹²² BAKER, *supra* note 24, at 537-42.

¹²³ See COOKE, *supra* note 37.