

BIGMUN 2021

Committee: Historical Committee

Agenda Item: Cuban Revolution

President Chair: Zeynep Ağca

Deputy Chair: Iliad Nazari

Dear delegates,

My name is Zeynep Ağca and I am an 11th grader from the Pakistan Embassy International Study Group (PEISG) located in Ankara. This is my third year in the MUN club and my 17th experience. I have been a chair multiple times, along with a couple of USG experiences, and thus I can assure you that everything will go extremely smoothly. My first president chair experience was in last year's BIGMUN so it is my utmost pleasure to return as a president once again. Aside from MUN I have a few other hobbies including painting, reading, and watching TV series, so I am not an entirely boring person.

My favourite types of committees by far are crisis committees, hence my presidency here. I love the feeling of excitement every time a new crisis arrives; the unexpected developments, possible assassinations, new wars and more. Crisis committees are where I feel like I belong, rather cheesy I know. They are extremely contrasting GA committees, drawing me in. If you enjoy crisis committees like my deputy chair and I do, I can assure you that we will have the best experience. The executive team and the crisis team are made of people I worked with before and they have my full trust.

What my deputy chair and I expect from you delegates is to be creative, you are going to rewrite history after all. You are going to be portraying characters so try to understand their thought process. How would you react if you were them? Keeping that in mind, you can use the ideas your characters used, but try to come up with your own ideas as well. Use your imaginations and do not wait for a crisis to happen; you can always plot new things and set them into action. Plan your directives thoroughly. the more detailed your directives are, the more likely they are to be accepted and have an effect on the flow of the committee. Remember, a good directive answers the 5 WH questions: where, when, why, who, and how. We will explain how to write directives before the sessions begin as well, but if you have any questions about the committee you can contact me through my email address zzagca@outlook.com and I will answer them to the best of my abilities.

Lastly, do not forget to have fun! You should enjoy your experience as much as you can. Let's see how you will handle the Cuban Revolution. That being said, hopefully you will learn something new from this report.

Sincerely,

Zeynep Ağca.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Iliad Nazari, and currently, I am studying at Sınav Anatolian High School as a senior student. My MUN career started in 2019. First, I was invigorated by my best friends, and then I continued to be an influential character for others who envy to take part in this community. By the time I was frequenting the multiple conferences, I had discerned that this platform has more than I assumed; lasting friendships, debates, sometimes cultures, and a new language. This year's BigMUN is truly special because the members are the ones who shaped the scope of my concern, from yesterday's hopeful person to the most ambitious competitor. I yet believe that I will have more lessons to learn and more knowledge to share by being encouraged by them. Even now, we are getting used to living under individual charters. It is hard, and it is arduous to believe, but simultaneously we can extend our inquisitive world. This online conference also assists all to talk, discuss, and learn. Not just individually, but rather globally, we can foresee changing the initial order of the world. Honestly, Crisis committees are the first choice of mine, but I do prefer to have NATO as well:)

As your President-Chair mentioned, feel free to ask your questions at any time you want. Zeynep and I will be addressing them.

Here is my Email: iliad.nazari877@gmail.com

Prepare yourself to dive into History!

Best wishes,
Iliad Nazari.

OVERVIEW

Cuba is a country encompassing the island of Cuba and Isla de la Juventud. Cuba is found in the northern Caribbean, where the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean adhere, with Havana as its biggest city and capital. The credence of outside powers characterizes Cuba's History. Spain, The USA, and the USSR are prominent examples; various Amerindian cultures resided in Cuba's island before the Genoese explorer Christopher Columbus's arrival in 1492. After landing on a Spanish excursion, Spain vanquished Cuba and appointed Spanish governors to command in Havana. The administrators in Cuba were obedient to the Viceroy of New Spain and the provincial jurisdictions in Hispaniola, the Dominican republic.

Cuba–Spain relations commit to the bilateral connections among the Republic of Cuba and Spain's Kingdom. More than five centuries that their connections date back. From 1492-1898, Cuba had been a colony. When the United States captured the Spanish–American War boundary. During the Spanish administration of Cuba, the island shifted a substantial generator of sugarcane. To meet global demands, Spain started to convey slaves from Africa to work in Cuba; this made Cuba's economy volatile to world

prices as its economy depended on one crop. Great Britain temporarily maintained Havana before returning it to Spain for Florida in 1762–63. A set of rebellions throughout the 19th century was abandoned to end Spanish rule and pretended the lives of many Cubans. However, in 1898, the Spanish–American War occurred in a Spanish recession from the island. Moreover, Cuba achieved its legal sovereignty in 1902. By the time, the Cuban republic heeded notable economic development and political corruption and a continuation of tyrannical leaders, completing in the overthrow of the dictator Fulgencio Batista by the 26th of July Movement, accompanied by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and Raúl Castro, as the 1953–1959 Cuban Revolution. The late government joined with the Soviet Union and espoused communism. Vast quantities of seasoned Soviet military hardware, including batteries of surface-to-air missiles, moved to the island, and in October 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis happened. Soviet subsidies individually confirmed the fragile Cuban economy. With the USSR's adjournment in 1991, the subsidies disappeared. Cuba dived into a severe economic crisis known as the Special Period that ceased in 2000 when Venezuela contributed to Cuba with subsidized oil. In 2019, Miguel Diaz-Canel was elected President of Cuba by the national assembly. The United States has politically and economically quarantined the country since the Revolution. However, it has gradually increased entrance to foreign commerce and travel as efforts to normalize diplomatic connections have advanced. National economic reforms are also undertaken to regenerate the social economy of Cuba.

It is important to note that the Cuban Revolution played a major role in the history of Cuba. As a result of the revolution, communism was further popularized in Cuba and a period of stress with the US would begin. Also keep in mind that the revolution did not take place a very long time ago, so its effects are still felt today.

REGIME UNDER BATISTA

In 1940, Batista defeated Grau in the first presidential election under the modern Cuban constitution, including Julio Antonio Mella's Communist party. The old Communist Party of Cuba, which had a vital significance and no probability of an electoral victory, was endorsed by Batista. Because of Batista's labor laws and his support for labor unions, this aid was a primary purpose of the Communists who had close ties. He carried out major social reforms during his office terms, set countless economic regulations and pro-union policies. Day-by-day, President Batista frequently intended to hinder the incoming Administration—mostly financially. It was very blatant that Batista was willing to assume obligations in fairness and equity from Dr. Grau San Martín. After his successor began, Batista departed Cuba for the United States; however, he extended to participate in Cuban politics. He was then elected to the Cuban Senate *in absentia* in 1948. Backtracking to Cuba, he chose to run for president and obtained permission from President Grau, after which he set up the United Action Party. On taking power, he endowed the Progressive Action Party, but he never recovered his former popular support. Indeed, the unions supported him till the end.

Rise of Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro was born August 13, 1926 as Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz around Birán, Cuba. He was not born into an extremely wealthy family but could not be considered poor either.

In 1948, Carlos Prío Socarrás rose to power as he became president, however, he was not able to bring tranquility to Cuba. Even though he had an ambitious domestic agenda, the corruption within the government along with economic inconveniences stalled his plans. He was also unable to prevent disturbances between the American-supported mafia and the leftists.

Castro, from an early age, saw the difference in the states of the rich and the poor and the corruption in the government, which led him to practice law. Educated in Havana and Santiago de Cuba, Castro participated in revolutionary enterprises throughout his years. In 1950, he graduated from the University of Havana with a degree in law, after which he began practising it. Castro was rather lenient towards Marxism after reading works by Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, and Friedrich Engels. All of these works supported his idea of the revolution further in his life. Through his readings, Castro gained the idea that the problems faced in Cuba were mostly a result of capitalism, indicating that the only legit change to come would be from the revolution of the working class. Further on in his life Castro said this about Marxism: "Marxism taught me what society was. I was like a blindfolded man in a forest, who doesn't even know where north or south is. If you don't eventually come to truly understand the history of the class struggle, or at least have a clear idea that society is divided between the rich and the poor, and that some people subjugate and exploit other people, you're lost in a forest, not knowing anything."

Although he was practising law, Castro could not stay away from politics and protests much, and thus, put himself and his family in debt. Additionally, after the death of the leader of the Partido Ortodoxo, Chibás, the new candidate for the 1952 parliament elections became Castro. Castro was surely expected to make it. What was not expected was what actually took place, however.

Having returned from the United States, Batista decided to run for the 1952 presidential elections. What he did not foresee was that he would not win. Once Batista realized the circumstances, he overthrew the government in March. He then shut down Congress and called for elections in 1954. Unsurprisingly, he was elected as president without any resistance in the 1954 elections, beginning his four-year term on February 24, 1955. What was rather astonishing and disturbing was Batista reinstating the 1940 constitution, which encompassed many liberties like the pro-labour reforms. Although Batista's intention was to return the country to normalcy, opposition developed against him. People were also concerned about the Sugar Act of 1956; sugar exports were a primary source of income for Cuba and its people, so the uncertainty it faced was rather panicking.

Batista did not anticipate the pure amount of backlash we would receive. Would he be able to fight the revolutionaries off? He did have the manpower, at least in the beginning, but I do not believe that he understood how panicked people got about the Sugar Act and how angry they got over how Batista took over. The people denied the 1955 elections and organized a campaign of their own to take down Batista.

The Movement (26th of July Movement)

As aforementioned, the current state of Cuba was not looking good from the eyes of the public for a multitude of reasons. Castro, bitter as he could not run for parliament, decided that legal methods would not work in the current situation. As a result, he decided to organize a secret cell system to form a group called 'The Movement'. The Movement was an extremely significant step in the coming of the revolution.

To elaborate further on the cell system, it had an extremely secretive kind of 'code', which consisted of one person from each cell knowing the other members. The multiple and separated cells were each kind of like a house. Only one person living in the house knew all the other members, so if anyone found out information on any cell, the breach would only be felt in one cell, allowing the other cells to function properly without getting discovered. No one knew the members of any other cell, so even if they were interrogated, they would not have any information to give.

Castro wanted more people to know about The Movement, hence the publication he created. He decided to create an underground publication named 'El Acusador' in order to inform more people about them. This let people prepare themselves to fight against the Batista regime. This was a highly successful operation as Castro was able to recruit around 1,200 new members in just one year from Havana's more destitute neighbourhoods.

This scheme enabled Castro to build his team and gain support for the upcoming Cuban Revolution. What came after was the famous Moncada Barracks attack in Santiago on the 26th of July. Around 160 men were led to a raid on the barracks, which resulted in nothing short of a massacre. 8 were killed and 12 were injured on the spot whereas 55 more were put to death without any type of conviction or trial. Castro and what remained of the group fled to the mountains, allowing Batista to spread false rumours censoring the death and declaring martial law. In a few days, Castro and his brother Raul were caught and imprisoned.

One advantage Castro had was that he was a lawyer. This enabled him to defend the members of the organization who were awaiting trial. He emphasized certain aspects like the cruelty of the military and the torture faced by the defendants before the court. This was a successful attempt and resulted in many defendants being let go. On the more unfortunate side, Castro, his brother Raul, and 25 others were sentenced to prison ranging from 7 to 13 years.

Perhaps the most well-known aspect of the trial was the famous speech made by Castro on the 16th of October, saying: "Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me." His original speech is approximately 4 hours long so it will not be in this document but if you are curious, go ahead and read/listen to the whole thing. This speech gave Castro a more hero-like attention and brought somewhat of legitimacy to his leadership.

During his imprisonment at the Santiago prison, Castro and his comrades renamed themselves to the 26th of July Movement, commemorating the attack on the barracks. Castro spent 22 months in jail, during which he read many works from Marx, Dostoyevsky, Lenin, Shakespeare, Freud, Kant, Rousseau, and Marti. He would spend more than 10 hours each day reading and reading. He was even quoted saying that prison was an excellent education for him and shaped his views and goals.

But apart from getting educated, Castro had other objectives in prison. He would send speeches and writings to his wife Mirta, all relating to the inequality in Cuba. Mirta would then print and distribute around 20,000 copies.

Mexico and Granma

In 1955, the Batista administration received a lot of backlash and pressure to release all the political prisoners, which they did so rather unwillingly. This included the Castro brothers as well. After their amnesty, Fidel and Raul decided to flee to Mexico as a result of the multiple violent protests and bombs. During their stay in Mexico they met a Marxist-Leninist doctor

called Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, who was later described as a better revolutionary than Castro by himself. Guevara would go on to become a vital part of the revolution. Castro also met Spaniard Alberto Baya who went on to become a teacher to Castro's men on guerilla warfare tactics. Looking for sponsors for their cause, Castro took a trip to the US. All the while this was happening, Castro was being monitored and followed by Batista's men.

Castro and his men decided to return to Cuba to advance the revolution further, so they left Mexico on a yacht called Granma. Castro was accompanied by 81 men and they landed on south-west Cuba on the 2nd of December. However, there was a quick turn of events. What they had not anticipated was that Batista's men knew of their arrival and were waiting for them. Upon their landing, the troops killed many, only leaving about a quarter of the original force to make it through. Fortunately, the Castro brothers, Guevara, and Camilo Cienfuegos made it out alive. The survivors settled into the Sierra Maestra and tried to continue their mission.

While they were struggling in the forest, havoc took over in Cuba. The Directorio Revolucionario (Revolutionary Directorate), a group mostly made of students, unsuccessfully attacked the presidential palace in Havana on 13 March, 1957. Dozens lost their lives in the attack. After word got out that trade unionists would be attempting to provoke a general strike, the government announced that anyone who would participate would not be re-employed elsewhere, causing the support from labour leaders and the working class to diffuse. Batista then went on to suspend constitutional guarantees like freedom of expression and assembly early August. A month or so later, he went on to announce that the June 1958 elections would go on as scheduled. A few days after the announcement, the naval station in Cienfuegos fell into the hands of rebel officers. In the operation to retake the city, more than 100 died.

Going back to the Sierra Maestra, Castro and his men were quick to realize that they now had to depend on the mountains for their survival. The government and the troops were not very optimistic about their survival, but Castro and his men disagreed. Perchance, they stumbled across a built-in reservoir of support. Many of the people residing in Sierra were previously evicted from their land by rural guards. They were practically refugees, living a life not even remotely close to comfortable; they had to squat in huts made of dirt and grew their own coffee and marijuana. Even though the living conditions were not comfortable, their coffee and marijuana production provided them some comfort.

Castro and his men laid low for half a year, training for combat and acquiring skills about the guerilla warfare tactics. Their first propaganda point came when Batista informed the press about Fidel Castro's 'death' after landing. The rebels quickly relished this claim. A New York Times correspondent, Herbert Matthews, climbed into the Sierra in February of 1956 in order to get an exclusive interview with Fidel Castro himself. Matthew was almost star-struck and had an extreme enthusiasm. Castro, on the other hand, was more on the devising side; he staged the meeting carefully. As many of his men died on landing, his army was not colossal, but Batista did not need to know this. As a scheme, Castro ordered soldiers to walk in different uniforms multiple times, back and forth, in order to make his army seem larger than it was. Additionally, he ordered messengers to arrive with news from the 'second front'. All completely fiction. The story made the front page. This was only the beginning of the media attention they would receive. Other events like an interview with CBS followed. This interview was shot on Mount Turquino.

However, a bigger win would come soon after. On the 28th of May, 1957, now consisting of 80 men, the guerillas attacked a military outpost in the village of El Uvero. Guevara, showing unexpected talent, led the fight with surprising tactics. His inner circle would later be nicknamed as 'the Suicide Squad.'

*Guerilla warfare describes the fast-paced, small-scale actions against the military and police.

1958

Most historians refer to this year as the deciding year as many events that occurred led to the end of the revolution.

Perhaps the most active year, the revolution continued at its fast pace with raids and property destruction as the Cuban economy was feeling disrupted. Tourism had a major hit due to bombings in Havana, sugar exportation hit a stall due to mills and plantations being burned down, and overall rebel activity affected the mining industry along with many other industries. By this point, the US' support to Batista started to decrease. As a response to the ongoing troubles, the US imposed an arms embargo mid-March and suspended the pending delivery of nearly 2,000 Garand rifles to the government of Cuba. Taking advantage of the havoc, Batista announced the postponement of the June presidential elections, rescheduling them for the 3rd of November on the 26th of March. The communists were able to assert their role as a major unit in the opposition through a strike led by Juan Marinello on the 9th of April. The strike was not materializing or extremely hostile but it was effective in terms of asserting dominance.

Already exhausted by the strikes and protests and suffering from a major loss (alliance of the US), Batista decided to attempt to crush Castro at once. This was the launch of Operation Verano. Operation Verano lasted for over a month from 28 June to 8 August, 1958. Batista assembled around 10,000 men to fight the 26th of July Movement, an ample overestimation. We can assume that Castro's plan with the press was somewhat successful. As Castro's army did not have a lot of members, Batista's army outnumbered them. However, by this point Castro's men were experienced guerilla fighters and knew the forest well. The local people even formed networks to supply them with information regarding the army.

The first battle of Operation Verano, the Battle of La Plata, began on 11 July, 1958. Batista's troops advanced on Castro's base from the sea. Castro's army, on the other hand, was prepared and successfully ambushed the soldiers en route and cut off their escape route as well. The commander of the battalion of the army refused to surrender but finally succumbed on 21 July.

The second battle of the operation began on 29 July, 1958, known as the Battle of Las Mercedes. General Cantillo of the army tried to lure Castro out by using another battalion. This move was in hopes that as the general was withdrawing the battalion the rebels would deploy an ambush. The difference this time being that the troops were ready to launch a surprise attack on the rebels. This time the army was able to get the better of the guerillas. Castro, taken aback, feared that his forces would be wiped out. He called for a ceasefire, which Batista granted for some reason. Perhaps Batista thought that the rebels had no chance left and took pity on them. According to General Cantillo's plans, the hostilities would resume on 8 August, however, they had underestimated the rebels again as they were nowhere to be found. Castro was still at large and Batista's plans had failed. By November, Castro and his men had managed to gain control of many parts of Cuba such as the majority of Oriente and Las Villas.

Castro also had some plans for 1958: he issued multiple proclamations from appeals for a general strike to threatening the life of all candidates for the office. Castro was among many that exploited their power; he kidnapped 10 American and 2 Canadian individuals from the mining headquarters of the Freeport Sulphur on 26 June. The next day, 28 US sailors were abducted from a bus outside the naval base in Guatánamo Bay. The anger building up in the US caused Castro to release his captives within a week.

For the 1958 elections there were 3 primary candidates: Andrés Rivero Agüero, the successor Batista chose; Carlos Márquez Sterling, supported by some moderate groups; former

president Ramón Grau San Martín, the Revolutionary Party's candidate. Castro threatened both candidates and voters in the days leading up to the election. The results of the election showed a clear fraud that had occurred. Márquez Sterling won over four cities where legitimate voting took place, however, Rivero Agüero was declared the overall winner due to unchecked ballot-stuffing. It is evident that the Cuban Revolution would take a different course had legitimate voting taken place and Márquez Sterling was declared as the new president. It is safe to say that Batista's interference and fraud virtually removed the remaining support for him.

Batista's Fall

The remainder of the support for Batista virtually melted away in the following weeks of the elections. The army mostly remained loyal to him, but their combat effectiveness was largely lowered due to a shortage of ammunition resulting from the US' embargo. This enabled Castro's forces to be able to match the troops in battle, and even faced them with superior equipment from foreign sources. And to make matters even worse for Batista, an armoured train filled with ammunition and rifles was captured by a rebel group under Che Guevara on the 27th of December, 1958. Those ammunition and rifles were extremely necessary to the government troops. And that was the end of Batista.

After seeing that there was no way out and his position was indefensible, he relinquished his role as the president early in the morning of January 1, 1959. A couple of hours later, he fled to the Dominican Republic even though he was on bad terms with them for quite some time now. In August, Batista flew to Madeira, a Portuguese Island. He spent the rest of his life in exile in Portugal.

Before leaving, Batista handed over his power to the commander in chief of the army, General Eulogio Cantillo. Cantillo went on to establish a provisional government composed of himself, Chief Justice Carlos M. Piedra, and General José E. Pedraza.

Castro went on to proclaim the victory of the revolution from the Santiago de Cuba city hall's balcony. Guevara led the first rebel column without opposition into Havana. Castro arrived in Havana on the 8th after the establishment of a new provisional government. Manuel Urrutia Lleó as president and Castro himself as the prime minister.

Tens of thousands of people celebrated victory; the old regime was now over, and from now on things would change. Or so they believed.

TIMELINE

1940	Fulgencio Batista was elected as the president of Cuba.
1944	Batista steps down as the civilian government takes control and travels to the US.
1945	Cuba becomes a Member State of the United Nations.
1948	Batista returns to Cuba.
1952	Batista hijacks the government to stop

	elections and shuts down Congress.
26 July, 1953	The attack on Moncada Barracks in Santiago takes place. Some men are let free, while Castro and some other men are sentenced to prison.
16 October, 1953	Castro makes his famous 'History Will Absolve Me' speech.
1954	Batista calls for elections and wins without opposition. The US recognizes Batista.
24 February, 1955	Batista begins his 4-year term.
June, 1955	Castro brothers are released from prison and go to Mexico where they meet Che Guevara.
2 December, 1956	Castro and 82 other rebels reach Cuba on the Granma. Most are killed by troops but some, including the Castro brothers and Guevara, manage to escape to the Sierra Maestra.
28 May, 1957	Guerillas attacked a village in El Uvaro.
30 July, 1957	Frank Pias, a Cuban revolutionary leader, was killed in the streets of Santiago de Cuba.
13 March, 1958	US suspends the shipment of arms to Batista.
26 March, 1958	Presidential elections postponed officially to 3 November, 1958.
28 June, 1958	Operation Verano begins.
11 July, 1958	Battle of La Plata begins.
21 July, 1958	Battalion commander accepted defeat.
29 July, 1958	Battle of Las Mercedes begins.
1 August, 1958	Temporary ceasefire declared.
8 August, 1958	Operation Verano ends.
3 November, 1958	Presidential elections take place, Rivero Agüero declared new president.
27 December, 1958	An armoured train filled with ammunition captured by Che Guevara.
1 January, 1959	Batista relinquished his position as the

	president and flew to Portugal.
2 January, 1959	Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos' troops arrive on Havana.
8 January, 1959	Castro enters Havana and is declared the prime minister.

AFTERMATH

Regime under Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro welcomed Havana on January 8, 1959, after Batista's regime happened on January 1. During his years in Havana, he first promised to uphold the 1940 Constitution and elections. On February 16, Castro became Prime minister; however, he began to transfer mass trials of Batista's supposed sympathizers. Later, he inaugurated land reform, nationalized U.S businesses, set communists in various positions, and stopped the newspapers. He additionally produced the CDR, a civilian organization -by blocks- that completed neighborhood observing to distinguish counter-revolutionary movements. Although the land reform and a campaign toward analphabetism were widespread and robust, many poor people developed. The government later started to consider more about education, medical supply, and housing. The massive economic failure started in the late 1960s, making Castro broadened the economy and commerce. Due to the enormous decrease in economic temperament, in 1991, Cuba's economy diminished with the USSR. Up till the 2000s, this situation continued. Nevertheless, Castro and Batista were both dictators, but most people had better conditions under Fidel Castro, especially in education, housing, and health. However, some facts have to be considered. Batista also contained the press and committed human rights violations.

Politics of Cuba

Since 1959, Cuba has had a socialist political system based on "one state - one party." As a communist state, Jos Martí serves as the actual source of influence in Cuban politics. The current constitution that was approved in 2019's referendum also defines the leading role of the "communist party of Cuba" to be the "main force of society and state"; can also be explained as a strong capacity of setting national policy. The 2019 constitution made those opinions of Fidel Castro superior to those of Marxism, along with regards to influence upon the Cuban communist party, Cuban society, and the ideas of Martí. The most recent leader was Raul Castro, who gave the title of First Secretary of Cuba's communist party, the most vital position in Cuba. The current president of Cuba is Miguel Díaz-Canel. From April 19, 2018, Miguel Díaz-Canel is now president of the Council of State and Ministers. The council of Ministers and the state represent the executive power as an exercised government. The unicameral National Assembly of people's power is constituted as the foremost authority of the state. Raul Castro, the previous president, endures First secretary of Cuba's Communist party and the Commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. As Fidel Castro ruled

from 1959 to 2006, due to his sickness, he was forced to hand power to his brother; now, the National Assembly president is Estevan Lazo Hernandez.

Relations with the USA

The Cuban Revolution was a turning point between U.S.- Cuban relations. The United States was first willing to recognize the new government under Castro; however, it soon came to dread that communist insurgencies would enlarge through the Latin America's nations, as they did in Southeast Asia. Even during the revolution, Castro's government resented the Americans for helping Batista's government. In August 1960, the American Eisenhower administration froze all Cuban assets on American soil, severed diplomatic ties, and compressed Cuba's embargo after the revolutionary government nationalized all U.S. property. The United States started efforts to normalize its connection with Cuba in the mid-2010s and officially unlocked its embassy in Havana in August 2015.

Global influence

After the October 1917 Revolution, the post-revolutionary foreign policy and Castro's victory had global repercussions that were mostly affected by the enlargement of the Soviet Union into Eastern Europe. As shortly as 1960, Castro instantly looked forward to exporting his revolution to other nations in the Caribbean and beyond, to send weapons to Algerian rebels. This called for a revolution in Latin America against the imperial capacities he disbursed in his Havana declarations. In the next years, Cuba heavily started to support communist insurgencies and independence movements in developing nations.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

1. Were there any other options to take down Batista - was Castro's Movement a smart plan to overcome the Batista regime?
2. Was it smart of Batista and his troops to let the rest of the people in Granma live? If the troops had killed them (the Castro brothers, Che Guevara, and the rest of the survivors), would this have benefitted the Batista regime to stay in power?
3. Should the US have interfered at all? Did this affect the flow of the revolution (apart from the shipment of the guns in 1958)?
4. How did Batista confirm his military coup and his frequently authoritarian regime? Did Cuba appear to be profiting from political stability?
5. How did Fidel Castro explain/support his anti-Batista activities? And what implications were there that an insurrection was brewing?
6. Should the United States continue to be influential in Cuba (after the war ends)?

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