

Pro-Castro

Source 1



Slum (bohio) dwellings in Havana, Cuba in 1954, just outside Havana baseball stadium. In the background is advertising for a nearby casino.

Extra reading: <https://www.cigaraficionado.com/article/the-batista-lansky-alliance-7197> ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_Revolution

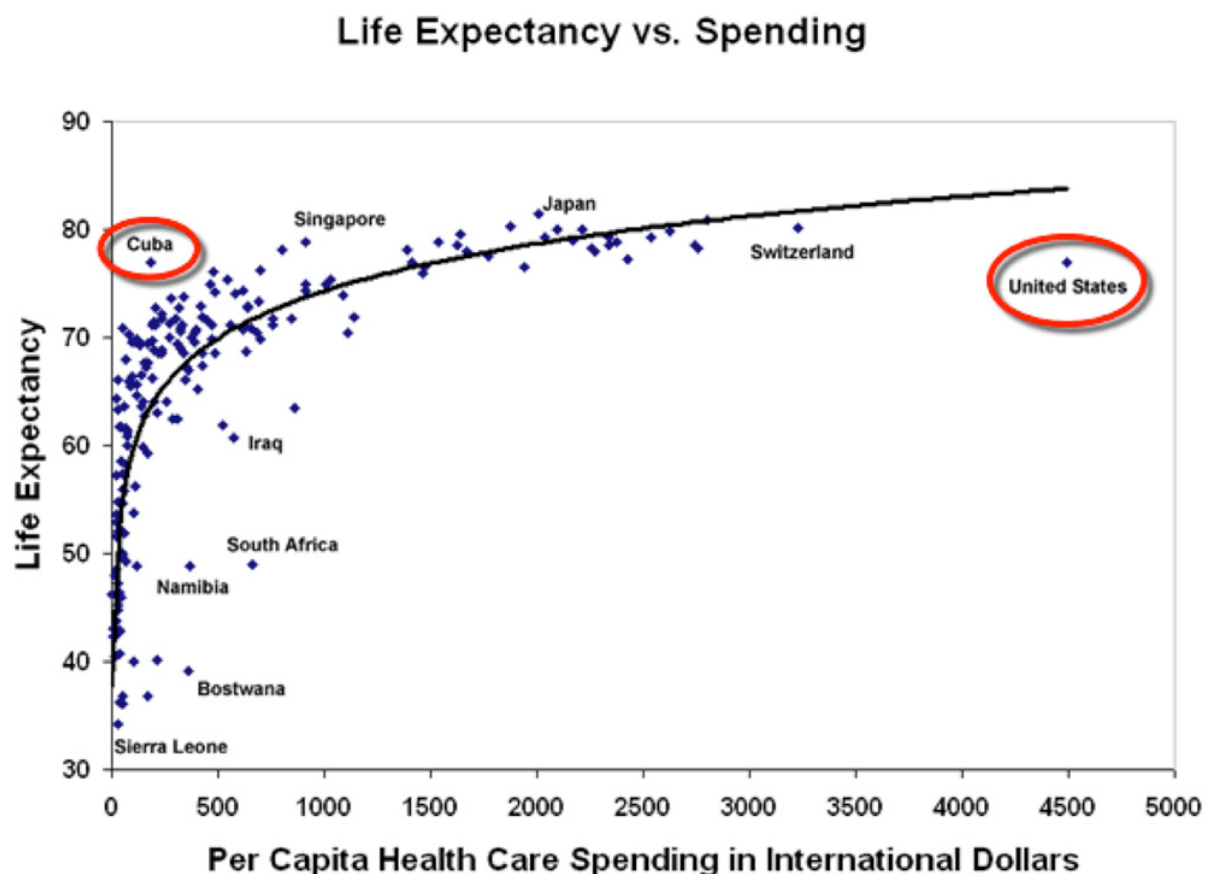
Source 2

I believe that there is no country in the world including any and all the countries under colonial domination, where economic colonization, humiliation and exploitation were worse than in Cuba, in part owing to my country's policies during the Batista regime. I approved the proclamation which Fidel Castro made in the Sierra Maestra, when he justifiably called for justice and especially yearned to rid Cuba of corruption. I will even go further: to some extent it is as though Batista was the incarnation of a number of sins on the part of the United States. Now we shall have to pay for those sins. In the matter of the Batista regime, I am in agreement with the first Cuban revolutionaries. That is perfectly clear.

— U.S. President John F. Kennedy, to Jean Daniel, October 24, 1963.

<https://www.grunge.com/308510/why-the-kennedys-couldnt-stand-fulgencio-batista/>

Source 3



<https://www.as-coa.org/articles/explainer-cuban-health-care-system-home-and-abroad>

Source 4

The accomplishments of the Cuban social programs are laudable and impressive. In thirty months, Fidel opened more classrooms than his predecessors had in thirty years.

Six hundred miles of rural roads were built in the first six months of the revolution, water and sanitation schemes costing \$300 million were launched in the rural areas, and housing for the peasant population was constructed at a rate of over eight hundred per month. Children's nurseries and day-care centers were put up, as well as institutions for the handicapped and homes for the aged. The old mental hospital in Havana, a monument to inhumanity in the Batista era, was renovated, restaffed, and turned into a model institution equal to any in the world.

Bourne, Peter G. (1986) *Fidel : A Biography of Fidel Castro*, pp. 275-6

<https://archive.ph/20150227003535/http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/02/how-education-shaped-communist-cuba/386192/#selection-1731.40-1731.194>

Source 5

Fidel Castro survived no fewer than 634 attempts on his life, according to his former secret service chief.

Whether that figure is accurate or not, Cuba's iconic dictator provided an almost-mythical adversary for what became an obsessive, error-prone assassination campaign by the CIA.

The agency's attempts to kill Castro ranged from the calamitous to the comical. Many of them were detailed by the Church Committee, a special Senate subcommittee headed by Democratic Sen. Frank Church in 1975.

Following Castro's death Saturday, here are seven of the most remarkable.

1. The Exploding Cigar

Perhaps the most famous attempt to kill Castro came in 1960 when the CIA poisoned a box of his favorite cigars.



Fidel Castro in November 1976. Prensa Latina / Reuters, FILE

Just a year after Castro seized power, the agency spiked the cigars with a botulinum toxin strong enough to kill anybody who put one in their mouth.

The cigars were delivered to an "an unidentified person" in 1961, according to the subcommittee, but it's unclear what happened to them after that.

Needless to say, they were never chewed by "El Comandante."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/fidel-castros-death/fidel-castro-cia-s-7-most-bizarre-assassination-attempts-n688951>

Source 6



Billboard in Cuba that reads "Playa Giron [a beach in the Bay of Pigs] The First Big Defeat of Imperialism in Latin America"

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56808455> ;

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Pigs_Invasion

Source 7



<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/latamcaribbean/2017/03/01/cuba-is-poor-but-who-is-to-blame-castro-or-50-years-of-the-us-blockade/>

Source 8

the US embargo violates human rights law in two distinct ways. Firstly, “the fact that the United States is the major regional economic power and the main source of new medicines and technologies means that Cuba is subject to deprivations that impinge on its citizens’ human rights.” Secondly, by passing legislation that “tries to force third-party countries into embargoing Cuba as well” – the 1992 Torricelli Act – the US government attempted to turn “a unilateral embargo into a multilateral embargo through coercive measures, the only effect of which will be to deepen further the suffering of the Cuban people and increase the violation of their human rights”.

Amnesty International (2009) *Cuba: The US embargo against Cuba: Its impact on economic and social rights*, pp. 14

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr25/007/2009/en/>

Source 9



Statue of Fidel Castro in South Africa, unveiled in 2017

<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/nacionales/145438-statues-of-oliver-tambo-and-fidel-castro-unveiled-in-south-africa>

Source 10

This is the man who led a small band of guerrilla fighters to power in the late 1950s, outlasted nine US presidents and ended up at the centre of the most dangerous moment in the Cold War. He even holds the record for the longest speech at the United Nations. In short, he brought a small Caribbean island to the centre of world politics.

Since January 1959, Cuba has been able to exert a disproportionate amount of influence on the international stage. In the 1960s, after surviving a US-backed attempt to overthrow its fledgling government, Cuba became involved in attempting to spark revolutions throughout the developing world.

In the 1970s the Cuban military was dispatched to fight wars in Africa. Even in the post-Cold War era, Cuban doctors and teachers continued to travel abroad. Now some two million cataract operations have been conducted by Cuban doctors in the developing world, paid for by the government in Havana.

Castro was also at the forefront of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) that emerged in the early 2000s. He was seen as leading the pink tide which swept through Latin America, bringing left-wing governments to power. His defiance in the face of US hegemony was key to their success.

<https://theconversation.com/how-fidel-castro-changed-cuba-a-small-island-at-the-centre-of-the-world-69454>

Anti-Castro

Source 1

1. Freedom of expression can land you in jail in Cuba.

Graffiti artist Danilo Maldonado Machado, known as “El Sexto”, found this out when he was **locked up** for most of 2015 for painting the names of Raúl and Fidel – the names of the Castro brothers who have been in power since 1959 – on the backs of two live pigs. He had planned to release the animals as part of an artistic performance but, before he could, he was accused of *desacato* (contempt) and thrown in prison for 10 months. He was never formally charged or brought before a judge.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/03/six-facts-about-censorship-in-cuba/>

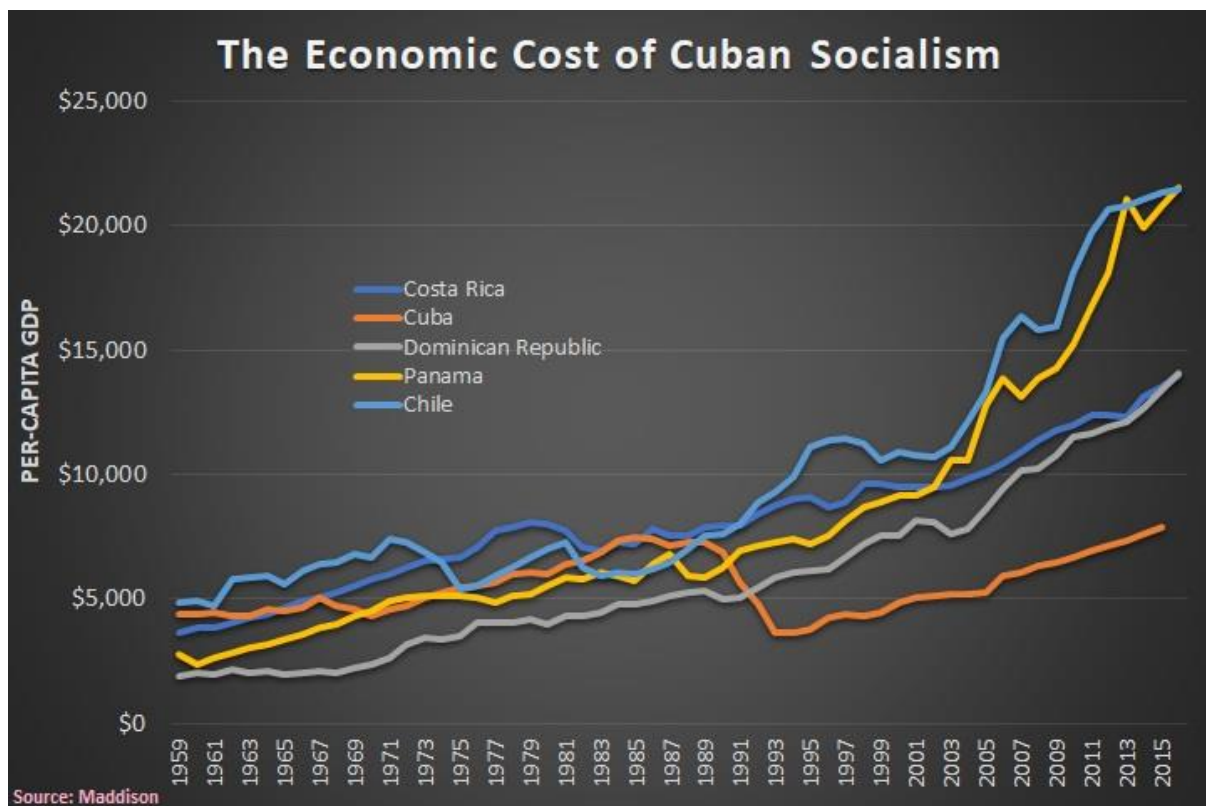
Source 2



Drawings of torture committed against political prisoner Hugo Damián Prieto Blanco at the Canaleta Prison in the Ciego de Avila Province in Cuba.

<https://www.capitalismmagazine.com/2000/07/torture-in-castros-cuba/>

Source 3



<https://fee.org/articles/the-economic-cost-of-cuban-socialism/>

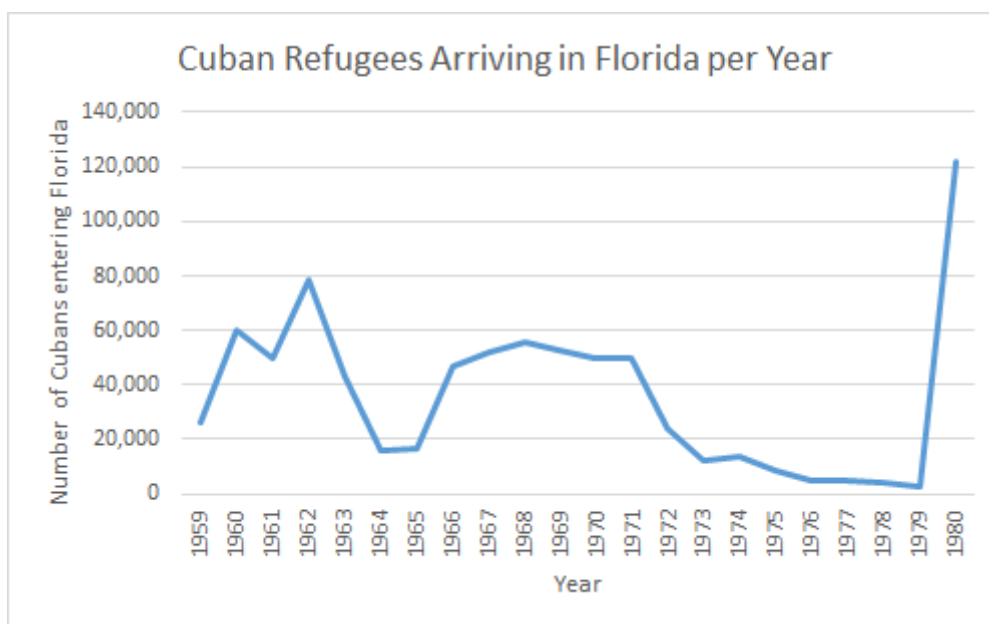
Source 4



Crumbling buildings and an old car in a street in Havana

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/no-fidel-castro-did-not-deliver-a-better-cuba/article33071380/>

Source 5



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_migration_to_Miami

Source 6

Many Cubans feared they would be targeted by the revolutionary government. Thousands of refugees fled the island for the United States. The majority of Cuban refugees ended up in Florida.

By October 1962, nearly 250,000 Cubans had arrived in the United States. Subsequent waves in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s increased the Cuban refugee population in the United States to over one million.

Cuban Refugee Assistance Program

The Cuban Refugee Assistance Program (CRA) was an unprecedented refugee assistance program brought about by the mass exodus of Cubans from their homeland. The CRA provided health, employment and educational services to Cuban refugees upon their arrival in the United States. The program, approved by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, was administered by the Florida Department of Public Welfare until 1974.

<https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/classroom/learning-units/cuban-revolution/>

Source 7



Photo taken by the team of psychologists during a session of hormone therapy administered to homosexuals in UMAP [a military labour camp], 1967. (Courtesy of Dr. María Elena Solé)

Source 8

In 1971, the First National Congress delivered a mixed message to gays and the population at large. On the one hand, the customary denunciations of homosexuals as decadent were gone...On the other hand, declarations from the same congress called for the removal of homosexuals from the field of education, thus continuing the view of homosexuality as a contamination of the body politic. Mayra, a lesbian photographer still living in Cuba, described these years: "You were not totally accepted by the revolution and there were positions you could not get if you were open about [being gay] unless you were in the arts. Still ... there was no persecution unless you were involved in counterrevolutionary activities. Then you were in trouble, and usually it was blamed on the weakness of being a homosexual."

Arguelles, Lourdes and B. Ruby Rich. "Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Revolution: Notes toward an Understanding of the Cuban Lesbian and Gay Male Experience, Part I." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 9 (1984): 692-3

Extra reading - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Cuba#Post-revolution_Cuba ;
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2001/jun/08/cuba.artsfeatures>

Source 9

It turns out that Castro himself was fully prepared for a nuclear war. He placed Cuba on a war footing, and his close confidante, the Argentine revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, moved into a cave complex where he was to command Cuba's western army in the event of an invasion. Castro had been furious when, after a white-knuckle thirteen-day standoff between the Khrushchev government and the Kennedy Administration, he was informed after the fact that Khrushchev had "blinked first" and agreed to remove the Soviet missiles from the island. (Although it was kept quiet at the time, Kennedy had promised, in return, to withdraw a battery of U.S. Jupiter missiles installed in Turkey.) Castro smashed a fist into a mirror, wounding himself, when he first learned of the resolution.

A few weeks later, Sam Russell, a reporter for the British Marxist paper *Daily Worker*, interviewed Guevara and found him still incensed over the Soviet betrayal. Che told Russell that if the missiles had been under the Cubans' control, rather than the Russians', they would have been fired.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/castros-defining-crisis>

Source 10

Editorial Cartoon 1 -- No Title
The Sun (1837-1991); Oct 28, 1962; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun
 pg. 4

“You Just Can’t Trust These Communists!”



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<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-castro-cartoons-20161203-photogallery.html>

Extra reading - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_Missile_Crisis