Ties of Singular Intimacy and the Path to Revolution

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US Imperialism: Platt Amendment
Nation-Building
El Capitolio
Lessons from Uncle Sam
Struggles of Nation Building

Sergeants’ Revolt

Good Neighbor Policy
Fulgencio Batista
Batista Firing Squad
Tourism

COME TO CUBA
the loveliest land
that human eyes
have ever seen

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HAVANA, CUBA
Hotel Riviera
Poverty in the Countryside
Batista and Eisenhower
Cuban Revolution
Cuban Revolution

Rise of Fidel Castro

1. political repression of Fulgencio Batista
2. 26 July 1953 attack on Moncada barracks
3. “History Will Absolve Me”
4. return to Cuba from Mexico on Granma in 1956
5. Ernesto “Che” Guevara
6. rebellion from Sierra Maestro
   “a myth, a legend, a hope, but not a reality”
Moncada
1953 Arrest
“History Will Absolve Me”
Amnesty 1955
Granma lands December 1956
Herbert Matthews Interview
Cuban Rebel Is Visited in Hideout

Castro Is Still Alive and Still Fighting in Mountains

This is the first of three articles by a correspondent of The New York Times who has just returned from a visit to Cuba.

By HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

Fidel Castro, the rebel leader of Cuba’s youth, is alive and fighting hard and successfully in the rugged, almost impenetrable fastnesses of the Sierra Maestra, at the southern tip of the island.

President Fulgencio Batista has the cream of his Army around the area, but the Army men are fighting a thus-far losing battle to destroy the most dangerous enemy General Batista has yet faced in a long and adventurous career as a Cuban leader and dictator.
Raul, Fidel, Camilo in 1958
Castro on the March
Spark of Revolution
Fidel in Action
I. Overview

1. election of John F. Kennedy in November 1960
2. “How could I have been so stupid to let them go ahead?”
   a. campaign rhetoric and stopping communism
   b. success of Guatemalan coup = illusion of success
   c. flow of information to president from CIA
   d. misgivings of Joint Chiefs and State Department
Bay of Pigs

I. Operation
1. effort to conceal U.S. involvement
2. security breaches among Cuban exiles
3. Castro eliminated threat of major uprising
4. problems with landing zone
5. Kennedy’s cancellation of air strikes
6. spectacular failure
7. sabotage and assassination attempts

II. Costly Error
1. Cuban military alliance with Soviet Union
2. Castro’s commitment to communism
Castro in Control
Aftermath

April 17, 1961 - Bay of Pigs Invasion

The U.S.-backed invasion fails. 90 exiles were killed and the rest were captured.
Embargo: February 7, 1962
Cuban Missile Crisis

I. To the Brink
1. acceleration of revolutionary changes in Cuba
2. agreement to install nuclear missiles
3. strategic considerations
4. U-2 reconnaissance
5. EXCOM’s three options: naval blockade, air strike or military invasion
6. Kennedy vs. Khrushchev: missiles withdrawn
7. perceptions vs. realities
U-2 Reconnaissance

Oblique view of a Cuban MRBM site following removal of launch erectors and a missile transporter. On this date, launch stands were still in place and construction was under way on the nuclear warhead storage facility at the left. Courtesy U.S. Air Force.
"...is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country..." - John F. Kennedy