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THE RISE OF CASTRO

How Did Fidel Castro Come to Power in Cuba?



3 mins

Know - the main reasons that helped Castro rise to power.



Cuba = Spanish colony until 1898 - then under the control of the USA.



Platt Amendment - 1901
US has the right to intervene in Cuban affairs.



Jose Marti - 'The Apostle'
Set up Cuban Revolutionary Party in 1892. Symbol of Cuban independence.



Corrupt and rigged elections plague Cuban politics - much of this due to US interference.



Revolution in 1933
Led by university professor Ramon Gran + students + sub officers.

Provisional Revolutionary Government 'New Cuba'.

Increased wages.
Women's vote.
Platt Amendment abolished.



Counter Revolution - 34.
US backed - **Fulgencio Batista** + army take over.



Puppet Presidents
Batista backed 7 US friendly presidents.
Economic and political.



Left Wing Unrest
Young Cubans = strikes.
Batista violence + trade unions banned.



Batista Takes Over
1952 - increasing corruption Batista took over in another coup.

Moncada Barrack Attack
26th July 1953
Castro turned to revolutionary measures.

Attack on barracks.
Failed and arrested.
'History will absolve me speech.'



Castro released (goes to Mexico)
Starts the **26th July Movement**



Castro meets Guevara in Mexico. Plans and trains a small rebel army.
Returns in 1956.



Frank Pais
Leader of urban resistance movement in Cuba.

Granma Expedition Fails
Castro's + 81 armed rebels return from Mexico - disaster.
Only 12 remain - and flee to Sierra Maestra mountains to start guerrilla warfare.



Batista's death squads hunt for Castro - ransacking mountain villages. Angers locals.



Herbert Matthews - New York Times reporter finds and interviews Castro.
'Man of the peasant.'



Rebels grow stronger 1957 - 58 More recruits and expanding guerrilla successes.

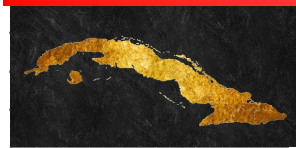
Civic Resistance Movement - CRM - led by Frank Pais - set up in Havana = encouraged urban support amongst middle class professionals + **Ortodoxos** - Cuban Peoples Party.



Pact of Sierra - July 57
Pais persuaded Ortodoxo politicians + industrialists to help remove Batista.



Communists - PSP
Agrees to support Castro's movement - Plan a wave of strikes.



Total War Against Tyranny
Manifesto signed by Castro + Faustino Perez.
(Now leader of CRM)

Perez had replaced Pais (murdered by Batista)
The Manifesto outlined the plan for general strikes on the 9th of April. Strikes + revolts failed BUT increased support from workers.



The Final Stage
Attacks / sabotage of industry + the elites who had supported Batista.

Pact of Caracas - July 58.
Anti - Batista groups met in Venezuela and united under **Castro** and **26 July Movement**. Batista's [liquidation campaign](#) failed - rebels overran government forces in the East.



Batista used increasing terror = more support from PSP and provincial towns joined the rebels.

2nd January 1959
Castro had 50 000 men. Controlled countryside.
Batista fled.
Colonel Burguin orders a ceasefire. Castro speech - 'The Revolution begins now'.



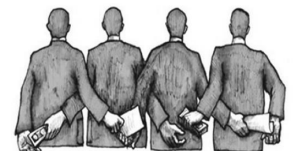
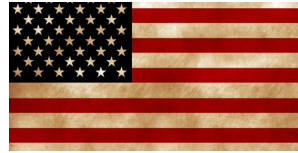
8th January 1959
Castro and Guevara enter Havana through cheering crowds,

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Herbert Matthews

Pact of Sierra - July 57

Communists - PSP



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