

This paper is designed to put some meat on the bones of this argument; it will address the following questions:

1. How does Central America fit into Soviet strategy in the Third World?
2. What does the history of Soviet involvement in the region tell us about patterns of Soviet behaviour here?
3. What is the character and extent of current Soviet involvement in the Caribbean Basin?
4. What policy implications does the record suggest?

As shall quickly become evident, in the author's view it is not possible to understand the nature and timing of Soviet behaviour in the region without reference to American policy there. As such, although the primary focus of the paper is on Soviet policy in the Caribbean Basin, considerable attention is paid to American behaviour as well.