

# Cuba and Confrontation: 1952-1965



## **PRESENTATION 5**

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# Fulgencio Batista



# Coup of 1952



# Economic Takeoff and Drag



acceleration of diversification

expansion of commercial banking

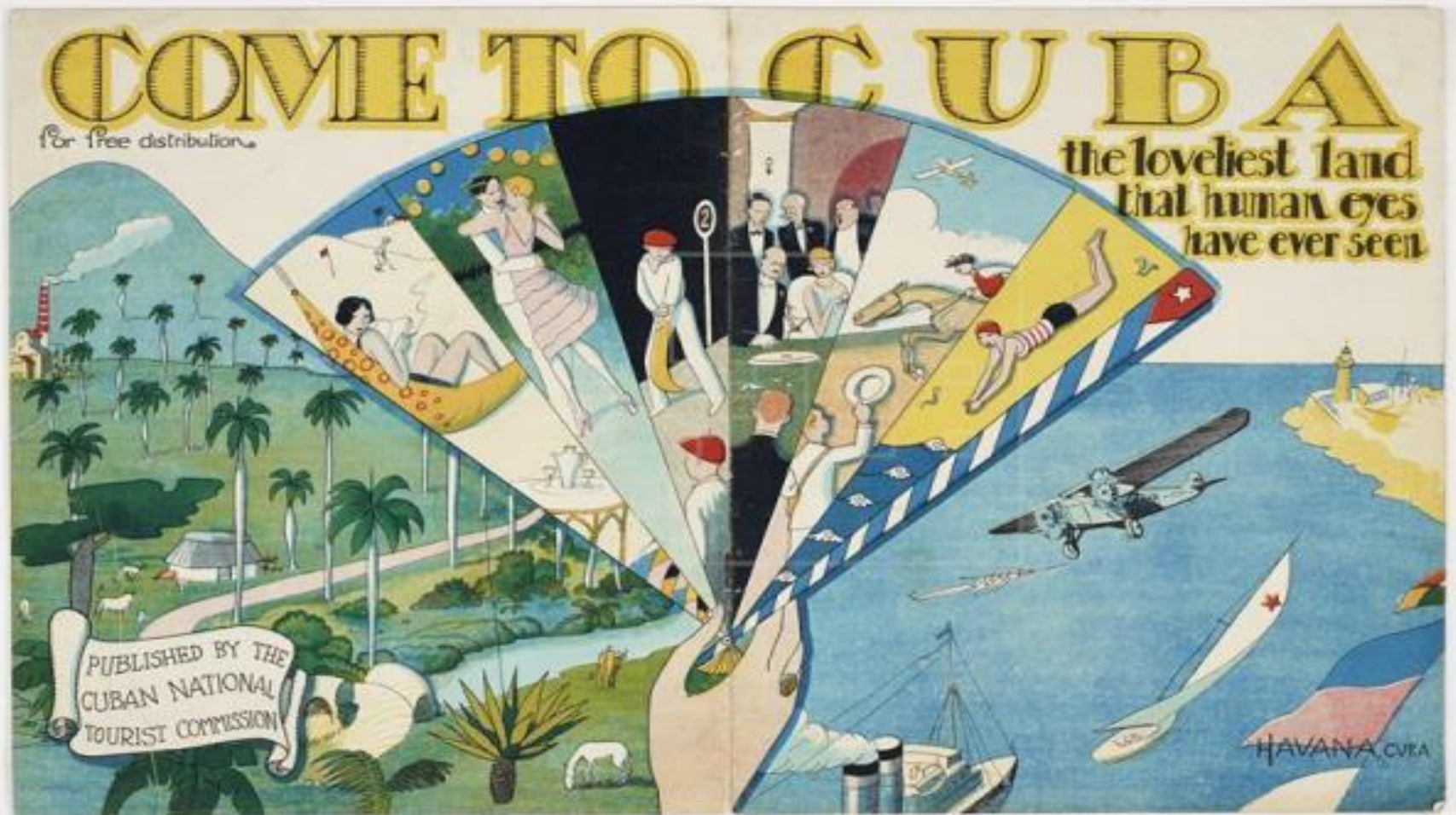
“Cubanizing” of sugar industry

Batista’s return to power stimulated foreign investment  
mining, public works, cattle industry

structural weaknesses: concentration on sugar,  
unemployment/underemployment, inequalities,  
dependence on United States



# Tourism



# Havana Yacht Club c. 1950

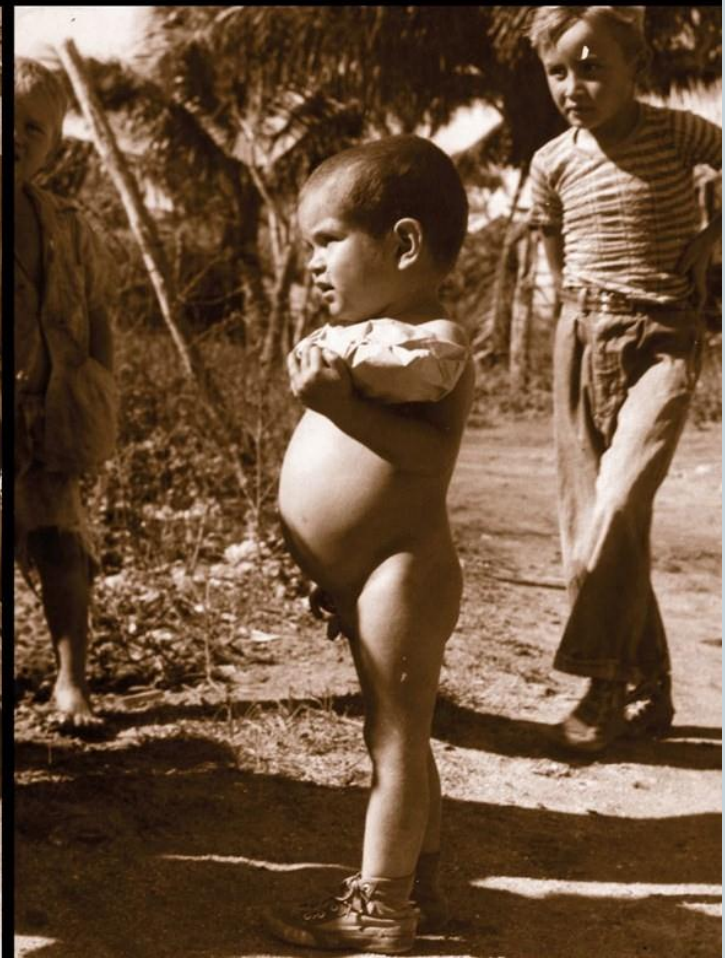
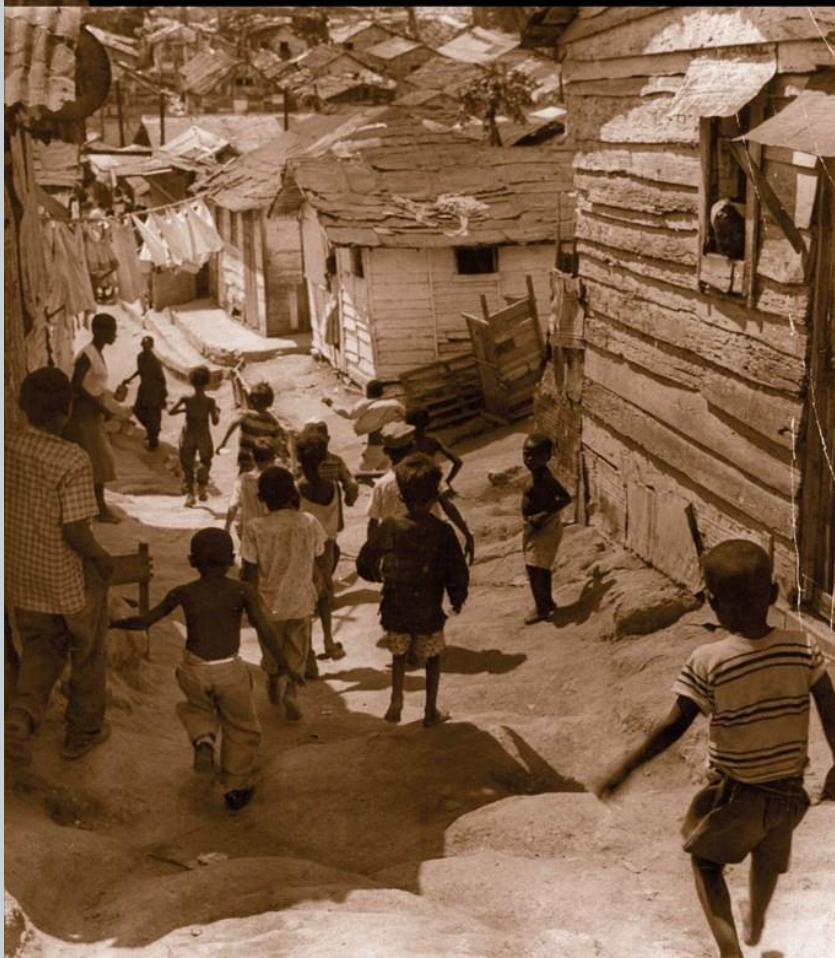




# Hotel Riviera



# Poverty in the Countryside





# Batista and Eisenhower



# Cuban Revolution



## Rise of Fidel Castro

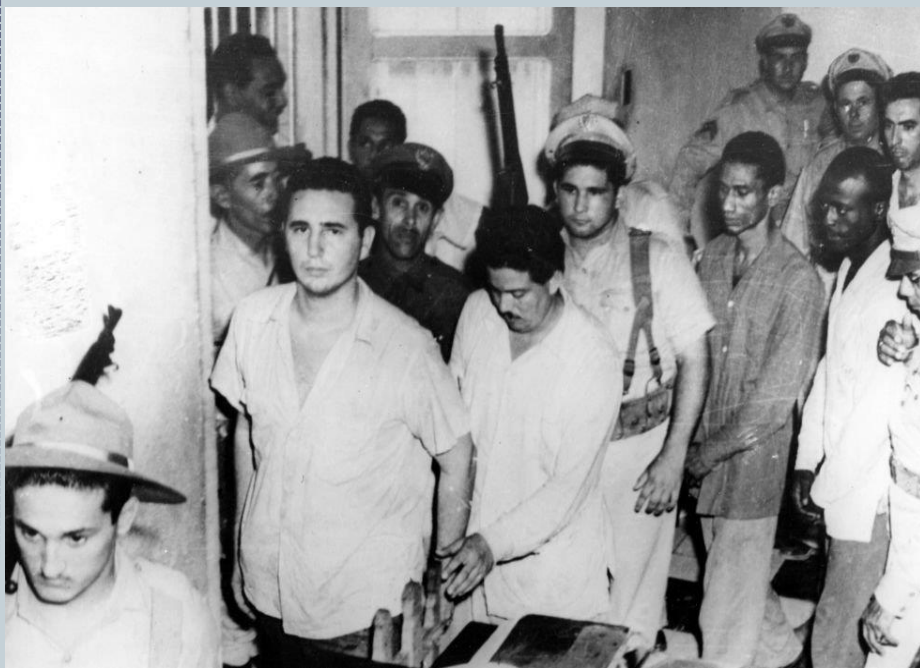
1. political repression of Fulgencio Batista
2. 26 July 1953 attack on Moncada barracks
3. “History Will Absolve Me”
4. return to Cuba from Mexico on *Granma* in 1956
5. Ernesto “Che” Guevara
6. rebellion from Sierra Maestra
7. Herbert Matthews – *New York Times* interview  
“a myth, a legend, a hope, but not a reality”

# 26<sup>th</sup> of July Attack on Moncada





# Moncada Aftermath



# History Will Absolve Me



## LA HISTORIA ME ABSOLVERA

DISCURSO PRONUNCIADO POR EL  
DR. FIDEL CASTRO  
ANTE EL TRIBUNAL DE URGENCIA  
DE SANTIAGO DE CUBA  
EL DIA 16 DE OCTUBRE DE 1953

# Defense Declaration



“I know that imprisonment will be harder for me than it has ever been for anyone, filled with cowardly threats and hideous cruelty. But I do not fear prison, as I do not fear the fury of the miserable tyrant who took the lives of 70 of my comrades. Condemn me. It does not matter. **History will absolve me.**”



# Model Prison on the Isle of Pines



# General Amnesty Release May 1955

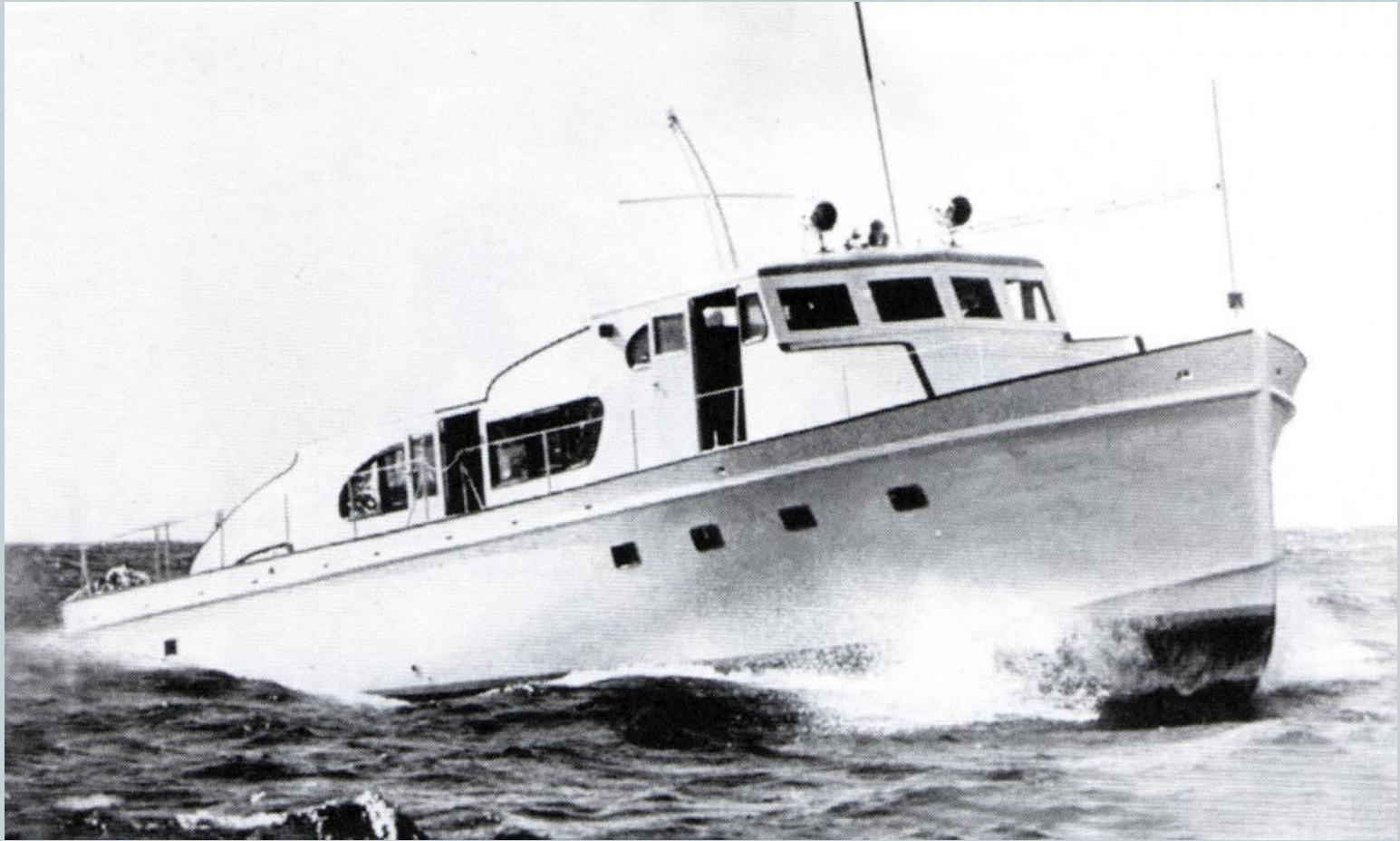


# Fidel and Che in Mexico 1956





# Granma



# Sierra Maestra



# Herbert Matthews Interview



# Warfare



hit-and-run raids, sabotage, and attacks on installations

Batista's forces: disaffection, corruption, internal feuds

guerrilla advantages:

- peasantry terrorized by Batista's Rural Guard

- peasant's knowledge of terrain

- mobile units

- mystique of guerrilla fighters

- support of urban network

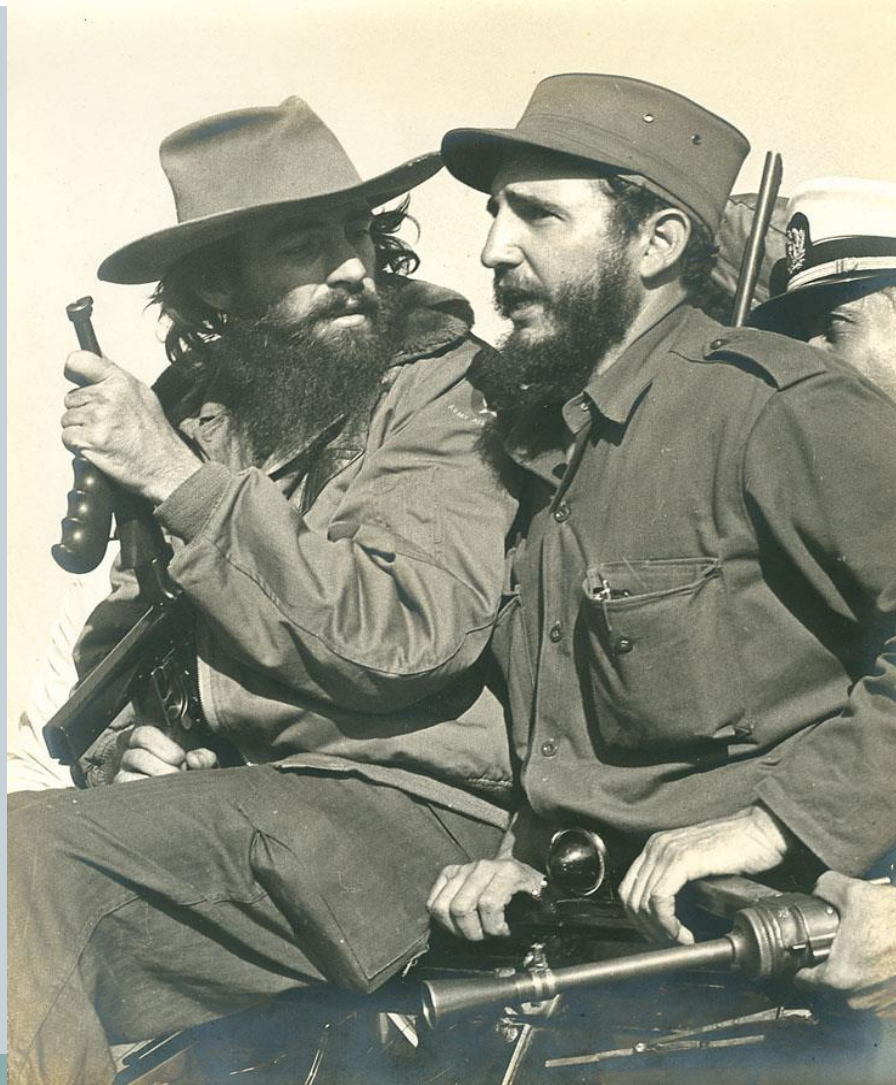


# Batista Repression

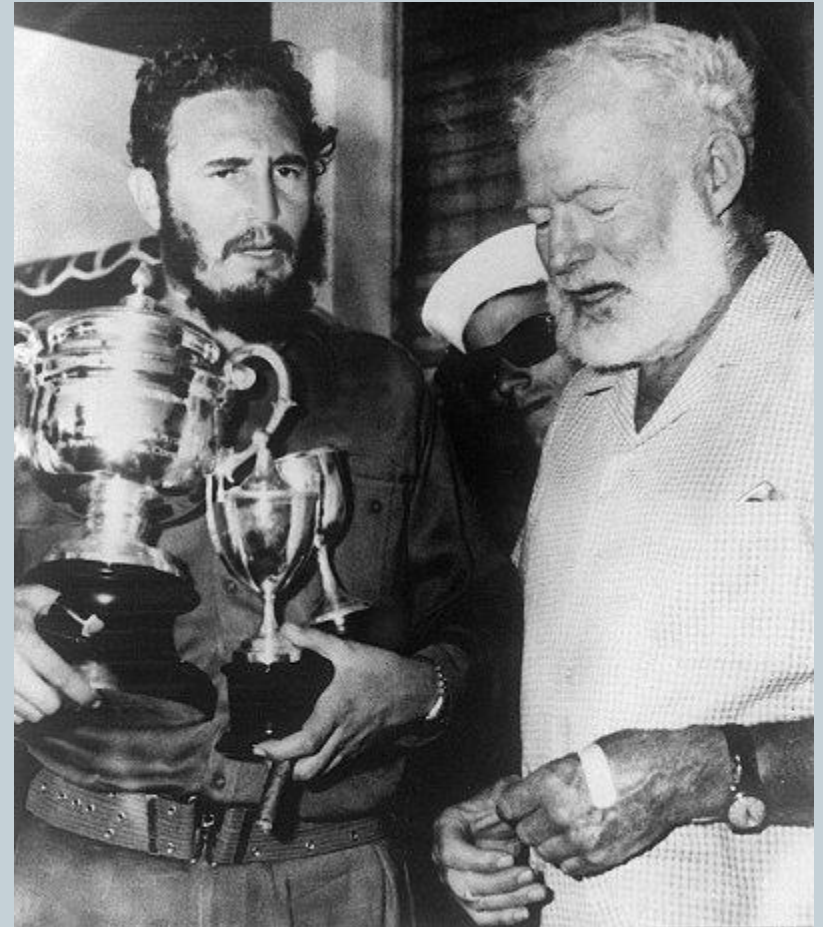


# Fidel Castro and Camilo Cienfuegos

## Havana January 8, 1959



# Fidel Plays to Win 1960



# Castro in Power



## I. Early Years

1. political independence and resource redistribution
2. shuffling of cabinet ministers
3. Castro's visit to U.S. and meeting with VP Nixon
4. concern that Cuba was moving into Soviet orbit
5. Eisenhower directed CIA to train Cuban exiles
6. wrangling over sugar quota
7. Soviet oil for Cuban sugar – takeover of U.S. refineries
8. embargo and break in relations



# Castro–Nixon Meeting of April 19, 1959



# Education



# Healthcare



# Bay of Pigs



## 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. Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell
  - d. flow of information to president from CIA
  - e. 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

# Aftermath of Invasion



JFK endorsed the basic CIA invasion plan involving about 1500 Cuban exiles armed and covertly trained by the CIA.

The CIA erroneously assumed that Castro was unpopular and unprepared for such an attack. They assumed native Cubans would rise up and join the 1500 exiles to displace Castro.

The attack (April 15-17, 1961) was a disaster, embarrassing JFK, who had been in office only about three months.

CIA director Allen Dulles, one of the planners, was forced to resign.

The attack strengthened regional guerilla movements that claimed that the U.S. was imperialistic. “Yankee go home!”

JFK went on U.S. television to admit his role in the failed invasion.

“Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.”

JFK continued covert operations against Castro → Cuban Missile Crisis

# Castro in Control



# Captured Members of Assault Brigade 2506





# Fiasco



# Speech to Invasion Brigade in Miami on 12-29-1962



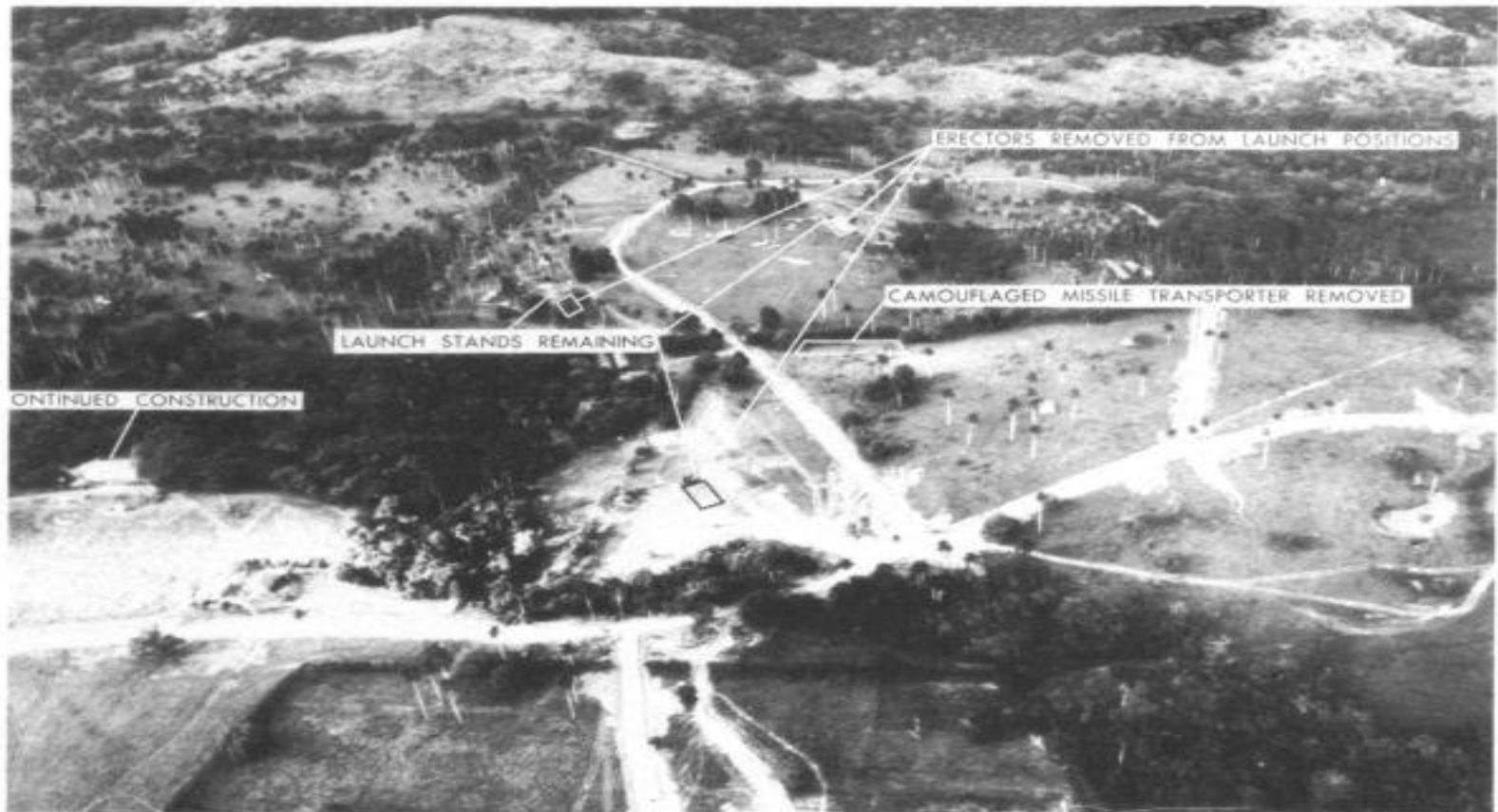
# Cuban Missile Crisis



## 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.



# Eyeball to Eyeball



**“...is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country...” - John F. Kennedy**

