



# LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY CUBA



**Standard:** SS6H1 – Explain conflict and change in Latin America

**Element:** c. Explain the impact of the Cuban Revolution and describe the current relationship between Cuba and the United States.

# Cuban Revolution

In 1952 **Fulgencio Batista** was elected as the president of Cuba.

He later turned his rule into a **dictatorship**, giving himself all political power within Cuba.

During his leadership, U.S. investment in crops and factories were booming, especially in regards to **sugar** production.

Under Batista's rule the citizens of Cuba were unhappy with mass poverty along with poor **healthcare** and **education**.



Fulgencio  
Batista



# Cuban Revolution

A man by the name of **Fidel Castro** led an uprising against Batista.

Because Batista was so unpopular with the citizens, **Castro** was able to overthrow Batista's **government** and made himself dictator of Cuba in 1959.

Castro improved some problems faced by Batista such as **healthcare** and **educational** reform.



Fidal  
Castro

## Cuban Revolution

During both **Batista** and Fidel **Castro's** rule, American businesses were buying land and building factories in Cuba to produce **sugar**.

All of the prosperity from Cuba came to a halt on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1959 when Castro seized total control of the **government**.

By the late 1950s, U.S. financial interests owned 90% of Cuban mines, 80% of its public utilities, 50% of its railways, 40% of its sugar production and 25% of its bank deposits—some \$1 billion in total.

## Cuban Revolution

He began by organizing a **communist** government. All **farms, factories,** and **businesses** owned by Cubans and Americans became government property.

The **United States** owned over 1 billion dollar's worth of business/trade in Cuba at the time.

Seizing property hurt both **American** and **Cuban** business owners due to lost investments and property.

## Cuban Revolution

Citizens of Cuba no longer had the right to **protest** against the **government**.

Those who tried were sent to prison or death by firing squad.

Cuban **radio, newspapers,** and **television** were shut down.

The **government** became the only source for news.

# Cuban Revolution

Breaking News: Cuba is the  
best country on the Planet!!!  
(*Says the government*)





# Cuban Revolution

Castro also confiscated American farmland, which was declared the property of the **state**.

In response to Castro's takeover, the United States placed an economic **embargo** on Cuba, which blocked the island's **sugar** exports to American markets.



# Cuban Revolution

Initially the Embargo hurt the Cuban economy because of the **sugar** not being **exported** to the United States.

The **Soviet Union**, who became fast friends with the new Cuban leadership, agreed to purchase its sugarcane as well as providing the Castro regime with **weapons** and **military** training.

Although the Castro regime did provide improvements to education and healthcare, civil rights on the island were severely **restricted**.

# Cuban Revolution

## Pros

**Hospitals** and Schools improved

Women and blacks became better **educated** and had better jobs.

## Cons

All property was seized including **churches**.

Most parts of people's lives were controlled by the **government**.

# Cuban Revolution

Having an enemy of the United States only **90** miles from the Florida coast made many Americans uneasy.

To make things even worse Cuba allowed the **Soviet Union** (U.S.S.R.) to build a **missile** launching complex on the island, as well as house a substantial complement of intermediate and medium-range ballistic missiles capable of hitting large U.S. cities.

Actual satellite photo  
of missile complex



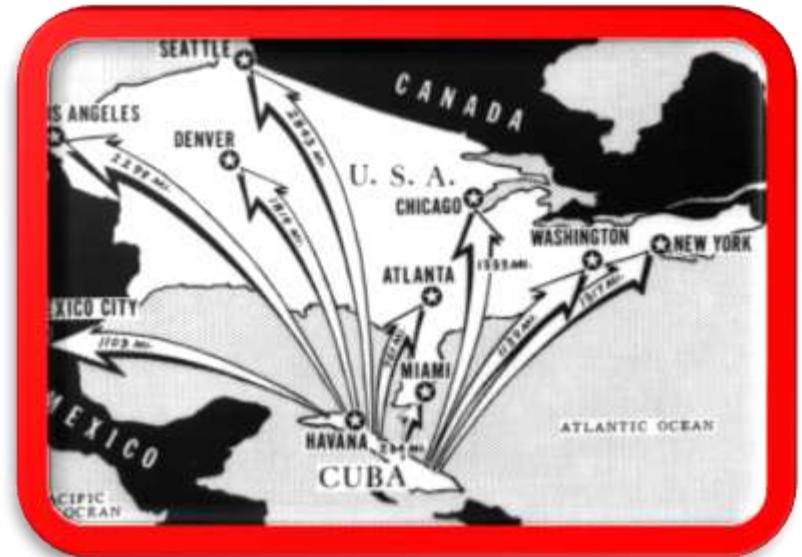


# Cuban Revolution

Once U.S. intelligence found out about the missile launching complex a thirteen-day standoff known as the **Cuban Missile Crisis** unfolded.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the world's first **nuclear** standoff.

At the push of a button both countries could lose millions of lives worldwide.



The map above shows all the potential cities in harms way of the missile complex.

# Cuban Revolution



Prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis the closest thing to such devastation was the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end WWII.

While both A-Bomb and Nuclear bombs are deadly, a nuclear bomb causes massive radiation. The radiation alone has the potential to tens of thousands of people world wide.

# Cuban Revolution

**Nikita Khrushchev** was the Soviet Premier (leader) at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Khrushchev** argued that the placement of missiles in Cuba were aimed at American cities only to counter the presence of American missiles in Italy and Turkey.

Khrushchev also claimed the missiles were in response to the **Bay of Pigs** one year earlier.



Nikita Khrushchev



# Cuban Revolution

The **Bay of Pigs** disaster was a plan to take out Castro's regime by the **CIA** of the United States.

The CIA trained 1,400 Cubans military tactics and supplied them with **guns** and **ammo** for the uprising.

Within 2 days of the invasion, the invaders were badly outnumbered by **Castro's** troops.

Within 2 days all invaders surrendered.



# Cuban Revolution



# Cuban Revolution

**John F. Kennedy** was the president of the United States during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Kennedy** diffused the situation through diplomatic means ending the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Khrushchev agreed to dismantle all Russian Missiles in Cuba and send them back to Russia.

Although the **Kennedy** administration diffused the situation through diplomatic means, the Cuba Missile Crisis was arguably the closest the world – up to that point – had ever come to a **Third World War**.



**John F.  
Kennedy**

# Cuban Revolution



Analyze the picture above closely. Explain the comic and how it relates to the Cuban Missile Crisis.



# Cuban Revolution

Over the course of **fifty** years the relationship between Cuba and the United States has improved.

In 2015 each nation reopened its **embassy** in the others capital in July 2015.

The U.S. eased trade restrictions on Cuba in January 2016 to help jumpstart Cuba's **economy**.

