The United States has always had a complicated relationship with Cuba. From the early years of the 19th century to the 1950s, relations were often hostile. Cuba, born out of the Spanish-American War, was a U.S. possession, and U.S. military bases on the island were a constant source of tension. The period from the 1950s to the 1990s was marked by the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1991, the U.S. and Cuba established diplomatic relations, and the two nations began to engage in economic and cultural exchanges. However, the United States has imposed economic sanctions on Cuba since the 1960s, which have had a significant impact on the island's economy and society.

In the 21st century, relations between the United States and Cuba have improved, but political differences continue to exist. The Cuban government is a single-party state, and the United States has maintained a policy of embargo against Cuba. Despite these differences, there are also noticeable differences, such as the U.S.-Cuban trade embargo, which remains in place. The U.S. government has lifted some restrictions on travel to Cuba, allowing more U.S. citizens to visit the island and engage in cultural and educational exchanges. However, the United States has not lifted all restrictions on travel, and certain activities, such as sending money to Cuba, remain prohibited.

From left to right: Dr. Luis René Fernández Tabío (University of Havana), Prof. Jorge Hernández Martínez (University of Havana), and Prof. Raúl Rodríguez (University of Havana). Credit: Photo by Daniel Martínez.