



Enter Fidel Castro

Personality (Perez)

- Wanted to to be judged by history (313)
 - New generation was fulfillment of unmet aspirations and unkept promises of the past
 - Needed a substantive & symbolic break w/ past
- Gifted orator, energetic, told people what they wanted to hear
- Achieved mythical status by 1959 → Doves



Opposition

- **PEREZ**: Autenticos & Ortodoxos part of fall of Batista, but also part of the rise (314)
 - Gets rid of opposition by controlling judges, other means
 - 70% Proletariat, so vast audience for Castro's message



Reforms (319-321)

- 1500 decrees in first nine months
- Health, education, unemployment relief
- **Urban Reform Law** (March '59) – Discouraged private housing in favor of public housing
- **Agrarian Reform Law** (May '59) – Real estate restricted to 1K acres; sugar, rice, livestock to 3333
- **PEREZ**: Proles, Afro-Cubans benefitted greatly & think Castro is a hero → upper/middle class suffer & flee to FLA



Elections? (321-22)

- **Che Guevara** tells people elections will be held at the appropriate time; Revolution now, elections later
 - Che::Castro similar to Trotsky::Lenin



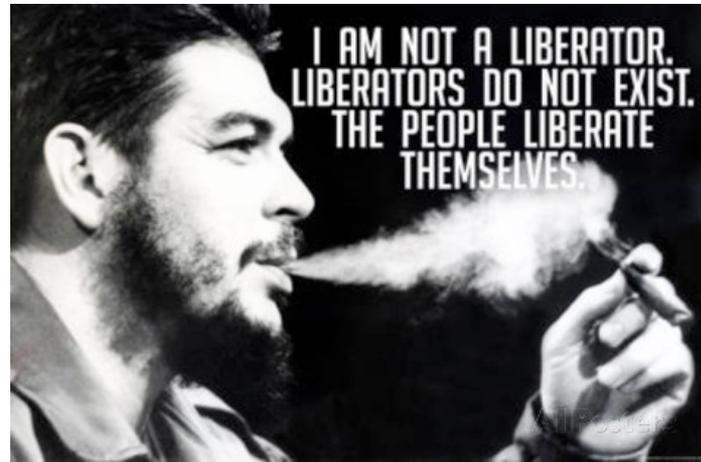
Economics (326)

- Gov. jobs replaced by PSP members, union leaders
- US threatens CUB w/ embargo → USSR steps in
 - Refineries & assets nationalized, mostly USA owned
- By Oct. '60, most industry is nationalized
- **2nd Urban Reform Law** – Prohibited multiple residence ownership; rest confiscated by state
- Jan. '61 – US severs diplomatic ties w/ Cuba



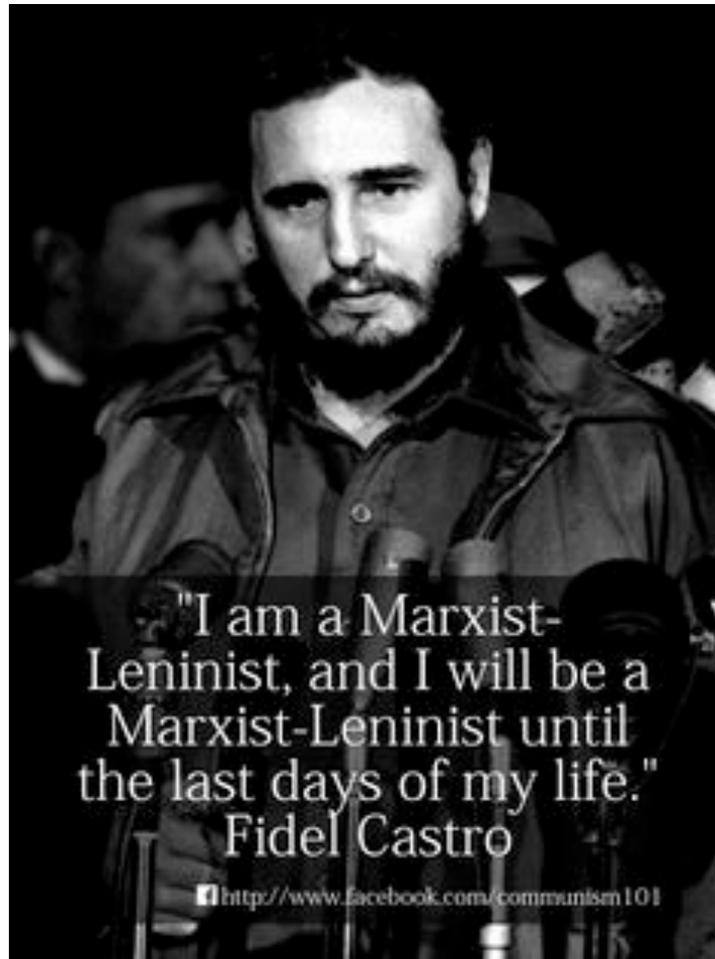
A Decided Shift...

- Che's "Crossroads" (323)
 - Revolution made it as far as they could w/ Liberals/USA
- Cubans focus on nationalization of industry → 85% under state control (328) →
 - Used new liquid assets to help the rest of the economy
- Middle Class, formerly US dependent, lost its base & left instead of opposing revolution (329)
- Old mass organizations & replaced with new revolutionary ones (330)



Cold War Interlude (331)

- Bay of Pigs & Cuban Missile Crisis further solidified movement → 100K opposition imprisoned
- **May Day, 1961** – Castro denounces 1940 Const.



"I am a Marxist-Leninist, and I will be a Marxist-Leninist until the last days of my life."
Fidel Castro

<http://www.facebook.com/communism101>

Why Castro is Different (332-33)

- Castro survived, unlike Marti in 1890s
- Embraced reform, unlike in 1933
- Didn't just succeed because of Soviets
 - Employed socialist mechanisms for economic reasons, not in reaction to US hostility or USSR support
- Seized foreign property, and survived
- Internal opposition in disarray; internally secure
- New, secure army & press; church irrelevant
- Revolution had a mind of its own + unique historical conditions
- Middle class flight removed liberal/Western opposition & US embraced them with open arms
- No US bailout like last two times