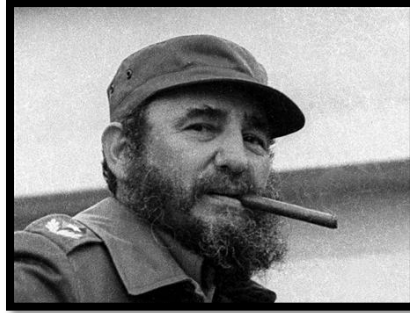


## Fidel Castro



Cuban leader Fidel Castro (1926-) established the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere after leading an overthrow of the military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. He ruled over Cuba for nearly five decades, until handing off power to his younger brother Raúl in 2008. During that time, Castro's regime was successful in reducing illiteracy, stamping out racism and improving public health care, but was widely criticized for stifling economic and political freedoms. Castro's Cuba also had a highly antagonistic relationship with the United States—most notably resulting in the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. The two nations have no formal diplomatic relations, and the United States has enforced a trade embargo with Cuba since 1960, when U.S.-owned businesses in Cuba were nationalized without compensation.

## Fulgencio Batista



Fulgencio Batista was born on January 16, 1901, in Banes, Cuba. He joined the army in 1921 and in September 1933, he organized a revolt that toppled the regime at the time. He was elected president in 1940. His term ended in 1944. Eight years later, Batista returned and gained power as a brutal, controlling dictator. Fidel Castro toppled his regime in 1958, and Batista lived the remainder of his life in exile. He died in Spain on August 6, 1973.

## Che Guevara



Che Guevara was a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution (1956–59) who went on to become a guerrilla leader in South America. . A strong opponent of the United States, he guided the Castro regime towards alignment with the Soviet Union. The Cuban economy faltered as a result of American trade sanctions and unsuccessful reforms. During this difficult time Guevara began to fall out with the other Cuban leaders. He later expressed his desire to spread revolution in other parts of the developing world, and in 1965 Castro announced that Guevara had left Cuba. Executed by the Bolivian army in 1967, he has since been regarded as a martyred hero by generations of leftists worldwide. Guevara's image remains a prevalent icon of leftist radicalism and anti-imperialism

## Cuban People



You are the everyday people of Cuba. You have been living under a strict dictator in Fulgencio Batista. However, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara are growing in popularity and talking about new hope in a revolution. You are stuck in a bind because of the thought of hope coming from a revolution but also understanding that a revolution could hurt relationships with America, who has been a strong supporter economically in the past. You may not have a lot of say politically, but you are the people most affected by this ordeal.

## John F Kennedy



Elected in 1960 as the 35th president of the United States, 43-year-old John F. Kennedy became the youngest man and the first Roman Catholic to hold that office. He was born into one of America's wealthiest families and parlayed an elite education and a reputation as a military hero into a successful run for Congress in 1946 and for the Senate in 1952. As president, Kennedy confronted mounting Cold War tensions in Cuba, Vietnam and elsewhere. He also led a renewed drive for public service and eventually provided federal support for the growing civil rights movement. His assassination on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, sent shockwaves around the world and turned the all-too-human Kennedy into a larger-than-life heroic figure. To this day, historians continue to rank him among the best-loved presidents in American history.

## Nikita Khrushchev



Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971) led the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War, serving as premier from 1958 to 1964. Though he largely pursued a policy of peaceful coexistence with the West, he instigated the Cuban Missile Crisis by placing nuclear weapons 90 miles from Florida. At home, he initiated a process of “de-Stalinization” that made Soviet society less repressive. Yet Khrushchev could be authoritarian in his own right, crushing a revolt in Hungary and approving the construction of the Berlin Wall. Known for his colorful speeches, he once took off and brandished his shoe at the United Nations.