

## Trump and Cuba: The opportunity for a pragmatic deal



*A pragmatic agreement between Cuba and the US could prevent a humanitarian disaster (source: [Cubahora/Flickr/CC-BY-SA 2.0](#))*

US President Donald Trump has stated that he wants to make a “[deal](#)” with Cuba and is already in talks with “the highest people in Cuba” – but these negotiations apparently do not exist. While the US is blocking Cuba's energy supply, pushing the island ever closer to a humanitarian abyss, Secretary of State Marco Rubio is apparently deceiving his president about allegedly ongoing secret talks.

The paradox: both sides actually have more to offer each other than one might think, according to analyst Lee Schlenker. Cuba could grant access to strategic minerals such as cobalt and nickel, release political prisoners, and readjust its geopolitics.

In return, the US could revive tourism and enable billions in investment. But one man stands in the way of such a pragmatic deal: Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who prefers to focus on regime change and is even willing to accept deaths in the process. An interesting analysis of the possibilities for an agreement between Cuba and the US. Click here for the [original English text](#) on the *Responsible Statecraft* portal; a [German translation](#) can be found on *Telepolis*.

The investigative portal *Drop Site News* recently published an explosive investigation on the topic of the (non-)existence of negotiations: While Trump publicly talks about high-level negotiations, the US president is apparently being cleverly misled by his secretary of state, whom he has entrusted with the Cuba issue. According to five Cuban and US government

sources, there are no high-level negotiations between Havana and Washington, either in Mexico or elsewhere – Marco Rubio has been telling the president fairy tales.

The Secretary of State's strategy: to lull Trump into a false sense of security while time passes, so that in a few weeks' time he can claim that the Cubans were unwilling to negotiate. Unlike in the case of Venezuela, Rubio cannot afford to pursue anything other than regime change in Cuba: his voter base in South Florida would never forgive him for any deal with Havana, and his presidential dreams would be history. Is Marco Rubio playing his own game? Continue reading on *Drop Site News*. ([Cubaheute](#))