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Democracy Delayed: The Case of Castro's Cuba by Juan J. Lopez. Baltimore, MD, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. 272 pp. \$42.50.

For a democratic regime transition, Juan Lopez argues, there must be “a widespread belief in the population that change is possible” and also “independent sources of communication to reach a large percentage of the population regularly” (p. 160). The first proposition seems a tautology: we infer that such belief exists only after people acted, in which case they surely believe that change was possible. The second proposition recalls that the control of information is a well-known authoritarian instrument. While advancing these arguments to explain why a regime transition did not occur in Cuba in 1989 or soon thereafter, Lopez also launches a sometimes contradictory critique of alternative explanations and ignores important evidence.

This book about Cuba cites no sources from Cuba. Lopez systematically ignores the writings of Cuban scholars, even those published outside Cuba. In the rare references to Cuba's official newspaper, *Granma*, he only footnotes sources outside Cuba that had cited *Granma* (pp. 14, 154). There is no entry for Fidel Castro in the bibliography. Lopez criticizes the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba for being too conciliatory toward the Castro government, yet he cites none of the pastoral letters or homilies of the Cuban bishops, or the magazines that several dioceses publish, that criticize the government. Lopez's important, valuable evidence comes mainly from political dissidents and exiles. Yet, the exiles are not in Cuba, and their absence weakened the opposition. Moreover, in depriving himself of the opportunity to understand the government on its own terms, Lopez cannot weigh the relative merits of various arguments for regime survival.

Lopez thoroughly discounts arguments that suggest that some Cubans support their government or that they may harbor some nationalist feelings that could complicate U.S.-Cuban relations. He provides recurrent comparisons to regimes in former communist Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Romania but refuses to believe that Cuba's revolutionary experience, especially during the 1960s, may help to explain why its regime has lingered longer. Nor does he believe that Cubans might support some government policies (education and health care, for example) and, as a consequence, be more conflicted in pondering regime transition. His arguments are also fixed as if at a single moment in time, taking little account of evidence of the evolution of views and experiences in Cuba in the 1990s.

The United States plays a key role in Lopez's account of the absence of a Cuban transition. He asserts that President Bill “Clinton did not want to bring about the demise of the Castro government” (p. 117), even though he notes in his next chapter that in the 1990s, the purpose of U.S. sanctions on Cuba was precisely to bring about regime change. He chastises Cuban-American members of Congress and Cuban exiles, especially the Cuban-American National Foundation, for insufficient zeal in fostering regime change in Cuba.

Lopez advocates U.S. government payments to dissident groups in Cuba but takes no position regarding individual remittances—a subject absent from the index. He ardently backs independent sources of information for Cubans, particularly Radio and TV Marti, but opposes travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, even under the restrictions prevailing during 1999–2003.

Lopez is a good debater. He sometimes presents apt critiques of the arguments of others. At his best, he describes well trends in the Cuban dissident community and in the politics of their relations with Cuban exiles. A much better book, however, would have made more effective use of evidence and been open to a fuller array of arguments about Cuba's delayed transition.

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Canada, the United States, and Cuba: An Evolving Relationship *edited by Sahadeo Basdeo and Heather N. Nicol. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002. 179 pp. \$49.95.*

The editors and authors analyze events (to May 2002) affecting the three countries' relations. Each chapter has a significant, precise statement of objectives, yielding, except in the "Conclusion," a well-organized, enjoyable readability and accurate results. The conclusion has an acceptable problem statement, documented in a reasonably complete and informative style, based primarily on Canadian newspaper articles. Its uselessness and fuzzy, abstruse, tortured prose result partly from too much deconstruction of discourses, narratives, spaces, (re)imaginings, (re)presentations, and tropes.

An inspirational quote from Jimmy Carter's Havana speech of May 2002 opens the book. Cuba's crackdown on dissidents in April 2003 showed how little these words meant to an aging autocrat intent on strengthening the island's isolation, siege mentality, and intransigence, and to the thinking of hardliners in Cuba, Miami, Washington, and Union City.

Three chapters deal with Cuba-U.S. relations. One of the factors affecting them is the false assertion that Cuba is a security threat. A second is "intermesticity," (international-domestic issues conflated). The latter includes Democrats wanting stability but no Cuban migration, Republicans wanting political change, and other factors such as lobbying, Cuba's attack on U.S. civilian planes, the Helms-Burton Act, charges of drug trafficking, *beisbol* diplomacy, and remittances.

Two chapters address Canada and Cuba, the major Cuban issues being its security agenda and army. The Canadian issues also reflect "intermesticity." For example, Canadian decision makers denounce the Helms-Burton Act as extraterritorial, morally unjust, and a violation of NAFTA. They try to address human rights on the island by implementing policies based on constructive engagement, a concern for dissidents, and an effort to avoid double standards.