

U.S. - CUBA RELATIONS 1898-PRESENT

WHAT THEY DIDN'T TEACH US IN SCHOOL

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U.S.- CUBA RELATIONS 1898-PRESENT

3 OBJECTIVES

- ▶ PROVIDE OVERVIEW OF U.S. - CUBA RELATIONS SINCE 1898
- ▶ UNDERSTAND HOW CUBAN REVOLUTION OF 1959 WAS NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE
- ▶ STIMULATE INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CUBA, ITS PEOPLE AND NEED TO NORMALIZE U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

OBJECTIVE 1

**PROVIDE OVERVIEW OF U.S.-
CUBA RELATIONS SINCE 1898**

U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO CUBA PRIOR TO 1898

***“I HAVE LOOKED UPON CUBA AS
THE MOST INTERESTING ADDITION
EVER TO THE UNITED STATES.”***

1823 - THOMAS JEFFERSON

U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO CUBA PRIOR TO 1898

► CUBA SITUATED IN FAVORABLE TRADE LANE

► CONFLUENCE OF:

- ATLANTIC OCEAN
- GULF OF MEXICO
- CARIBBEAN SEA



U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO CUBA PRIOR TO 1898

► AN ECONOMIC PRIZE RIPE FOR CONQUEST

- SUGAR
- FISH
- FRUIT
- COFFEE
- BEANS
- RICE
- POTATOES
- LIVESTOCK
- MINERALS

U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO CUBA PRIOR TO 1898

- ▶ 5 PRESIDENTS SOUGHT TO ACQUIRE CUBA FROM SPAIN
 - ▶ JAMES K. POLK
 - ▶ FRANKLIN PIERCE
 - ▶ JAMES BUCHANAN
 - ▶ US GRANT
 - ▶ WILLIAM MCKINLEY

OSTEND MANIFESTO OF 1854

- ▶ EFFORT BY FRANKLIN PIERCE ADMINISTRATION BUY CUBA FROM SPAIN AS A SLAVE STATE FOR \$120 MILLION
- ▶ HINTED AT MILITARY FORCE IF NOT ACCEPTED
- ▶ DERAILED BY THE ANTI SLAVERY MOVEMENT
- ▶ LAST DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO ACQUIRE CUBA WITHOUT WAR

U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO CUBA PRIOR TO 1898

- ▶ COLUMBUS ACQUIRED CUBA FOR SPAIN IN 1492
- ▶ CUBANS REVOLTED AGAINST SPAIN IN 1868
- ▶ BY 1877 US PURCHASED 83% OF CUBAN EXPORTS
- ▶ US ECONOMIC DOMINANCE WEAKENED CUBA'S TIES TO SPAIN

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

U.S. DECLARED WAR ON SPAIN APRIL 21, 1898

▶ **PROMOTED AS MISSION TO GRANT CUBANS THEIR FREEDOM FROM SPAIN**

▶ **REAL AGENDA**

▶ **KICK SPAIN OUT OF U.S. NEIGHBORHOOD**

▶ **ACQUIRE ECONOMIC CONTROL OF CUBAN WEALTH**

▶ **MAKE U.S. AN IMPERIALIST POWER**

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

- ▶ PROMOTING U.S. IMPERIALISM

- ▶ TEDDY ROOSEVELT

- ▶ SEN. HENRY CABOT LODGE

- ▶ WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

- ▶ ALFRED MAHON - LEADING PROPONENT IMPERIAL
NATION NAVAL POWER

- ▶ 1890 “THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER ON WORLD
HISTORY”

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

ANTI IMPERIALIST LEAGUE

- ▶ OPPOSED FORCED EXPANSION
- ▶ IMPERIALISM ANTITHESIS OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNANCE DERIVED FROM CITIZEN CONSENT
- ▶ IMPERIALISM VIOLATED
 - ▶ DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
 - ▶ WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS
 - ▶ LINCOLN'S GHETTYSBURG ADDRESS

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

ANTI IMPERIALIST LEAGUE

- ▶ MARK TWAIN
- ▶ FORMER DIPLOMAT/SENATOR CARL SCHURZ
- ▶ FORMER PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND
- ▶ PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WILLIAM BRYAN
- ▶ LABOR LEADER SAMUEL GOMPERS
- ▶ INDUSTRIALIST ANDREW CARNEGIE
- ▶ BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

OUTMATCHED SPAIN AVOIDED PROVOKING US MILITARY GIANT

JOURNALIST W.R. HEARST GINNED UP WAR

TOLD HIS REPORTEER IN HAVANA “YOU GIVE ME THE PICS...I’LL GIVE YOU THE WAR”

ACCIDENTAL USS MAINE EXPLOSION IN HAVANA HARBOR
CATALYST FOR DECLARING WAR APRIL 21, 1898

U.S. DEFEATED SPAIN IN 4 MONTHS...AUGUST 13, 1898

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

▶ U.S. ACQUIRED FIRST EMPIRE

▶ CUBA

▶ PUERTO RICO

▶ GUAM

▶ PHILIPPINES

▶ US ACQUIRED HAWAII CONCURRENTLY DURING WAR...JULY 7, 1898

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR AFTERMATH

U.S. RETAINED CONTROL OF CUBA FOR 4 YEARS

- ▶ **FIERCE DEBATE WHETHER TO FREE CUBA OR KEEP AS ECONOMIC PRIZE**
- ▶ **1902 PLATT AMENDMENT GRANTED CUBA INDEPENDENCE WITH STRINGS**
- ▶ **US COULD INTERVENE MILITARILY FOR ANY REASON**
- ▶ **US ACQUIRED 99 YEAR LEASE ON NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY**

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE 1902 - 1959

ERA OF US POLITICAL ECONOMIC CONTROL

▶ MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

▶ 1906 - 1909

▶ 1912

▶ 1917 - 1922

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE 1902 - 1959

ERA OF U.S. ECONOMIC, POLITICAL CONTROL

- ▶ **1924 GERADO MACHADO ELECTED PRESIDENT**
- ▶ **9 YEARS OF RELATIVE PEACE WITH U.S.**
- ▶ **U.S. RENOUNCES MILITARY INTERVENTION**
- ▶ **U.S. ECONOMIC CONTROL INCREASES UNDER FRIENDLY CUBAN GOVERNMENT**

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE 1902 - 1959

ERA OF U.S. ECONOMIC, POLITICAL CONTROL

► 1933 FULGENCIO BATISTA GAINS CONTROL



► SARGENTS REBELLION

► USHERS IN QUARTER CENTURY OF BRUTAL RULE

► U.S. CONTROL OVER CUBAN ECONOMY COMPLETED

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE 1902 - 1959

ERA OF US ECONOMIC, POLITICAL CONTROL

▶ U.S. SIPHONS OFF CUBAN WEALTH

- ▶ 50% OF RAILROADS**
- ▶ 60% OF SUGAR INDUSTRY**
- ▶ 70% OF LAND**
- ▶ 80% OF UTILITIES**
- ▶ 90% OF MINING**
- ▶ 100% OF CATTLE INDUSTRY**
- ▶ 100% OF OIL INDUSTRY**

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE 1902 - 1959

ERA OF U.S. ECONOMIC, POLITICAL CONTROL

“THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CUBA IS THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL, IF NOT THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN CUBA, NEXT TO THE CUBAN PRESIDENT”.

U.S. STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL, 1947

OBJECTIVE 2

- UNDERSTAND HOW CUBAN REVOLUTION WAS NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE



CUBAN REVOLUTION 1956-1959

PRELUDE: 1940 - 1952

- ▶ BATISTA ELECTED PRESIDENT 1940 - 1944
- ▶ '44 TO '52 RULED CUBA FROM FLORIDA THRU PUPPET LEADERS
- ▶ RETURNED IN '52 FOR A SECOND RUN FOR PRESIDENT
- ▶ RUNNING THIRD, HE STAGED HIS SECOND COUP TO RETAKE DICTATORIAL POWERS
- ▶ CANCELLED ELECTION FOILED YOUNG LAWYER'S RUN FOR OFFICE
- ▶ HIS NAME....FIDEL CASTRO



CUBAN REVOLUTION 1956-1959

PRELUDE: 1952 -1956

- ▶ **CASTRO DECIDES TO TOPPLE BATISTA**
 - ▶ **1953 MONCADA ARMY BARRACKS REVOLT FAILED**
 - ▶ **CASTRO, BROTHER RAUL AND OTHERS ARRESTED, GIVEN 15 YEAR SENTENCES**
 - ▶ **RELEASED AFTER 2 YEARS TO DIFFUSE RISING PUBLIC REVULSION OF BATISTA RULE**
 - ▶ **CASTRO'S BAND FLEES TO MEXICO TO PLOT RETURN**

CUBAN REVOLUTION 1956-1959

- ▶ **NOVEMBER, 1956 - CASTRO AND 81 REVOLUTIONARIES RETURN TO CUBA**
- ▶ **ARRIVE DECEMBER 2, 1956**
- ▶ **JOIN UP WITH DIVERSE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS - CASTRO BECOMES LEADER**
- ▶ **CHRISTENS REVOLUTION THE 26TH OF JULY MOVEMENT - DATE OF FAILED 1953 MONCADA ARMY BARRACKS REVOLT**

CUBAN REVOLUTION 1957-1958

- ▶ WIDESPREAD ATTACKS WEAKEN BATISTA'S GRIP
- ▶ FEB. '58 - U.S. PULLS MILITARY SUPPORT FROM BATISTA
- ▶ SUMMER '58 - CASTRO GOES ON OFFENSIVE
- ▶ NOV. '58 - CASTRO SPLITS CUBA IN TWO
- ▶ BATISTA FLEES CUBA DEC. 31, 1958 WITH \$300 MILLION IN PLUNDER

US REACTION TO CUBAN REVOLUTION

- ▶ INITIAL REACTION FAVORABLE
- ▶ IKE RECOGNIZES CASTRO GOVERNMENT
- ▶ SEES CASTRO AS HARBINGER OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA
- ▶ BY APRIL, '59 U.S. BECOMES WARY OF CASTRO
- ▶ NIXON "CASTRO MUST BE ORIENTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION"
- ▶ CASTRO INITIATES LAND REFORMS

U.S. REACTION TO CUBAN REVOLUTION

- ▶ 1960 - U.S. CUBAN HONEYMOON OVER
 - ▶ CUBA NATIONALIZES U.S. BUSINESSES
 - ▶ U.S. IMPOSES EMBARGO
 - ▶ IKE TO CIA, MARCH '60 - "DEVELOP REGIME CHANGE PLAN FOR CUBA"

U.S. REACTION TO CUBAN REVOLUTION

- ▶ **APRIL, 1961 - FAILED U.S. SPONSORED INVASION AT BAY OF PIGS**



- ▶ **OCTOBER, 1962 - CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

1962 TO 2008 - CONTINUING OPPOSITION

1963 - JFK DÉTENTE ATTEMPT FOILED BY ASSASSINATION

1964 - CASTRO REACHES OUT TO LBJ - REBUFFED

1969 TO 2008

NIXON MAINTAINS STRONG EMBARGO

FORD SOUGHT DÉTENTE BUT BACKED OUT

CARTER DÉTENTE ATTEMPT FOILED BY MARIEL BOATLIFT/COLD WAR ISSUES

REAGAN TIGHTENS EMBARGO

GEORGE H.W. BUSH TIGHTENS EMBARGO

1962 TO 2008 - CONTINUING OPPOSITION

- ▶ 1996 - CLINTON MAKES TRADE EMBARGO PERMANENT
- ▶ 2001 - 2008 GEORGE W. BUSH
 - ▶ TIGHTENS EMBARGO
 - ▶ CALLS CUBA “OUTPOST OF TYRANNY”
 - ▶ CREATES \$140 MILLION PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
 - ▶ TIGHTENS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
 - ▶ CREATES ‘COMMISSION FOR ASSISTANCE TO FREE CUBA’
- ▶ ALL DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE REGIME CHANGE

DÉTENTE UNDER OBAMA

- ▶ 2008 - CASTRO RESIGNS REPLACED BY BROTHER RAUL
- ▶ 2008 - OBAMA ELECTED - SEEKS TO
 - ▶ RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA
 - ▶ END EMBARGO
- ▶ 2009 -2012
 - ▶ TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS EASED
 - ▶ INTERNET ACCESS ALLOWED TO SOLVE MUTUAL PROBLEMS
- ▶ 2013 - OBAMA MEETS WITH RAUL CASTRO AT MANDELA MEMORIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

DÉTENTE UNDER OBAMA

- ▶ 2014 - CUBA / U.S. ANNOUNCE
 - ▶ FRAMEWORK TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
 - ▶ EVENTUALLY END EMBARGO
- ▶ 2015
 - ▶ JANUARY - SOME TRADE ALLOWED
 - ▶ APRIL - CUBA REMOVED FROM TERRORIST SPONSOR LIST
 - ▶ JULY
 - ▶ DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RESUME
 - ▶ EMBASSIES OPENED

DÉTENTE UNDER OBAMA

2016 -FIRST PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
SINCE 1924



TRUMP REVERSES CUBAN DÉTENTE 2017-2021

- ▶ SOME TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS RE-IMPOSED
- ▶ INCREASED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
- ▶ CUBA ON TRUMP'S 'TROIKA OF TYRANNY' LIST WITH VENEZUELA AND NICARAGUA
- ▶ TRUMP REINTATED CUBA ON 'STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM' LIST IN LAST WEEK
- ▶ BOGEYMAN OF 'SOCIALISM' REVIVED
- ▶ OVERALL TENSIONS HEIGHTENED

BIBEN RENEWS ON RESUMING DDÉTENTE

2021-2025

- ▶ KEPT TRUMP CUBA POLICIES IN PLACE TILL LAST WEEK OF PRESIDENCY
- ▶ REMOVED CUBA AS STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM
- ▶ LIFTED SOME ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
- ▶ MADE NO EFFORT TO END 1960 ECONOMIC EMBARGO

TRUMP 2ND TERM CUBA POLICY 2025

- ▶ NO SURPRISE...PRESIDENT ELECT TRUMP PROMISED TO TAKE A “HARD STANCE ON CUBA”
- ▶ INSTALLING EXTREME ANTI CUBAN GOVERNMENT MARCO RUBIO AS SEC. OF STATE MAKES THAT PLEDGE LIKELY
- ▶ REINSTATED CUBA ON ‘STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM’ LIST FOR 3RD TIME
- ▶ RATCHED UP SANCTIONS...’TOTAL PRESURE STRATEGY’
- ▶ CUBAN EMBARGO LIKELY TO REMAIN CRUSHING CUBAN PEOPLE INTO 2029, ITS 69TH YEAR

65 YEARS OF FAILED ECONOMIC EMBARGO

- ▶ OVER \$1 TRILLION IN ECONOMIC LOSS TO CUBA
- ▶ OVER \$3 BILLION ANNUAL IN ECONOMIC LOSS TO US
- ▶ 2002 CARTER “END THE EMBARGO”
- ▶ 2005 REAGAN SEC.OF STATE SHULTZ “EMBARGO IS INSANE”
- ▶ 2014 OBAMA “EMBARGO IS A FAILURE”

UN SEEKS EMBARGO'S END SINCE 1992

- ▶ 33 STRAIGHT ANNUAL UN NON BINDING RESOLUTIONS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED ENDING EMBARGO
- ▶ 2024 VOTE 187 TO 2
 - ▶ US
 - ▶ ISRAEL
- ▶ PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS BIG FACTOR IN KEEPING EMBARGO
 - ▶ MAJORITY OF CUBAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA OPPOSE LIFTING EMBARGO
 - ▶ 33 FLORIDA ELECTORAL VOTES DISCOURAGE ANY CANDIDATE FROM SUPPORTING EMBARGO'S END

OBJECTIVE 3

STIMULATE INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT

- CUBA

- ITS PEOPLE

- NEED TO NORMALIZE US-CUBA
RELATIONS

LEARN MORE

- ▶ VISIT CUBA - HARDER BUT STILL POSSIBLE UNDER TRUMP ERA RESTRICTIONS
- ▶ BOOK: *THE TRUE FLAG: TR, MARK TWAIN, AND THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN EMPIRE* BY STEPHEN KINZER
- ▶ SUPPORT EFFORTS TO END EMBARGO, NORMALIZE US-CUBAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY OF U.S. CUBA RELATIONS 1898 TO PRESENT

- ▶ **U.S. CONTROLLED / EXPLOITED CUBA FOR 61 YEARS:
1898 - 1959**
- ▶ **CUBAN REVOLUTION OF 1959 WAS NECESSARY AND
INEVITABLE**
- ▶ **AFTER 65 YEARS, U.S. EMBARGO AND OPPOSITION TO
CUBAN REVOLUTION CONTINUES**
- ▶ **CUBA AND THE CUBAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER**

SUMMARY OF U.S. CUBA RELATIONS 1898 TO PRESENT

- ▶ WE WEREN'T TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1898 WAR THAT CEDED CUBA TO U.S
- ▶ WE WEREN'T TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BRUTAL QUARTER CENTURY BATISTA REGIME THAT ALLOWED U.S. TO SIPHON OFF CUBAN WEALTH
- ▶ WE WEREN'T TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BAY OF PIGS AND CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS
- ▶ WE WEREN'T TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEED TO END THE CRUEL CUBAN ECONOMIC EMBARGO

SUMMARY OF U.S. CUBA RELATIONS 1898 TO PRESENT

PERHAPS OUR SCHOOLS, OUR MEDIA,
OUR GOVERNMENT... NEVER WILL

