



CUBA: WAR AND PEACE

A brief history of Cuba-U.S. relations
UNIT II: 1952-2015



Unit II Lecture Format:

Please read Chapters 4-6

Cuba, A History

by Sergio Guerra Vilaboy and
Oscar Loyola Vega.

Answer the Essential Questions
corresponding to the text and
lecture content herein.

Chapter 4: Prelude to Revolution

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

In what ways did Batista influence Cuba's political future through the Constitutional Assembly?

How did Batista become a dictator?



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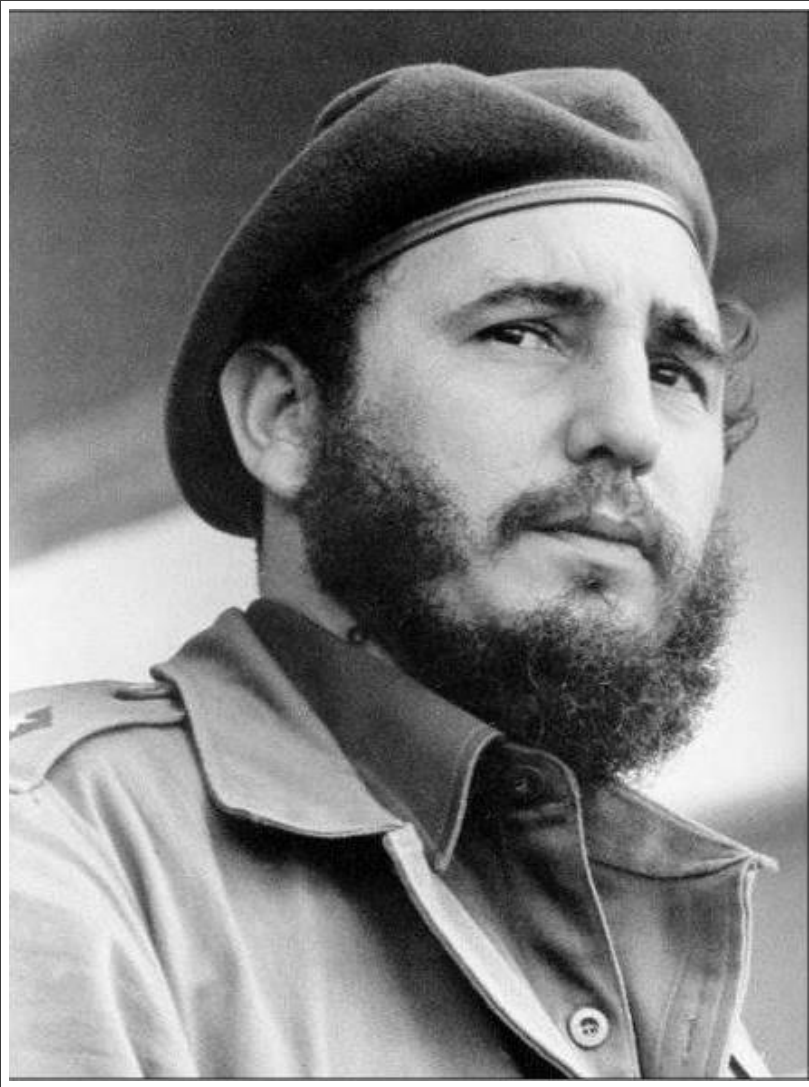
In what ways did Batista influence Cuba's political future through the Constitutional Assembly?

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General Fulgencio Batista presided over Cuba's best and worst efforts at democracy in the 30's, 40's and 50's.

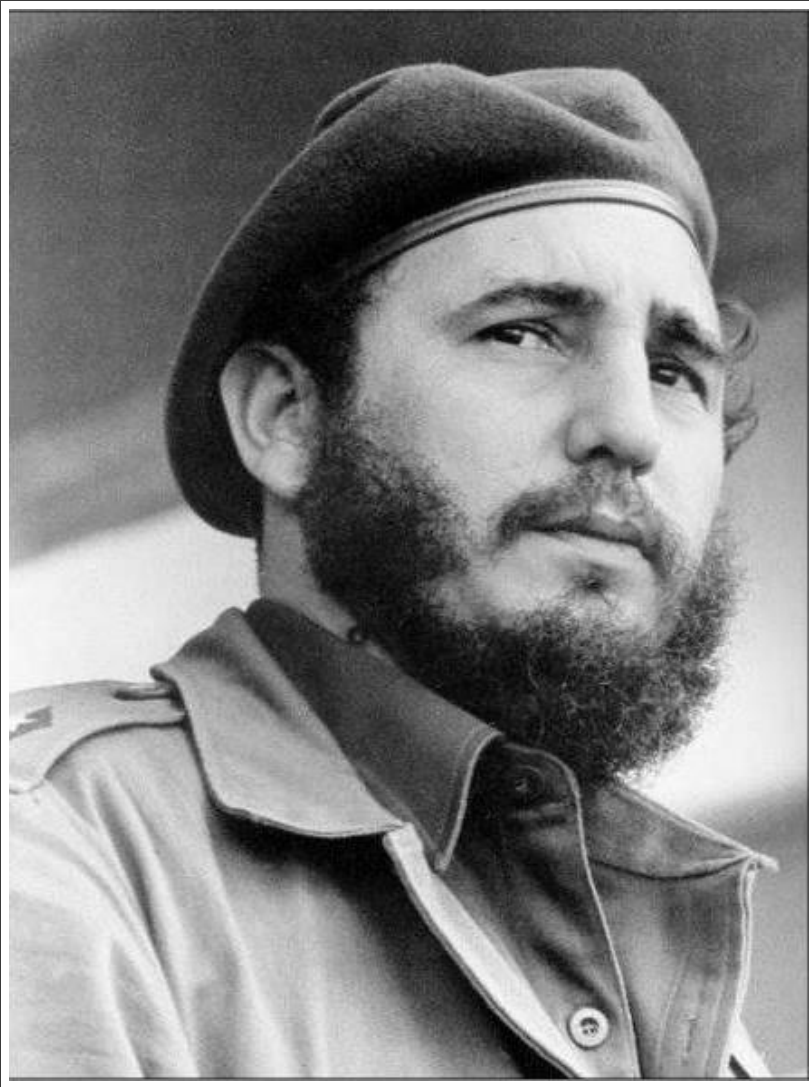
- **1933** -- filled the power vacuum of disgraced President Machado, allowed for social reforms
- **1934** -- put former *Mambi* Colonel Mendieta in power as President
- **1935** -- brutally repressed a labor strike with intense violence
- **1936-1939** – expanded his military power, promoted his cronies, made himself a U.S. darling
- **1940** – in a relatively free and fair election, Batista elected President
- **1943-1945** – played “nice” with the US during WWII, while the public enjoyed wartime middle class prosperity in Havana.
- **1945-1947** – attempted to purge socialist and communist parties
- **1950-51** – secretly met with gangsters in Miami, promising *carte blanche* in Cuba for help in seizing power
- **1952** – staged a coup against Carlos Prío, recognized as legitimate leader of Cuba by the U.S.
- **1952** – immediately began unraveling constitutional rights for people



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Who were the leaders of the 1940's and 1950's resistance movement? What were their strategies?

Fidel Castro, 1953



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A 26 year old lawyer, **Fidel Castro**, organized 100+ young people for armed revolt. Abel Santamaria, co-planner, was later martyred to the cause when tortured to death by Batista's thugs.

Their strategy was a radical departure from the passive resistance of earlier reformists, using violent guerilla tactics aimed at overthrowing the Batista regime.

Their first attempt, the July 26, 1953 Moncada incident, failed in the short-term, but galvanized great public support for a successful take-over in 1959.

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What is the significance of July 26, 1953?



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Castro, who was due to represent the Orthodox Party in the cancelled elections, chose 116 recruits (wo/men) and launched a plan kept so secret even brother Raul was uninformed.



Goal: attack the Cuartel Moncada military barracks, grab ammunitions to run for the Sierra Maestra mountains, from where they planned to launch a widespread uprising against Batista's Mafia-backed regime.

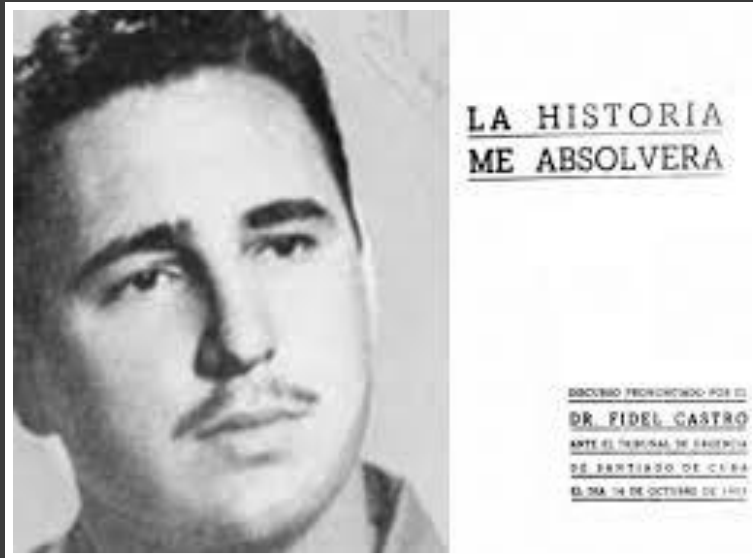
The date of July 26 was deliberate: after Santiago's annual carnival when both police and soldiers would be hung over from the day's revelries.

The plan failed badly when the driver made a wrong turn in Santiago's streets. The attack lasted all of 10 minutes, resulting in 64 arrests and executions.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What happened to Fidel Castro after the Moncada incident?



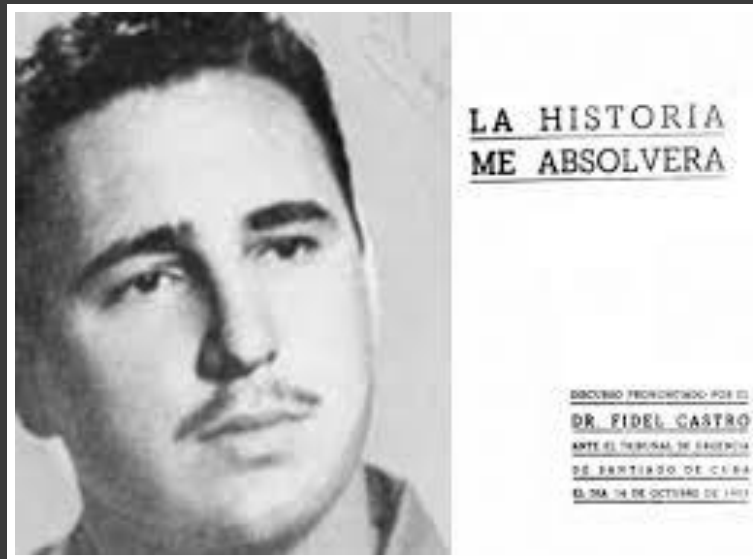


ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What happened to Fidel Castro after the Moncada incident?

Castro escaped to the Sierra Maestra mountains but was captured 3 days later by a sympathizer Lt Sarria who told his troops
“Don’t Shoot! You can’t kill ideas!”

Castro represented himself at trial, eloquently orating his famous defense **History Will Absolve Me**. His life was spared: sentenced to 15 years in prison on Isla de la Juventud, but he only served two before Batista granted amnesty for all political prisoners in 1955.



Believing he was to be executed, Fidel fled for Mexico from where he planned the revolutionary attacks to follow in 1956.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How was the Moncada failure replaced with success in 1959?



THE MONCADA ATTACK

BIRTH OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION



Antonio Rafael de la Cova

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The Moncada failure was highly publicized and earned sympathy for Fidel's cause.

From Mexico, Castro and his compatriots planned a fresh attack on the Batista regime, November 1956.

Sailing to Cuba from Mexico in the ill-equipped *Granma* boat, 81 Castro rebels crashed and were captured by Batista army.

Only 12 escape to the Sierra Maestra Mountains.

With every violent crackdown on the rebels, public sympathy for their cause increased.



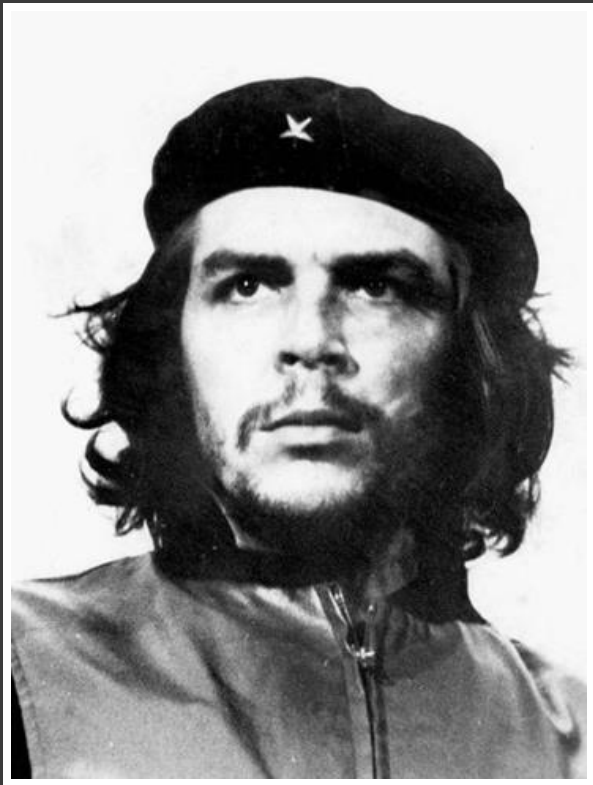
THE MONCADA ATTACK

BIRTH OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION



Antonio Rafael de la Gova

Revolutionary leaders of the 1950s



Ernesto "Che" Guevara:
Doctor, Poet, Visionary,
this Argentinian became
a global symbol of
resistance to oppression



Camilo Cienfuegos:
Anarchist and
Revolutionary aid to
Fidel, surviving
Granma "shipwreck"



Celia Sanchez Manduley:
Researcher, Politician,
key confidant to Fidel,
Celia helped plan the
Revolution.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
 What were the highlights of the Revolution?





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1956: Granma Yacht landed in Eastern Cuba with Castro and rebels aboard. Only 12 survived murder by the Cuban army.

1957: Embittered Cuban university students attacked the Presidential Palace in Havana and tried to assassinate Batista who narrowly escapes. All students were executed.



1958: Che Guevara masterminds an attack against an armored train in Santa Clara that forces Batista to flee.

1959: Castro was welcomed in Havana, passes historic First Agrarian Reform Act. Camilo Cienfuegos' plane disappears over Cuban coast.

Ch 5: Revolutionary Government

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How did Cuba transition to Socialism under the leadership of Fidel Castro?



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Castro's immediate executive actions:

- Dictatorship structures dismantled
- War criminals (Batista regime) on trial
- Housing reforms cut costs by 50%
- Batista regime's property is nationalized
- National newspaper created
- Abolition of racial discrimination
- 50-60% of all casino profits directed to health, education and welfare programs
- **Agrarian Reform Law** nationalized all large cattle ranches and sugar cane plantations.

These popular changes created positive economic results and purchasing power for local Cubans, but not foreign investors.





The United States was extremely nervous at the news of a socialist revolutionary success in Cuba.

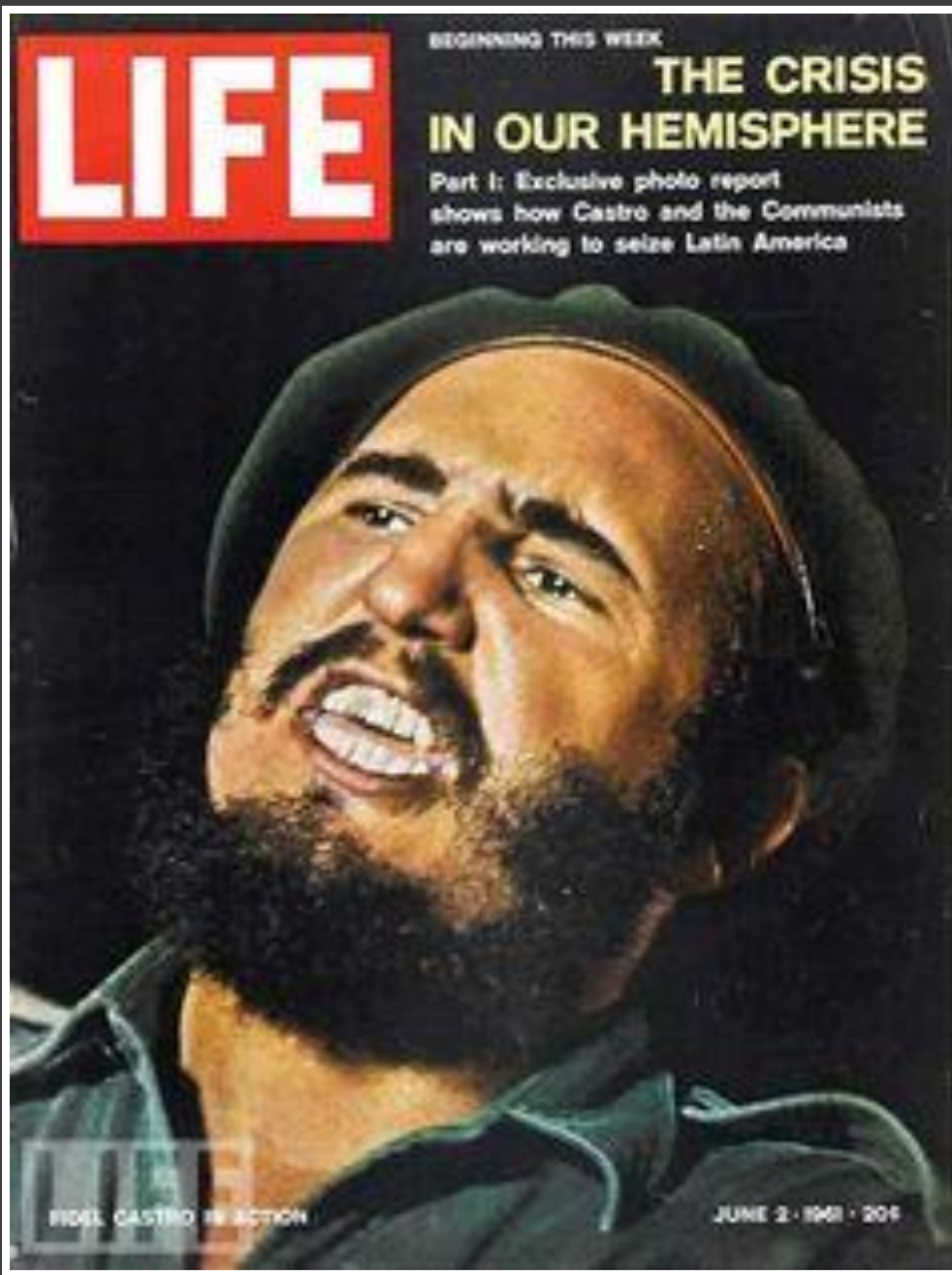
Covert efforts to destabilize and depose the Castro regime began almost immediately.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What was the U.S response to the shift to socialist leadership and ideology in Cuba?

U.S. policy changed from paternal advisor to bellicose aggressor in 1959.

- The CIA drafted “regime change” plans
- Fidel given an icy reception by Vice President Richard Nixon, April 1959
- Counter revolutionary groups were recruited for assassination plots and subversive activities against Castro.
- Tit-for-tat series of actions:
 - U.S. tries to destabilize the regime
 - Cuba nationalizes fuel companies, giving refinement contracts to Soviets
 - Texaco, Standard Oil and Shell buckles under US pressure and refuses to use Soviet refineries
 - U.S. cuts off sugar quota
 - Cuba nationalizes *all* of U.S. interests on the island: banks, factories, mines, communications, railroads and energy.
 - 1961 Cuba closed the US embassy.



U.S. media sensationalized Castro's ambitions and capacity for regional domination.

Life Magazine, 1961

“Exclusive photo report shows how Castro and the Communists are working to seize Latin America.”



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The more the U.S. cracked down on Cuba, the more the USSR sympathized with their socialist comrades, receiving Che Guevara (new Minister of Industry) as a diplomatic hero in 1959.

Bay of Pigs incident convinced Castro of the U.S. intent to destroy Cuba's nascent government and appealed heavily to the Khrushchev regime for economic and military support.

Castro made arms deal with Soviets, solidified plans for installing nuclear weapons in Cuba.

By 1961, The Soviet Union became Cuba's most important trading partner: 45% of Cuba's GDP

By 1991: USSR generated 85% of Cuba's GDP



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
What was the Trading with the
Enemy Act of 1960?



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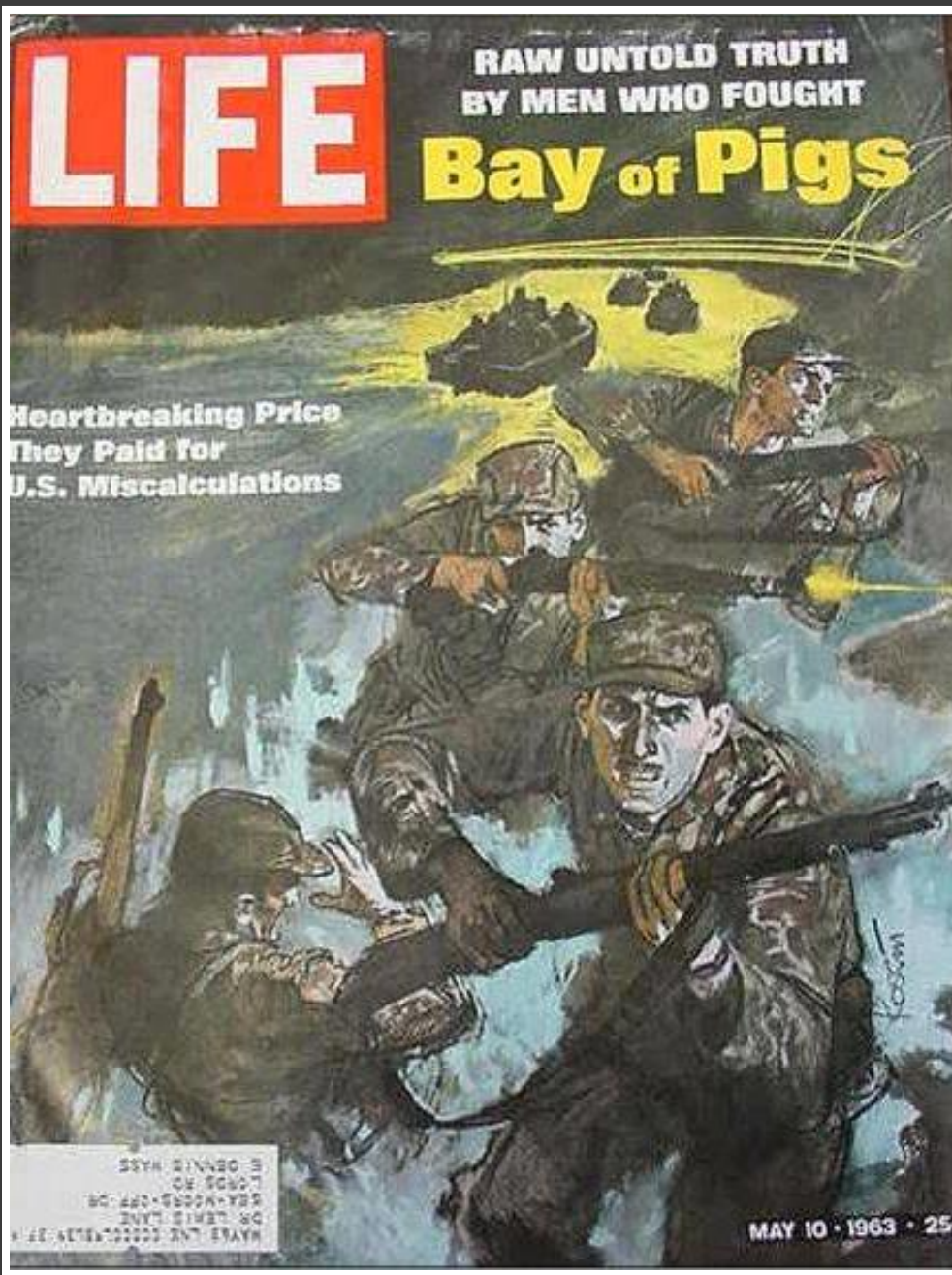
What was the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1960?

JFK signed legislation which prohibited U.S. economic transactions, travel and communications with Cuba.

Severe economic sanctions were placed upon individuals or corporations attempting to do business with Cuba

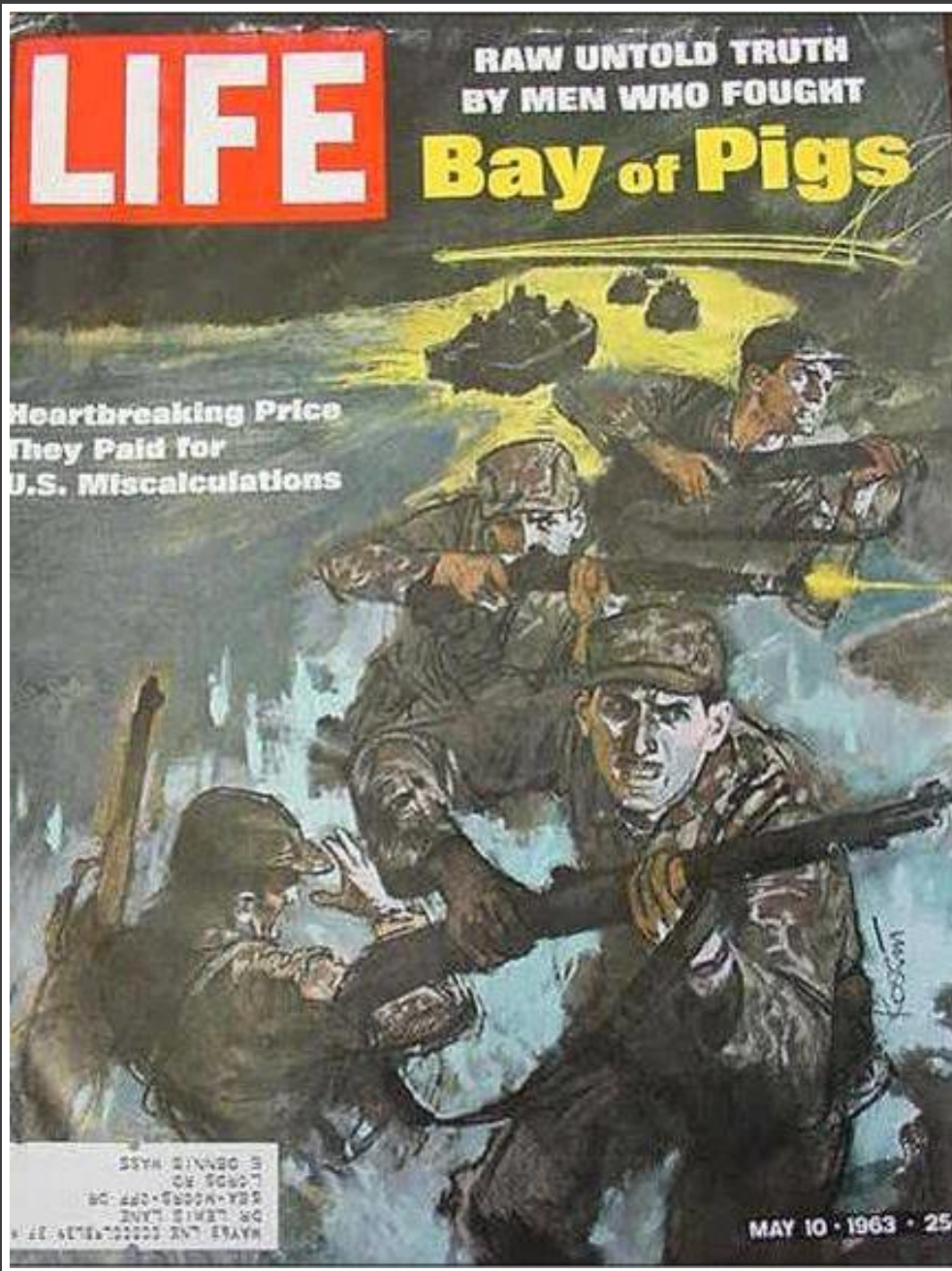
Several U.S. Presidents made attempts to relax these restrictions (Carter, Clinton) and others (Bush Sr. and Jr.) made efforts to strengthen enforcement.

The goal of U.S. policy was to compel economic and ideological change in Cuba.



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John F. Kennedy was briefed on a plan by the CIA (under Eisenhower) to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba.

The plan depended upon the Cuban people and military to support the invasion.

The goal was to replace Castro with a non-communist government friendly to the United States.

Bay of Pigs Incident

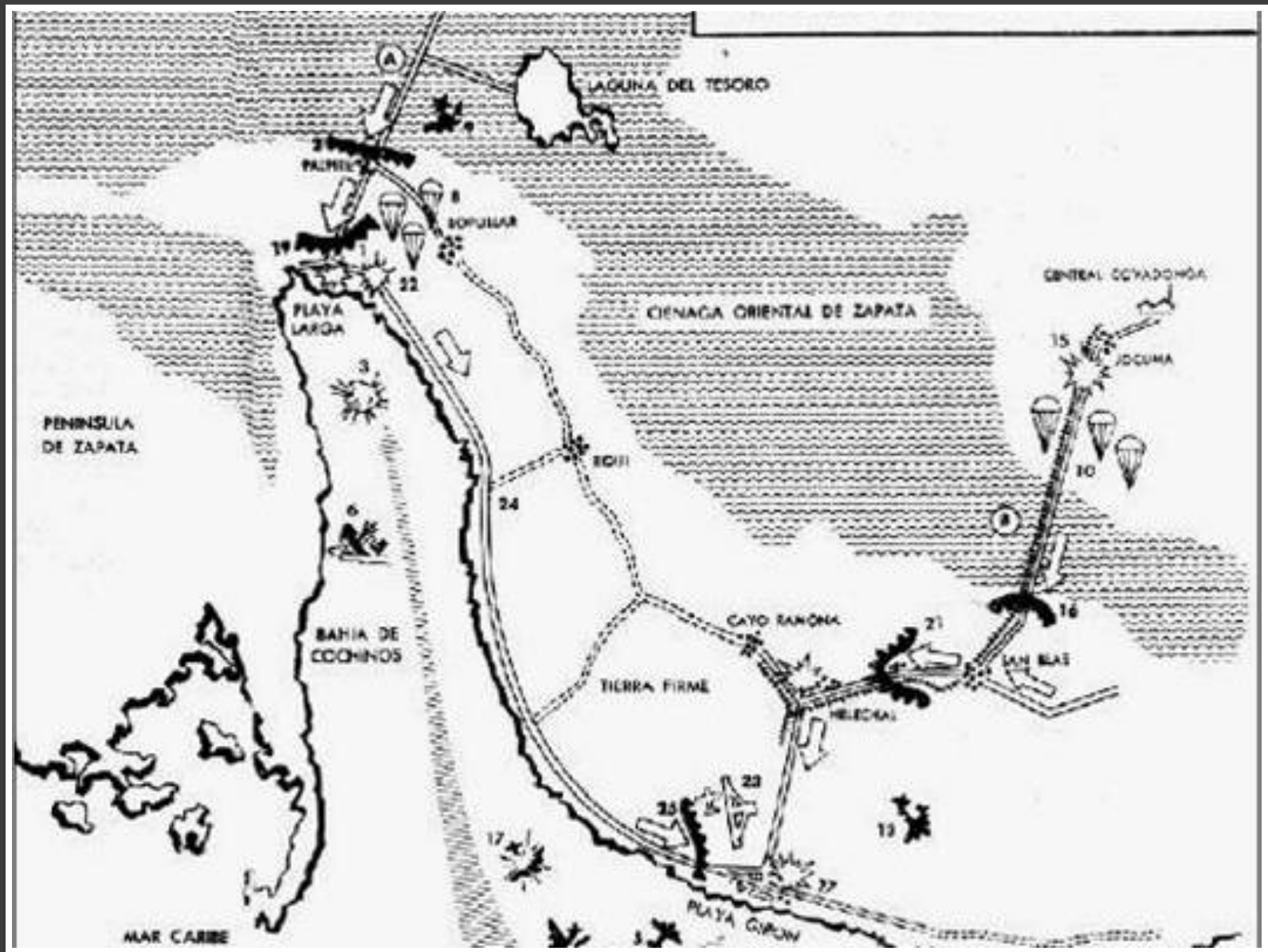
1,400 paramilitaries, -- Cuban exiles pretending to act on their own, but actually CIA-trained for the mission--- assembled in Guatemala before setting out for Cuba by boat.

On 15 April 1961, eight CIA-supplied B-26 bombers attacked Cuban air fields and returned to the U.S. The main invasion landed at Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs).

The attack overwhelmed a local militia, but then Castro took personal control of the operation. The invaders surrendered in 5 days, with the majority interrogated and then sent back to the U.S.

The failed event emboldened Castro and humiliated JFK.





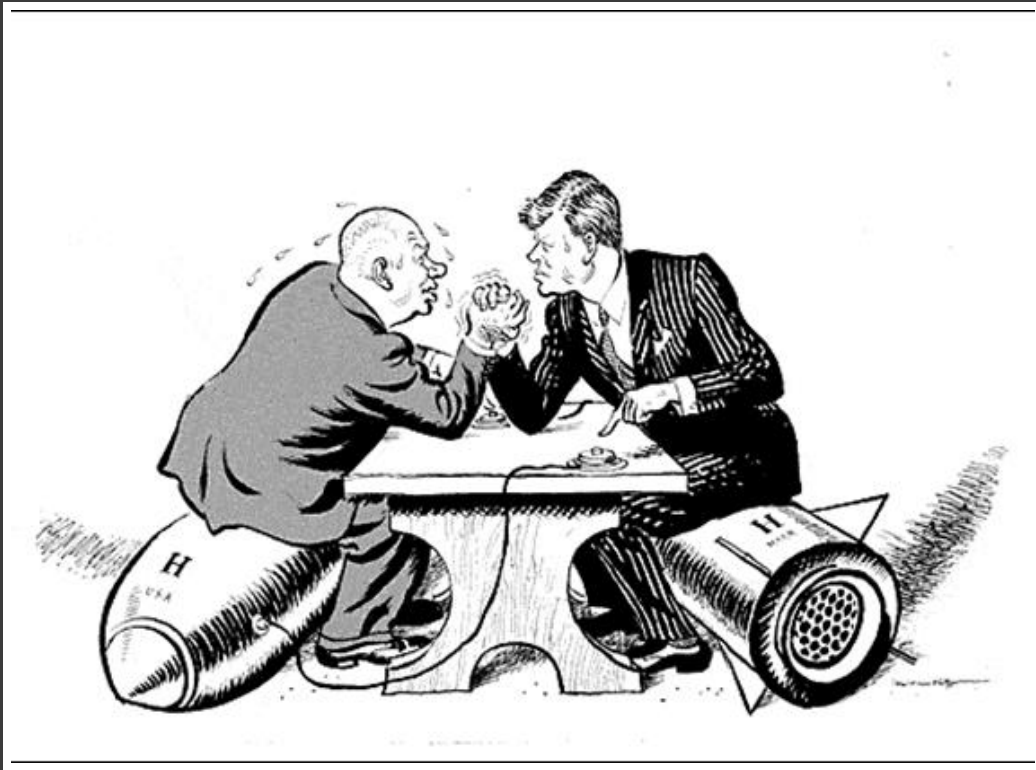
Bay of Pigs Map of Invasion plan, 1961



The Bay of Pigs incident put huge pressure on JFK to be tough on Castro in the Cuban Missile Crisis which followed in 1962

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
What was the Cuban Missile Crisis?





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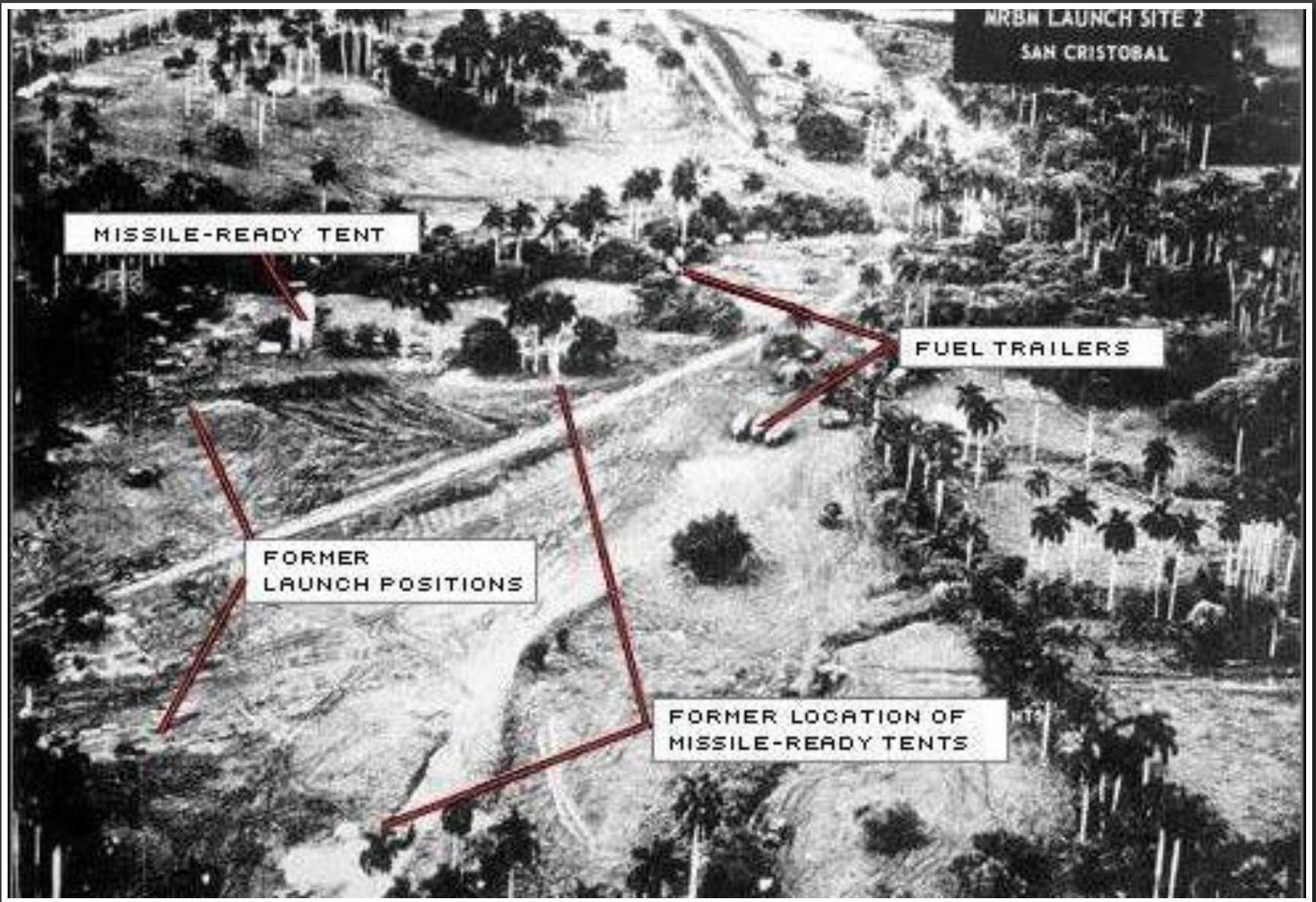
What was the Cuban Missile Crisis?

A 13 day edge-of-nuclear war crisis with Cuba, the USSR and the US.

In October 1962, an American U-2 spy plane secretly photographed nuclear missile sites being built by the Soviet Union on the island of Cuba.

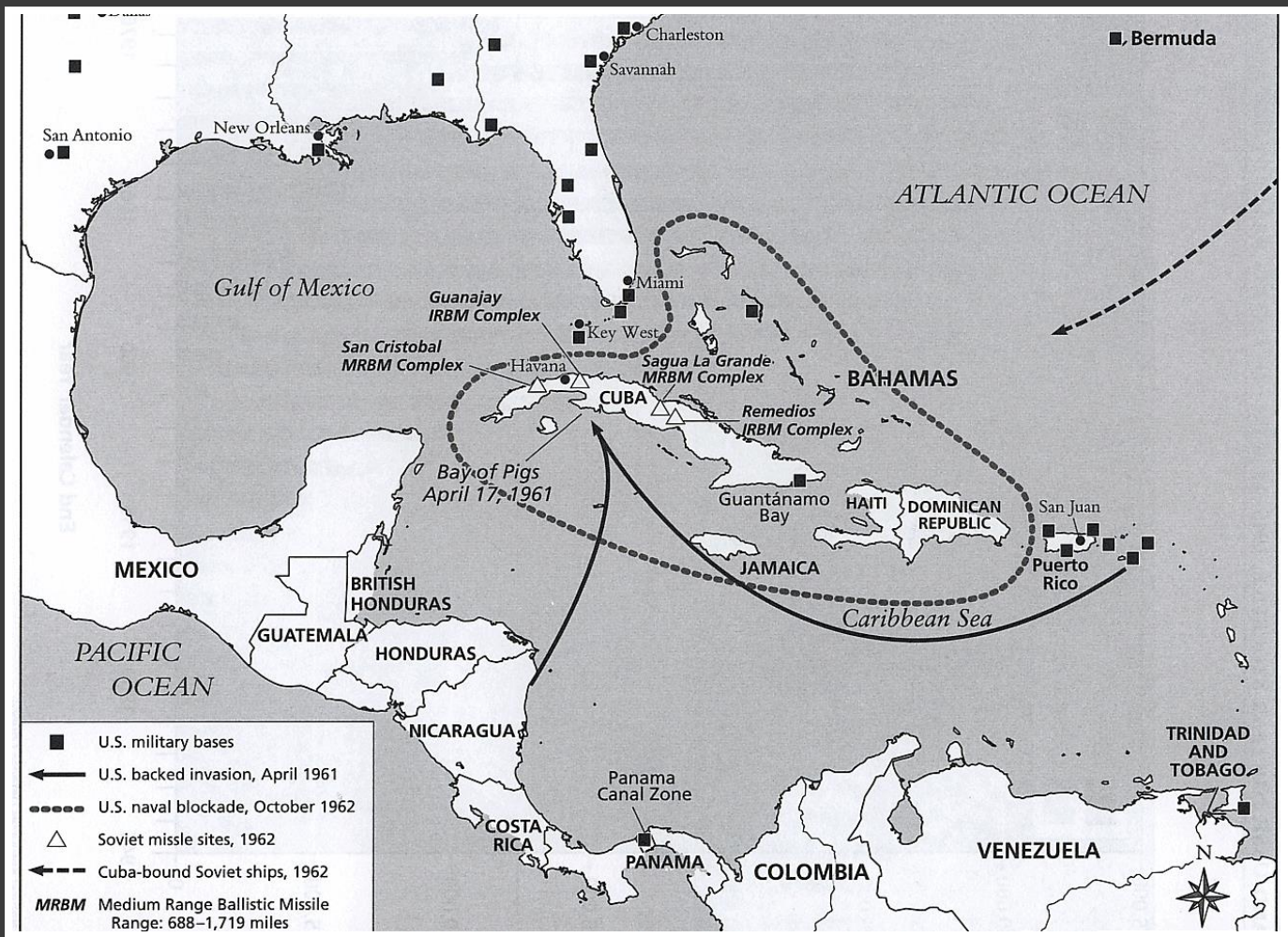


President Kennedy did not want the Soviet Union and Cuba to know that he had discovered the missiles. He met in secret with his advisors for several days to discuss the problem.



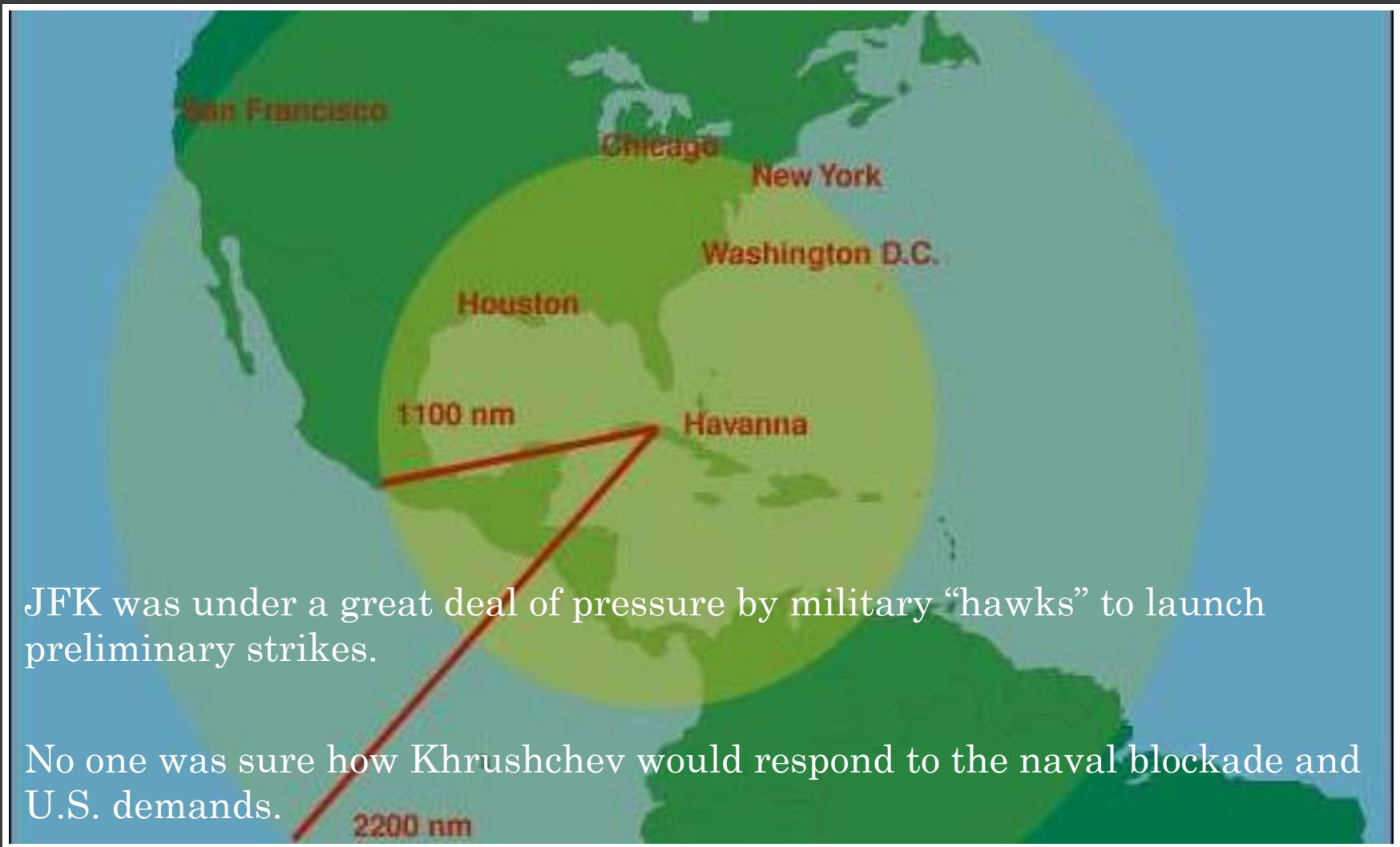
U-2 spy plane images





Kennedy decided to place a naval blockade around Cuba. The aim of this "quarantine," was to prevent the Soviets from bringing in more military supplies. He demanded the removal of the missiles and the destruction of the sites.





JFK was under a great deal of pressure by military “hawks” to launch preliminary strikes.

No one was sure how Khrushchev would respond to the naval blockade and U.S. demands.

Seemingly contradictory telegram communications from Khrushchev were confusing and the U.S. feared a coup had taken place in Russia, with the Soviet military poised to launch first strikes on the U.S.



Eventually, both “superpowers” recognized the devastating possibility of a nuclear war and publicly agreed to a deal in which the Soviets would dismantle the weapon sites in exchange for a pledge from the United States not to invade Cuba again.

In a separate deal, which remained secret for more than twenty-five years, the United States also agreed to remove its nuclear missiles from Turkey.

Castro was marginalized throughout the crisis and his wishes were essentially ignored by his ally, the USSR.

THE ARMAGEDDON LETTERS

KENNEDY/KHRUSHCHEV/CASTRO

IN THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS



JAMES G. BLIGHT

JANET M. LANG

FOREWORD BY PETER ALMOND

PRODUCER OF THIRTEEN DAYS

Please watch the Armageddon Letters videos :

<http://www.armageddonletters.com/>



Throughout the Cold War period, Castro continues to vex U.S. administrations.

During the Vietnam War, Castro affirms diplomatic solidarity with the North Vietnamese struggle for independence.

Castro denounces the U.S. involvement in SE Asia as another example of “Yankee imperialism” around the globe.





Chapter 6:

From Institutionalization to the Special Period

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According to Cuban government estimates, the embargo resulted in a loss of approximately \$1.2 trillion US dollars in revenue for the tiny island.

The goal of U.S. policy was to force regime change in Cuba favorable to the U.S.

Castro's popularity eroded over time by failures of his revolution: human rights abuses and economic distress.



The post-revolutionary period began a desperate exodus of Cubans fleeing the island, estimated at 20% of the population.

Castro dubbed refugees **“Gusanos”** (worms) and encouraged departure for non-supporters of the regime.

The U.S. policy of favoring Cuban refugees above other Latin American citizens created much controversy.



Cuban Adjustment Act

The Johnson administration allows refugee Cubans in the United States the right to pursue U.S. citizenship upon arrival.

A result of the 1986 Immigration Reform Act and 1994 migration agreement with Cuba “**wet foot, dry foot**” policy:

Cuban nationals found in the water are sent back home, while those who land on dry ground can remain in the United States.



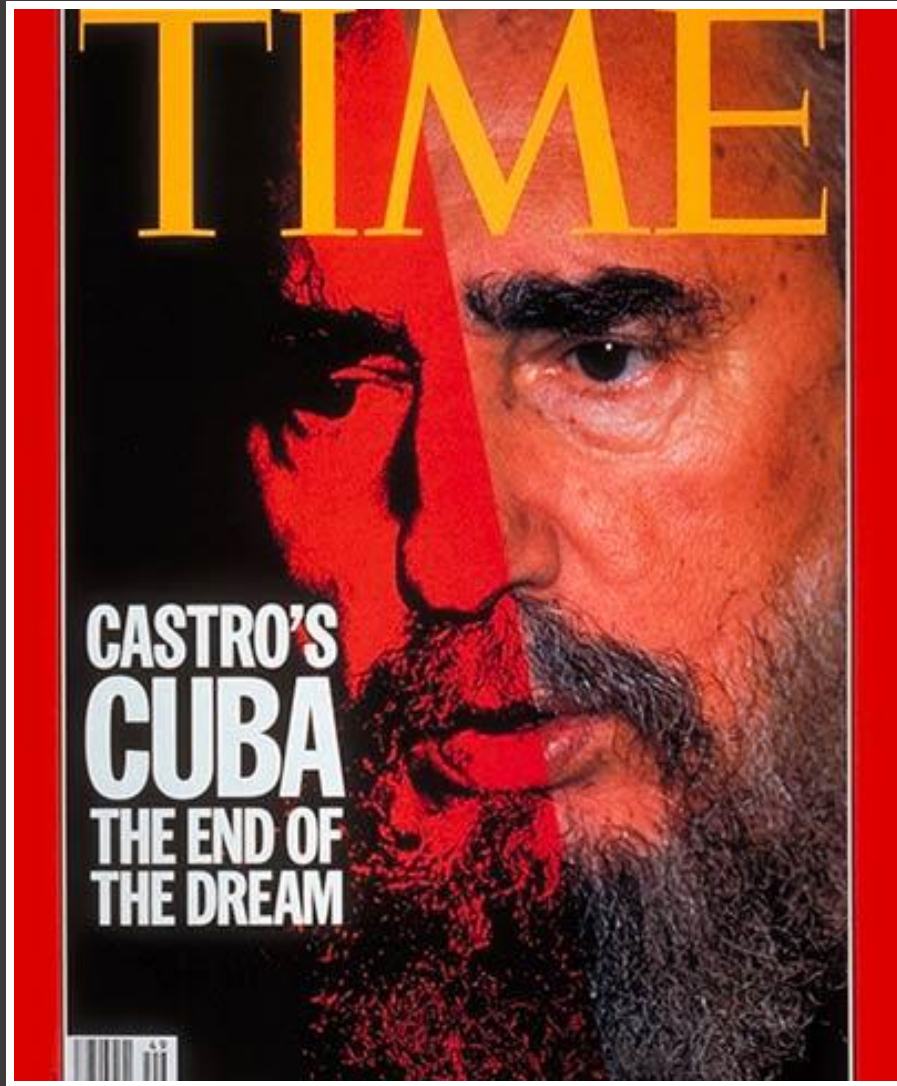
Maribel Boatlift & Mass Emigration 1980

Cuba faced intense migratory pressures as its economy suffers from a spike in oil prices and continued U.S. embargo.



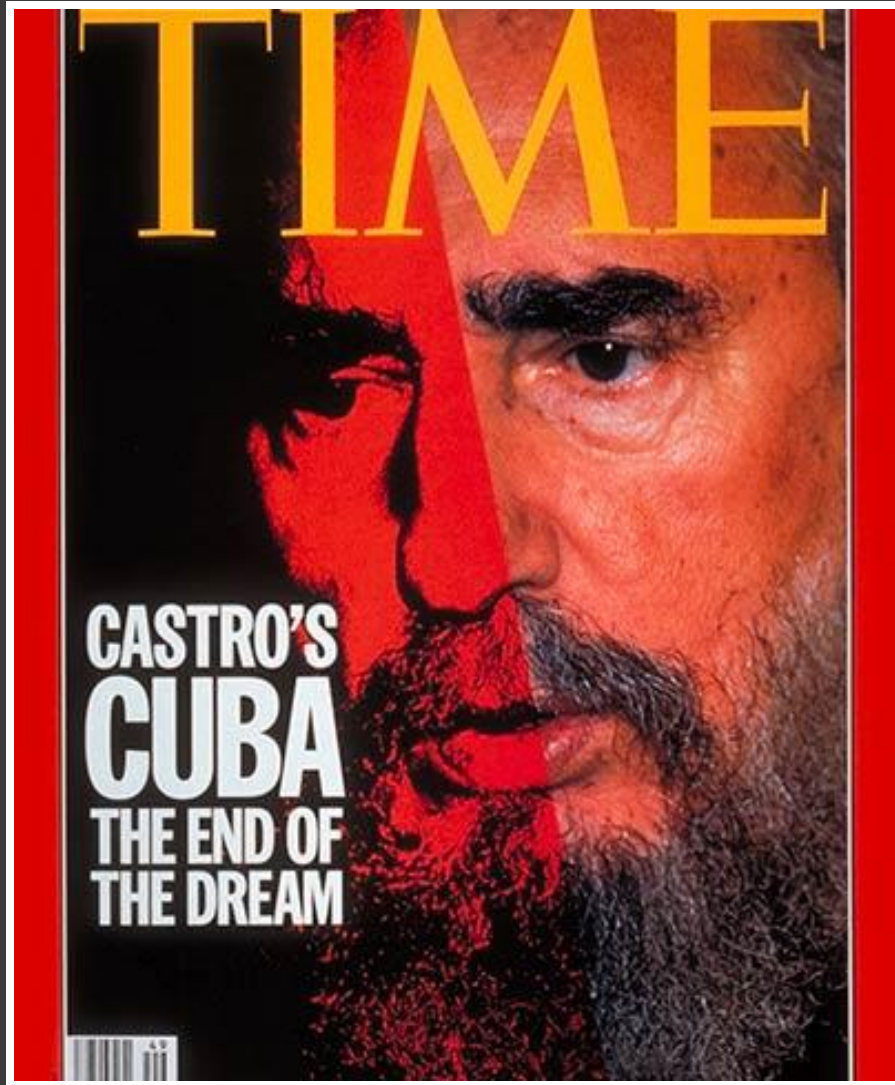
Following a statement by President Jimmy Carter welcoming Cubans “with open arms,” Castro consented to the establishment of the **Maribel Boatlift**, which allowed for temporary mass emigration of 125,000 Cubans to Florida.

2016: An estimated 1 million Cubans reside in Florida.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

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The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 destroyed Cuba’s benefactor. Almost overnight, Cuba’s economy dropped by 60%. Acute shortages replaced prosperity.

A defiant Castro instituted austerity and rationing measures which dramatically affected the Cuban national psyche and health.

Between 1991-94, average Cubans lost a third of their body weight; meat virtually disappeared from their diets.



Special Period Eased: Economic Reforms and Venezuela Accord

1995: Attempting to avoid economic collapse, Castro legalizes the U.S. dollar, opens Cuba to tourism and allows for limited private enterprise.

Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez and Fidel Castro sign an agreement allowing Venezuela to send oil to Cuba at a discounted price in return for Cuban services in education, health care, science, and technology.

U.S. Republicans decry the dangerous “Socialist Alliance ” in our hemisphere.



Helms-Burton Act 1996

The Clinton administration tightens the embargo on Cuba and attempts to weaken Cuban ties with non-U.S. foreign investors.

The act codifies the embargo, penalizes foreign companies doing business with Cuba, and insists that **sanctions may only be lifted under key conditions,**

- **removal of Fidel Castro and his brother Raúl from office**
- **free elections**
- **a free press**
- **release of all political prisoners.**



The Bush administrations impose stiff penalties on adventurous Americans traveling to Cuba in defiance of the rules.



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What was the Elian Gonzalez ordeal?



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What was the Elían González ordeal?

Nov 1999: Elían González was 7 years old when his mother drowned while attempting to flee by boat from Cuba with him en route to the U.S.

The (INS) initially placed Elían González with paternal relatives in Miami, who fought to keep him in the U.S. against his father's demands that he be returned to Cuba.

Elían became a symbol of disaffected Cuban exiles in Miami who wanted the U.S. to take a more active role in deposing Castro.

June 2000: U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case, federal agents seized González from his relatives and returned him to Cuba.



Elián González becomes a symbol for Cuban self-determination and freedom on both sides of the Florida straits.



Elián returns to his family in Cuba, where he becomes a member of the Communist youth and grows to be a champion swimmer.



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The Clinton administration charges five Cuban counterintelligence officers in the United States with conspiracy to commit espionage.

The five, who were sent by the Castro government to infiltrate Miami-based Cuban-American exile groups, are arrested in 1998 and found guilty in 2001.

All are released on December 17, 2014, as part of a prisoner swap for a U.S. intelligence officer, Alan Gross, held in Havana.

The exchange precedes the announcement that the United States and Cuba will resume full diplomatic ties.



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Most Cuban immigrants who settled in Florida were on the losing side of the civil war which Castro won: they are descendants of people who lost property, wealth or quality of life under Castro's social reforms.



As a political force in Florida, they have comprised an interesting demographic: proud nationalism, love of Cuba, combined with vocal hate for Castro.

The intensity of the right-wing, anti-Castro political force in America has varied over time according to generations and to which “wave” of immigrant refugee populations the activists have belonged.

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February 2008: Citing ailing health, Fidel Castro hands over governing power to his brother, **Raul Castro**.

The new leadership immediately makes the economic environment more favorable to small business and foreign investors in Cuba.

April 2009: President Barack Obama eases restrictions allowing Cuban-Americans to send unlimited funds to individuals in Cuba and permitting travel for religious and educational purposes.



United States and Cuba Move to Restore Diplomatic Ties

2014 U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announce the restoration of full diplomatic ties

The agreement comes after nearly eighteen months of secret talks between U.S. and Cuban officials that Catholic Pope Francis helped broker.



United States makes plans to open an embassy in Havana.

Members of the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress condemn the move and vow to uphold the economic embargo.



Cuba Removed From Terrorism List 2015

The U.S. State Department removes Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

1982: Being listed as a terrorist state had prevented Cuba from accessing international finance.

The April 2015 announcement came after President Obama met with Cuban leader Raul Castro at the Summit of the Americas, the first personal discussion between U.S. and Cuban heads of state in more than half a century.





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