

Abstract

**As the Tide Turns: An Analysis of Cuban Policy and its Effects  
on the Capability of Cuban Immigrants to Succeed in the U.S**

In the years after Fidel Castro's ascension to power, Cubans have immigrated to the U.S. in various waves. While the initial exiles were wildly successful and prosperous, the most recent immigrants have found considerably less success in their new country. This change in the Cuban emigrant's experience, I argue, is fundamentally tied to the economic changes in Cuba, culminating in the dollarization of the Cuban economy. This new generation of Cuban immigrants is increasingly estranged from the human capital skills and strong work ethic embodied by the initial waves of Cuban immigrants. As I argue, the social, political and economic factors that currently prevail in Cuba have created a society more dependent on remittances, theft, and prostitution than on labor to support itself. This situation makes newer Cuban immigrants to the U.S. less able to adapt and integrate into the American workforce.