



Kokomo, Robert Harding of Lynchburg College and John Gilderbloom of the University of Louisville. I especially want to thank my wife Shannon and my children Joshua, Ryan and Anna for their patience with me while writing this book and my mother Nancy, who has always been my biggest fan. Finally, this book is dedicated to the loving memory of my father, Melvin "Tippy" Staten.

Timeline of Historical Events

- 1250 Taino Indians arrive in Cuba
- 1492 Christopher Columbus lands in Cuba
- 1514 First Spanish settlements established
- 1515 Santiago de Cuba becomes the capital of the colony
- 1518 Hernán Cortés leaves for Mexico from Cuba
- 1522 First African slaves brought to Cuba
- 1607 Havana declared capital of Cuba
- 1700 Tobacco becomes the primary export
- 1728 University of Havana founded
- 1762 British capture Havana;
Liberalized trade and commercial and maritime laws established

- 1763 Spain regains control of Havana
- 1765 Spanish begin liberalizing trade and commercial and maritime laws
- 1791 Slave uprising in Haiti eliminates main competitor to Cuban sugar
- 1800 Sugar becomes primary export
- 1837 First railroad built
- 1838–1880 Modernization of sugar industry in Cuba
- 1868–1878 First war of independence (Ten Years' War)
- 1879 Slavery comes to an end
- 1890 Growing Cuban economic dependence on the United States
- 1895–1898 Second war of independence;
Economic infrastructure destroyed
- 1895 José Martí killed in battle and becomes national hero
- 1898 Battleship USS *Maine* blown up in Havana Harbor;
President William McKinley offers to purchase Cuba from Spain;
United States declares war on Spain and intervenes in Cuban war of independence;
U.S. armed forces refuse to allow Cubans to take part in Spanish surrender in Santiago;
Peace Treaty signed in Paris with no Cubans invited
- 1898–1902 U.S. military occupation
- 1901 Platt Amendment imposed on Cuba
- 1902 Cuban independence
- 1903 U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay established
- 1906–1909 U.S. military occupation
- 1912 U.S. military intervention

- ul style="list-style-type: none; padding-left: 0;">
- 1917–1923 U.S. military intervention
- 1933 Overthrow of the Machado dictatorship
- 1934 Platt Amendment repudiated
- 1940 Second constitution proclaimed
- 1952 *Golpe* by Fulgencio Batista
- 1953 Fidel Castro attacks barracks at Moncada
- 1956 Castro and followers land in Oriente Province
- 1956–1958 Castro wages guerrilla war from Sierra Maestra while underground guerrillas wage war in the cities
- 1959 Batista flees and Castro arrives triumphantly in Havana;
First agrarian reform law passed
- 1959–1961 Struggle for control of revolution
- 1960 Large companies nationalized
- 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion;
U.S. trade embargo of Cuba announced
- 1962 Missile crisis
- 1964–1970 Radical experiment
- 1965 The Popular Socialist Party is reorganized as the Communist Party of Cuba by Castro
- 1967 Ernesto “Che” Guevara killed in Bolivia
- 1968 Small businesses nationalized;
Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia
- 1972 Cuba joins the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance trading block
- 1975 First Communist Party of Cuba Congress held;
Cuban troops sent to Angola
- 1979 Sixth Non-Aligned Summit meeting held in Havana

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1980 | More than 100,000 Cubans leave for the United States from Mariel |
| 1986–1990 | Rectification process |
| 1989 | Collapse of East European communism |
| 1990–1995 | Special Period |
| 1991 | Collapse of the Soviet Union |
| 1992 | Torricelli Act passed |
| 1993 | Legalization of the U.S. dollar |
| 1995 | Direct foreign investment allowed;
Growing importance of tourism |
| 1996 | Helms-Burton Act passed |
| 1998 | Pope John Paul II visits Cuba |
| 1999 | Cuba celebrates fortieth anniversary of the revolution |
| 2002 | Former president Jimmy Carter visits the island |

1

Cuba and Its People

When Americans hear the word “Cuba,” many thoughts, sounds and images come to mind: the U.S. embargo, a bearded Fidel Castro in army fatigues, the song “Guantanamera,” Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, Ernest Hemingway, *mojitos*, classic automobiles, the missile crisis, the Bay of Pigs, cigars, rum, sugar cane, the mafia, gambling, *I Love Lucy*, the Malecon, raft people braving the shark-infested waters of the Straits of Florida, Little Havana and many others. News from Cuba and discussions of the relationship between Cuba and the United States dominate the media in Miami and are never far from the front pages of the major U.S. newspapers on any given day. During presidential elections in the United States, both the Democratic and Republican candidates pay homage to the Cuban American community in Florida. They reiterate their support for the U.S. embargo against the island while taking note of Florida’s important electoral college votes. Even in the post-Cold War era small or seemingly insignificant events concerning Cuba have a tendency to escalate and directly affect the

