

Reciprocity Should Drive US-Cuba Normalization

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Much has been written about current **US-Cuba economic relations** and whether the embargo should be ended. However, little has been written about what principles should shape US policy when the tectonic plates of US-Cuba relations eventually begin to shift — whenever that might be. A [study](#) released last week by the Peterson Institute for International Economics nicely fills this void.

The [study](#), entitled, “Economic Normalization with Cuba: A Roadmap for Policy Makers”, was done by Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Barbara Kotschwar and provides a blueprint for restoring normal economic relations in a manner that serves the mutual best interests of the United States and Cuba.

The study calls on US policymakers to pursue a new economic relationship based on reciprocity and avoid a situation as occurred in Russia where US markets were opened without appreciation that the Russian economy would become dominated by oligarchs to the detriments not only of US exporters but the Russian people themselves. The Peterson [study](#) urges US policymakers to assure that, before US tourists start spending millions in Cuba and before US consumers begin buying imports from Cuba, that US businesses and workers have reciprocal access to the Cuba market.

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