

History of Modern Cuba

European Presence

- Since 1492 Spain was controlling much of Caribbean
- By mid-1800s it was losing power there
- Starts cracking down hard on Cuban dissidents

Valeriano Weyler's "Reconcentration" Policy 1896



Cuban Reconcentration Camps

- 1/3 of Cuban population in camps
- Est. 400,000 Cubans died

Spanish-American War 1898-1901

- By 1898 it still controlled only Cuba & Puerto Rico in the Caribbean
- Cuba wanted freedom from Spain
- US had business interests in Cuba & ppl living there
- Theodore Roosevelt & the Rough Riders (not yet president) went there to fight the Spanish

Military Bases



Many Florida cities were used as military bases in the Spanish-American War.

The Cuban "Melodrama"



The Spanish-American War: 1898

Remember the Maine! To Hell with Spain!



260 sailors dead

U.S. defeats Spain

- And gets Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam
 - Cuba doesn't want to be a territory of the US

Cuban "Independence?"



Senator
Orville Platt



Platt Amendment (1903)

1. Cuba was not to enter into any agreements with foreign powers that would endanger its independence.
2. The U.S. could intervene in Cuban affairs if necessary to maintain an efficient, independent govt.
3. Cuba must lease Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. for naval and coaling station.
4. Cuba must not build up an excessive public debt.

American Soldiers in Cuba in 1902



What the US Fought For



Fulgencio Batista Leader of Cuba 1940-1959



Fidel Castro as a Young Revolutionary



Cuban "Young Pioneers"



**What were some of Dictator
Castro's reforms?**

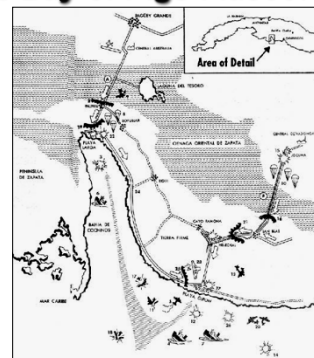
Fidel Castro's Reforms

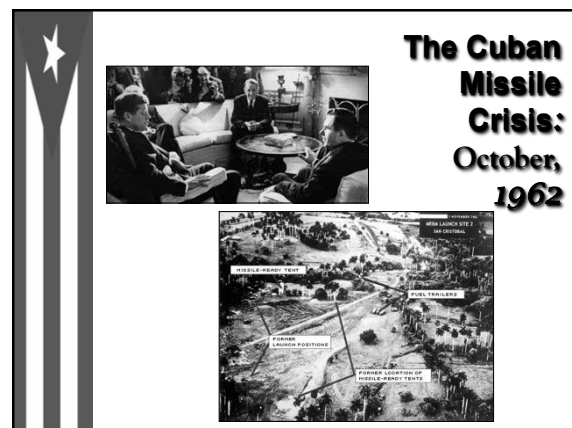
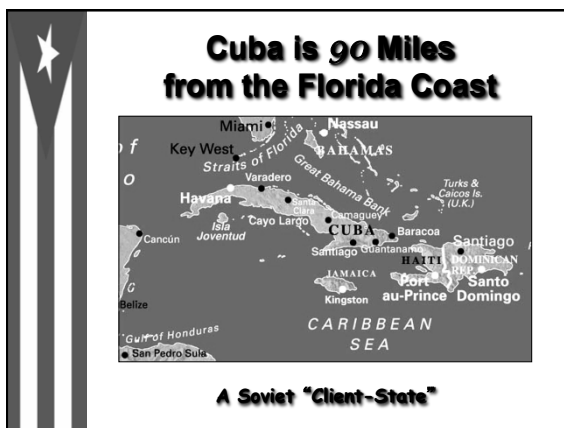
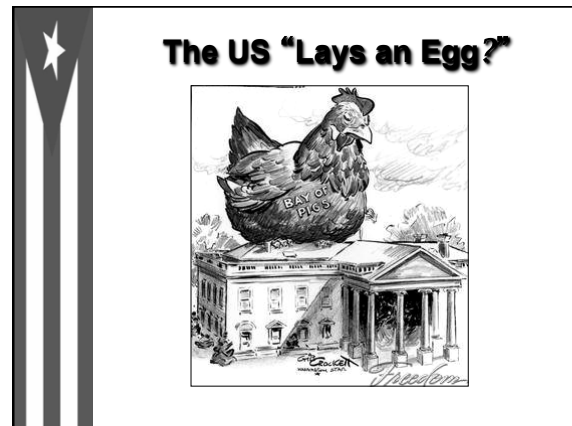
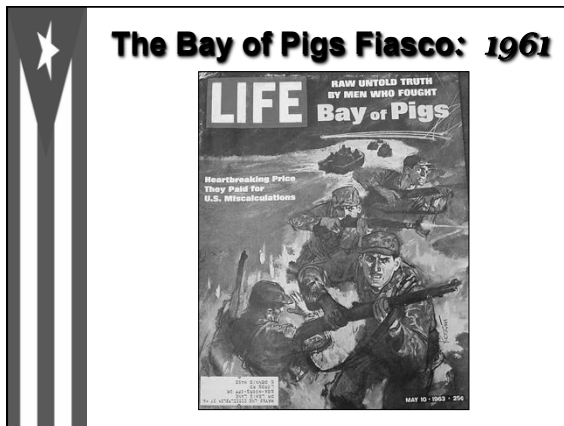
- Redistribution of land
- Improved healthcare
- Reducing racism
- Reducing illiteracy
- Spread electricity to most of the island
- Built hospitals & schools

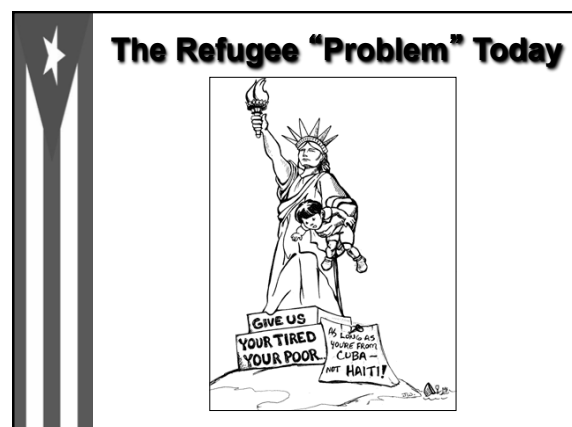
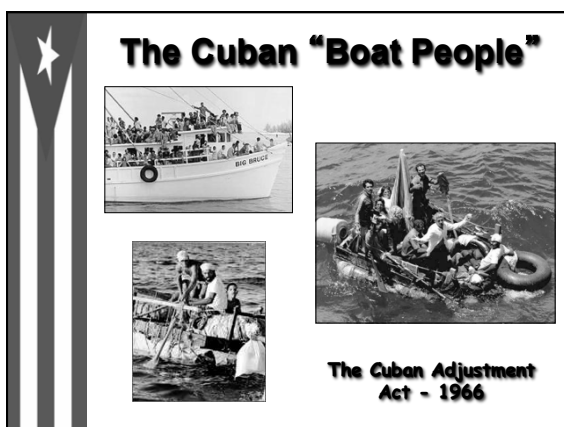
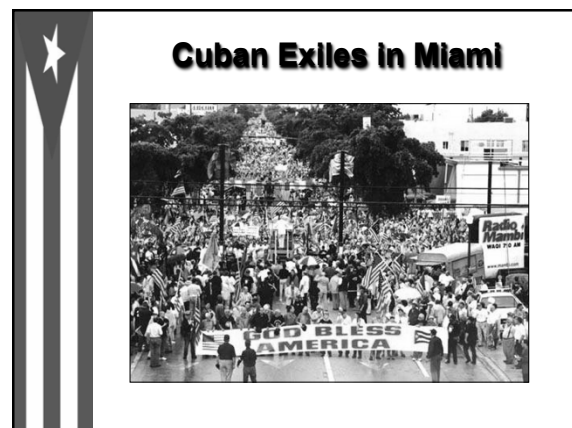
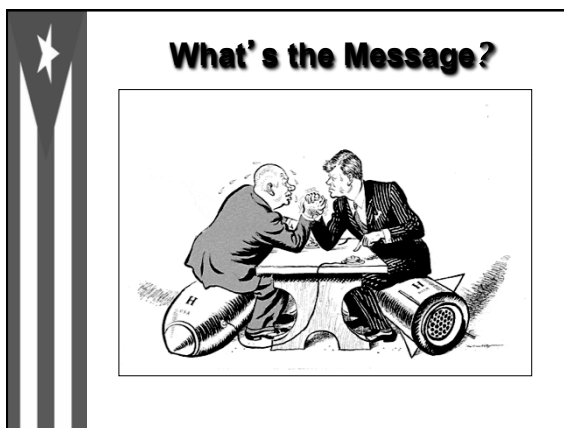
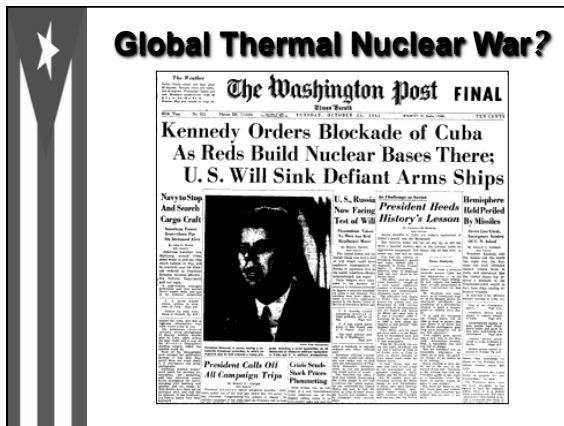
Criticism of Fidel Castro

- Limited political power of the people
 - Jailed political opponents
 - Would not allow elections
- Nationalized major industries
 - Abolished most pvt businesses
 - Leading to shortages of goods
- Limited freedom of speech/press
- Limited housing availability

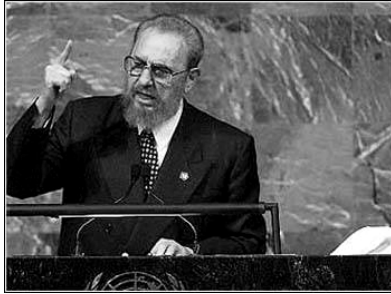
The Bay of Pigs Fiasco: 1961





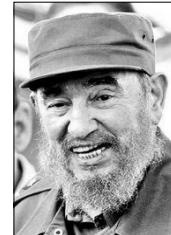


Castro at the United Nations



US Embargo of Cuba

Fidel Castro – leader of Cuba 1959-2008



Cuban-Americans Support the Republican Party



Raul Castro – President of Cuba since 2008

