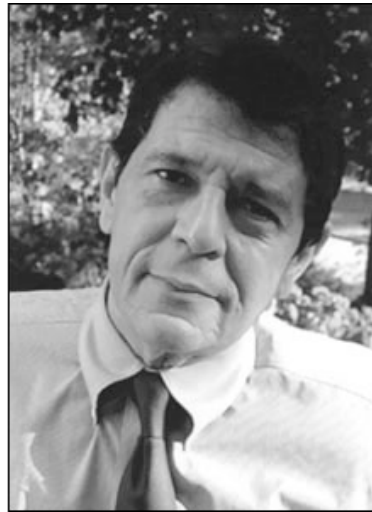


Old Cuba

Louis Perez, Jr.

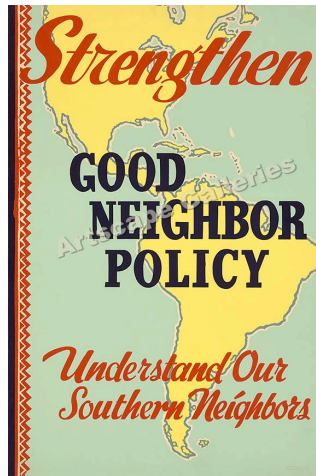
- History professor, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Focus: 19th & 20th century Caribbean history
 - Current research sources of Cuban nationality/identity
 - Social historian
- “[T]he failure of North Americans to live up to the standards they propounded” as the main reason for Cuban revolutionary and anti-American fervour of the late 1950s”



“The premier Cuban scholar in the United States”
– Lester Langley, UGA

Long-Term Causes

- 1934 – End of **Platt Amendment** through FDR's “**Good Neighbor Policy**”
- 1935 – **Fulgencio Batista** reigns through puppets after collapse of republican revolution/general strikes
- 1937 – Trade w/ US ↑ from 25% to 31% (new treaty)
- Late 1930s – Batista becomes a populist
 - Healthcare, consumer coops, new tax structures, agrarian reform, rent control, mortgage credits, women's suffrage & education



I fish, just like you do
(Except with a lot
more money) - FB

Constitutional Reform

- Old 1901 Constitution doesn't work
- 1940 – **2nd Constitution** – Universal suffrage, free elections, referenda, political/civil liberties, work reform, pensions, right to strike → goals, not policy
 - Batista elected President (1940-44) in fair election



WWII

- CUB improves economically b/c of decline in sugar market abroad → 2-Edged Sword b/c creates monoeconomy → decline by end of war (282)
- Autentico **Grau San Martin** wins '44 election
 - Corruption & *gangsterismo* → Stagnation, wasted opp.



Batista's Coup d'Etat

- **Ortodoxo** leader **Chibas** commits suicide, leaving party leaderless
- Partido Socialista Popular (**PSP**) gains postwar, but is kept down by Autentico (288)
- 3/10/52 – Batista leads military coup
 - Promises to business, US, parties (289)



One Hour &
17 Minutes



A Young Ortodoxo...

- A few anti-Batista challenges failed; nothing special
- 1953 – Ortodoxo **Fidel Castro** turned heads with a “near suicidal attack” on 2nd largest army base (290)
- 1954 – Batista wins “election” unopposed
 - Student demonstrations rise
 - Guerillas trained in Sierra Maestra Mtns. by Castro
- 11/30/56 – Another failed Castro uprising
 - Rebels 80 → 18, Castro survives



Don't Call it a Comeback...

- *Fidelistas* regroup in mountains & gain new support
- **PEREZ**: Success of guerillas was only in part due to the excesses of the regime → social conditions (292)
 - Essentially two economies: city & countryside
 - Internal strife in government (officials removed)
 - Tons of peasant support – Castro & Che (293)
 - Army becoming unreliable (294-95)



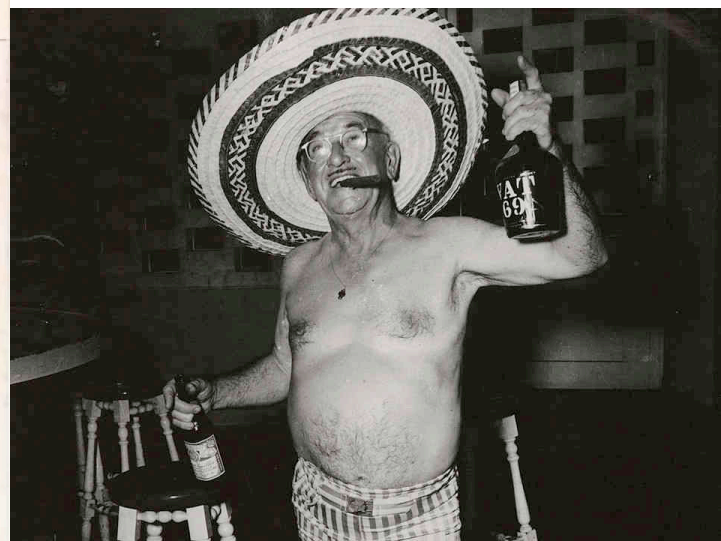
Social Conditions in the Late '50s

- Middle class declining compared to US (295-96)
 - **PEREZ**: Rich in L.A., but compared themselves to USA
 - Unemployment & underemployment
 - Steady population growth
 - Union rigidity → high cost of labor → shortage of jobs
 - Lack of diversity
 - Larger gap b/t rural & urban resources



Short-Term Causes

- 1958 – Rise in government terror & repression
- Batista bought off opponents (304)
- Economy on the verge of collapse
- Urban poor abound
- SCH: Casino & brothel for US businessmen (305)
- Afro-Cubans & women hit hardest by depression



Time for Action

- Feb. '58 – **26th of July Movement** announces war on economy → burns 2M tons of sugar
- March '58 – US issues arms embargo w/ CUB → withdraws support of Batista
- July '58 – Factions sign **Pact of Caracas** → Castro in charge of united opposition movement
- Summer '58 – Batista leads assault on rebels → army quits or flees by Summer's end after PSP/26 July unite in counterattack



Fall of Batista

- Batista loses 1958 election → refuses to leave
- US sends envoy with sweet deal to keep Castro from power (311) → Batista refuses
- 1/1/1959 – Guerilla rebels seize power
 - 26 July rejected coup & called for general strike
 - US tried to install imprisoned colonel to lead provisional government
 - Che & Cienfuegos defeat him
- A week later, Castro arrives in Havana

