

Cuba

- **1952:** 3 months before scheduled elections, former President Fulgencio Batista staged coup and seized power. US recognized his dictatorship. Batista encouraged large scale gambling in Havana, opening the country to the American mafia.
- **1953:** July 26: Cuban revolution began when poorly armed Cuban rebels led by Fidel Castro and his brother Raul Castro, unsuccessfully attacked Moncada Barracks in Santiago.
- **1956:** Fidel and Raul were released as part of an amnesty for political prisoners. In exile in Mexico Fidel met Ernesto “Che” Guevara. They organized the 26th of July Movement with the goal of overthrowing Batista. 82 men sailed to Cuba on board the yacht *Granma* in December.
- **1959:** January 1: Batista fled Cuba; 26th July Movement guerrilla army entered Havana.
- **1959: January 7:** President Eisenhower recognized the revolutionary government with the assumption that “Cuba must remain in the US sphere of influence.” Six months later Eisenhower administration began to plot against the revolution, as Cuba began to exercise true sovereignty.
October: US begins sea and air raids against economic targets in Cuba, including sugar refineries. CIA authorized to organize people in Cuba opposed to the government.
- **1960:** CIA blew up French ship in Havana Harbor as it unloaded munitions, many killed.
- **1960:** August: Shell, Standard Oil, and Texaco refused to refine petroleum from the Soviet Union in their Cuban facilities. US started boycott of Cuba by oil companies. Cuba nationalized the refineries. Cuba begins agrarian reform and expropriates United Fruit Company properties.
- **1961: January:** US breaks diplomatic relations. **April: The Bay of Pigs Invasion.** 1400 Cuban exiles, armed and organized by the US invade Cuba to overthrow revolutionary government. Within days they were defeated and captured
- **1962--ongoing:** US imposes trade embargo against Cuba
- **1962: October: Cuban Missile Crisis.** In response to US medium range ballistic missiles (MRBM) in Turkey, the Soviet Union stationed MRBMs in Cuba. US Navy established “quarantine” around Cuba to prevent more missiles from entering. Nuclear war was avoided when the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for an agreement that the US would not invade Cuba and would remove missiles from Turkey.
- **1985:** Radio Marti inaugurated, broadcasting counter-revolutionary propaganda into Cuba from Miami. Radio Marti had an annual budget of approximately US\$13.1 million in 1995.
- **2001 to present:** The Cuban Five: 5 Cuban men now serving 75 year-to-life sentences for monitoring actions of Miami-based terrorist groups, in order to prevent attacks on Cuba. The Five worked with FBI to prevent terrorism. They were wrongly convicted in US federal court of committing espionage conspiracy against the US. Their actions were never directed at the US government.