



Socialist Cuba

I. Economic Planning (1960s)

- ↓ reliance on sugar → industry & crop diversity
- ↓ agricultural/industrial imports
 - Plan fails after 4 years (338)
 - Imports actually increase, as did trade deficit →
 - Return to sugar by mid-1960s
- Food rationing



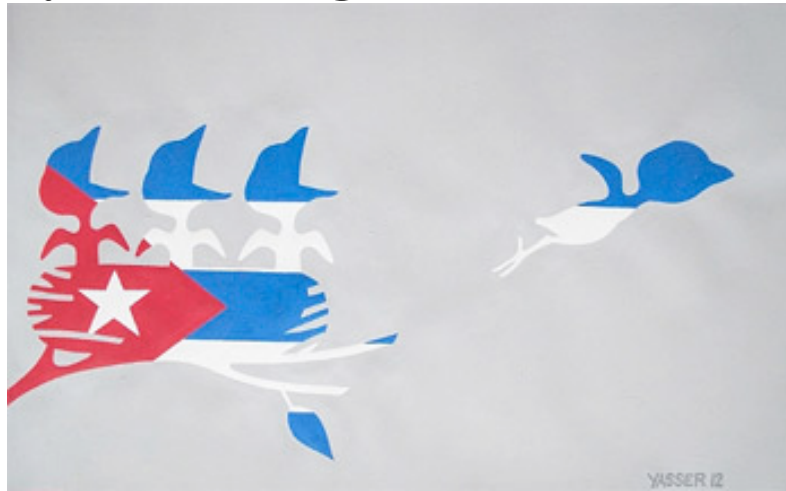
Communism Sets In

- New *conciencia, hombre nuevo* → new man dedicated to collective goals; material incentives not needed
 - Exemplary workers are heroes (340)
 - Applied guerilla terminology to economic goals (341)
- Free healthcare, day care, education, utilities & entertainment
- Rent fixed at 10% of income; many paid no rent
- Consumer goods scarce → hurt morale



II. 1960s Challenges

- “Fervor an acceptable substitute for fitness” (343)
 - Allegiance preferred to ability, with predictable results
- “Brain Drain” takes a toll on the economy (344)
- Embargo working for US (346)
- Not prepared infrastructurally to handle scope of trade with anyone other than US (347)
- CIA effectively sabotaged some Cuban industry (347-48)



III. 1970s Changes

- Econ strategy shift: stop over-centralization of economy & give more effective material incentives
- Reorganization of bureaucracy (349)
- 1976 – New Constitution
 - Most power to President (duh), creation of National Assembly, reorganized local government w/ direct election of local officials
- Mass organizations & unions revitalized (352)
- PCC now in more of a supervisory capacity



IV. Progress & Growth

- Wages linked to production; prices to scarcity
- **Anti-Loafing Act** (1971) – Stop absenteeism (353)
- Fees reinstated for transportation/day care/rent
 - Education & healthcare remained free
- More efficiency b/c of more skilled managers & technicians → Trade surplus achieved and 5.7% growth on average for '70s & '80s
- Sugar reliance decreased



V. Trade

- Soviets bailed out Cuba in 1960s
- Through '70s & '80s, trade gap w/ USSR, but surplus w/ rest of Bloc
- USSR underwrote economic development using “grants-in-aid”, postponed debt payments, and bought sugar above world price (356)



VI. Egalitarianism

- 1960s – Great strides in wage gap
- **Social Security Law (1963)** – Illness benefits extended to all workers; real wages increased
- Intro of material incentives in '70s caused gap to grow again
- **PEREZ**: Striking redistribution of income, but well-being not entirely about money (357)
 - Poorest 50% more than tripled income, top 5% declined



Thoughts?



VII. Education

- Massive campaign to end illiteracy
 - Youth, urbanites, workers, professional staff called on to teach the population
 - 1962 – 96% educated @ 1st grade level →
 - “3rd Grade Campaign”, “Battle of 6th Grade”, etc.
- 100% elementary enrollment (1986)
 - Compare to 56% in 1953
- Post-Secondary – 3 facilities in '59 to 40 in '80
 - Change in focus to science and technology



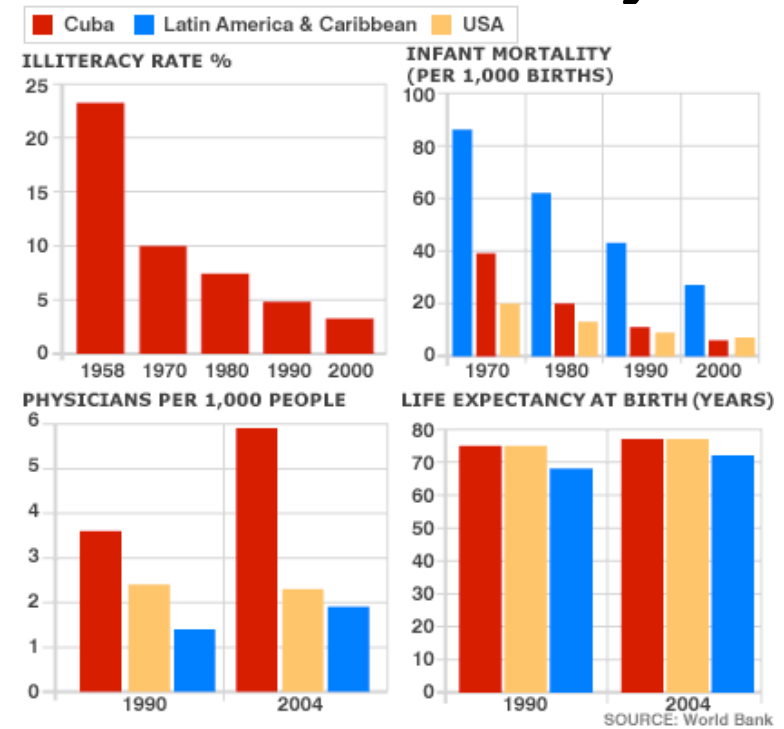
VIII. Nutrition

- Better rationing of goods → better nutrition
 - PEREZ: Great achievement → elimination of malnutrition (361)
- Workers/students get free meals
- Meat/Rice production decline, but all others increase
- As more can afford food, rationing ends
- Gray market (among friends) & black market thrive
- Cuba tops among L.A. in food consumption



Healthcare

- Focus on decrease in preventable disease
- At first, Cuba suffers from brain drain of docs to US, but builds up new wave w/ education (not as good)
- End of urban/rural disparity for care
- 1980 – 83% of medicine produced domestically
- 1970s – Malaria eradicated



Demography

- 1953 – pop. 5.8M → 1984 – 10M
- Increase in fertility, marriage, birth rates in 1970s, then decrease again in '80s/'90s
- Cities grow, esp. female pop.
- Urban/Rural housing disparity still exists
 - Boom in early '60s → decline → then boom again in '70s with the advent of high rise complexes

