

#### General Facts

• Official Name: Republic of Cuba

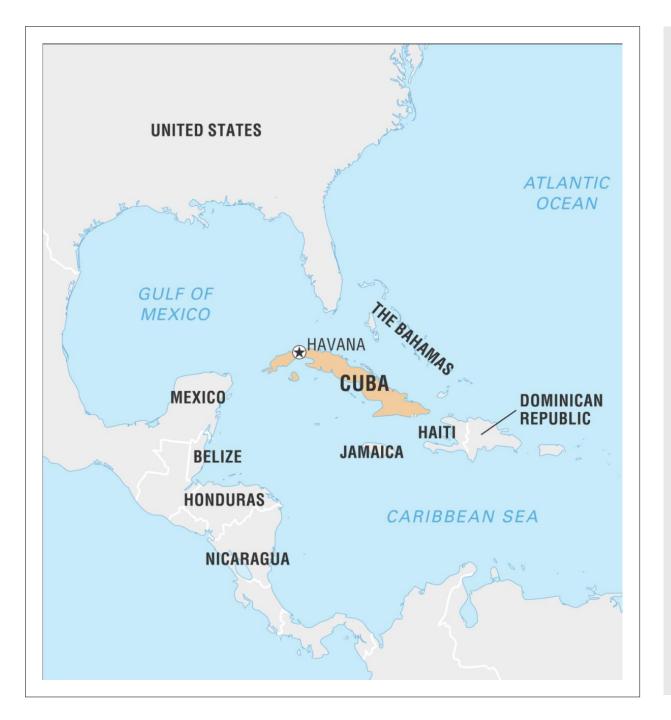
。 Capital: Havana

• Official language: Spanish

• Population: 11,193,470

 $\circ$  Area: 109,884 km<sup>2</sup>

Currency: Cuban Peso (CUP) / Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC)

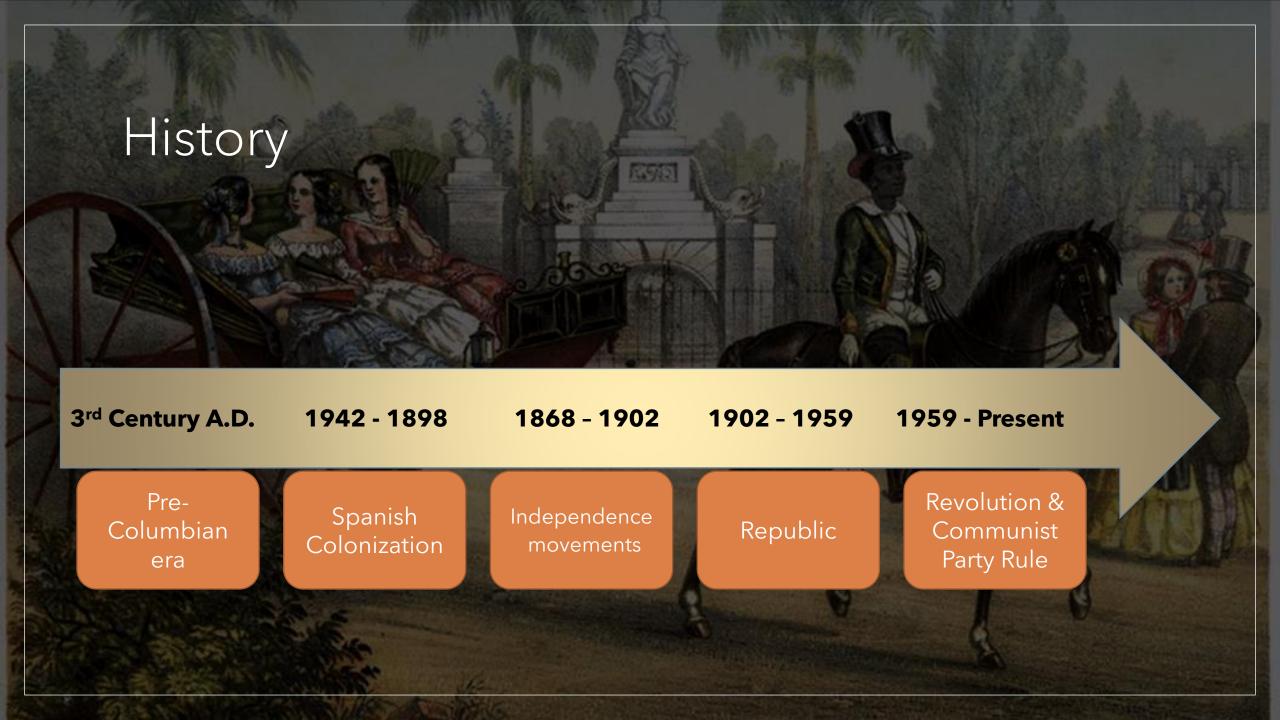


## Location

- Located in the northern Caribbean.
- Comprised of island of Cuba, Isla de la Juventud and several minor archipelagos.
- Marine neighbors: Mexico, U.S., the Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands



## GEOGRAPHY





# Spanish Colonization and Rule

 Columbus claimed the island for the new Kingdom of Spain.

• The indigenous Taíno were forced to work under the encomienda system.

• The indigenous people were virtually wiped out due to disease.

Many Africans were imported in Cuba as slaves.



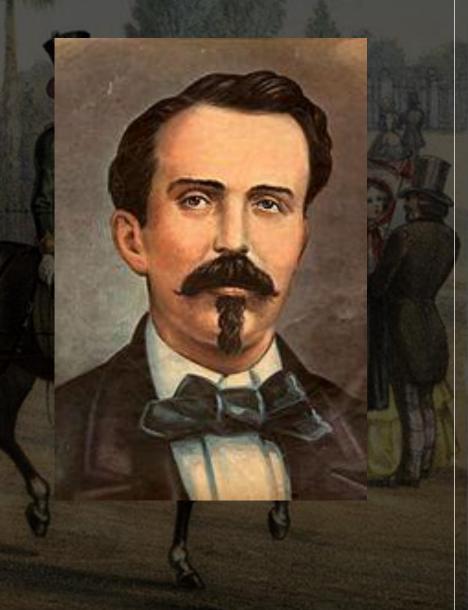


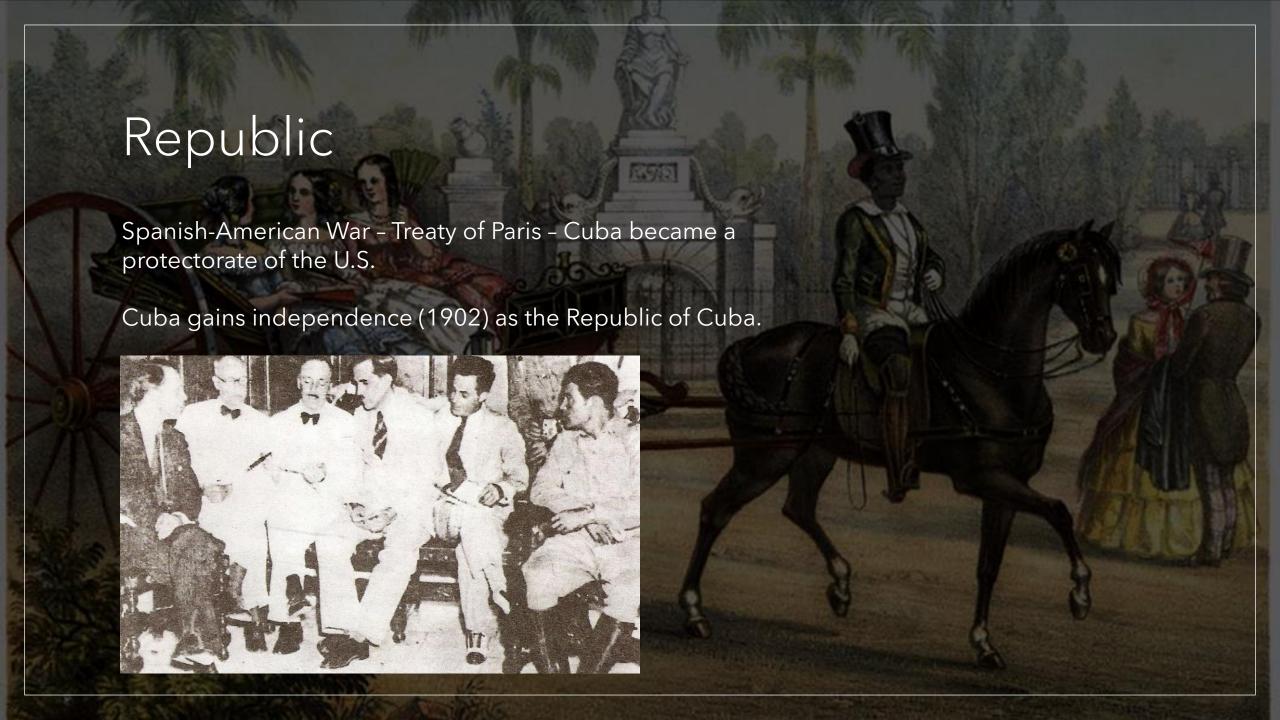
Full independence from Spain was the goal of a rebellion in 1868 led Carlos Manuel de Céspedes.

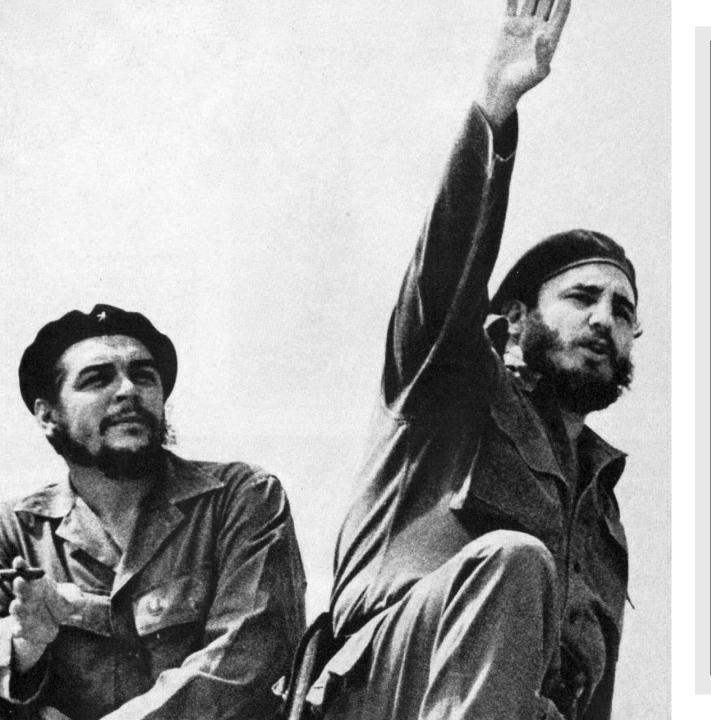
In 1878, the Pact of Zanjón. Spain sustained 200,000 casualties. The rebels sustained 100,000-150,000 dead.

Slavery in Cuba - abolished 1875; completed - 1886.

The Battle of Santiago de Cuba (1898) - Spanish-American War







#### Revolution

- 1950s competition for public support in bringing political change
- 1956 Fidel Castro and 80 supporters attempt to start a rebellion against the Batista government
- Late 1958 rebels broke out of the Sierra
  Maestra general popular insurrection.
- Capture of Santa Clara Batista fled Dominican Republic, Madeira, then Estoril.
- 8 Jan 1959 Castro's forces enter the capital.
- Manuel Urrutia Lleó provisional president.





# Flag

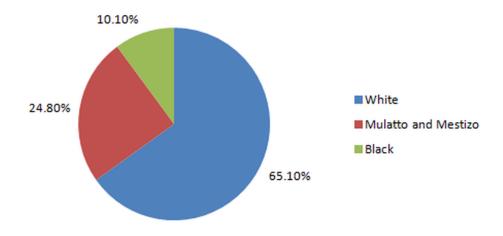
o Blue: old divisions of Cuba

o White: strength and purity of independence

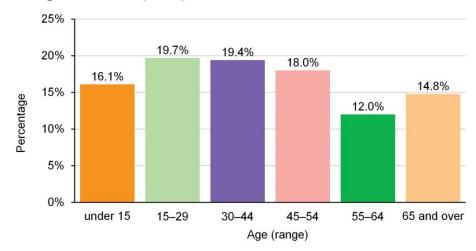
 Red Triangle: bloodshed, liberty, equality, fraternity

o Star: freedom

#### **Ethnic Groups by Population**



#### Cuba age breakdown (2018\*)



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\*January 1.

# Demographics

#### • Ethnic groups:

- 65% White
- 25% Mulatto & Mestizo
- 10% African origin

#### • Religion:

- 47% Roman Catholic
- 22% Nonreligious
- 5% Protestant
- 26% Other

• Median age: 39.5





## Food



Ropa Vieja

## Gambas o Camarones



## Food



Huevo Habaneros

## Tamales Cubanos







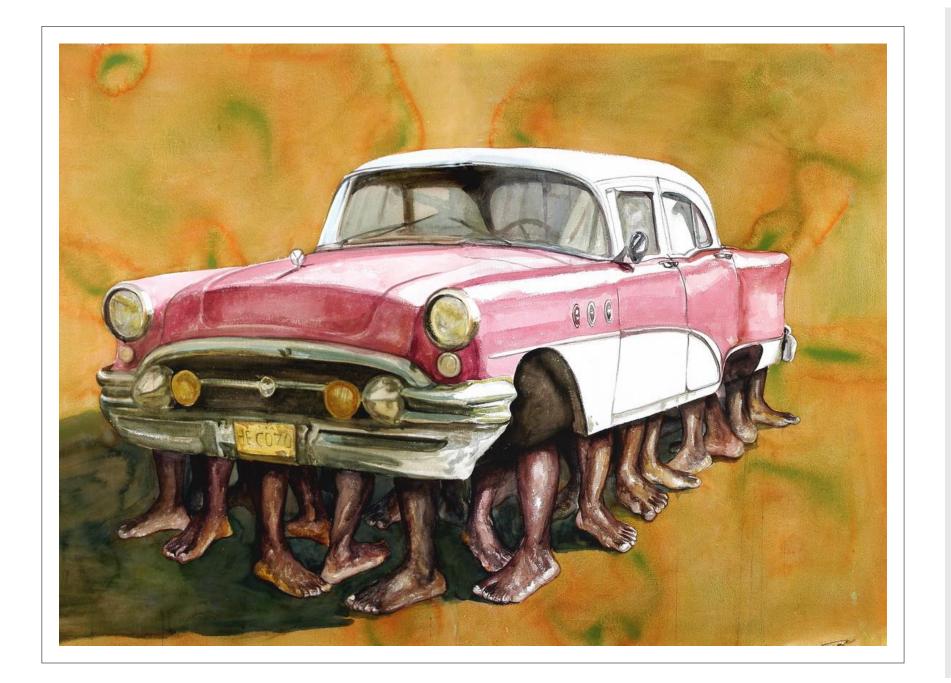
# RUM & CIGARS







# MUSIC



#### Art

- African
- South American
- European
- North American

- European modernism
- Cuban avant-garde



# Habana Vieja (Old Havana)

- UNESCO World Heritage site
- Plaza de la Catedral
- Catedral de San Cristobal
- Bodequita del Medio
- Castillo de la Real Fuerza



# Varadero

- Stretches along the Peninsula of Hicacos
- Varadero Ecological Park:
  - Cueva de Ambrosio
  - Cueva de Musulmanes
- Josone Park:
  - Flower gardens
  - Restaurant
  - Swimming pool
  - Small lake



#### Trinidad

- Church of the Holy Trinity (Iglesia Parroquial de la Santisima Trinidad)
- Museum of Colonial Architecture (Museo de Arquitectura Colonial)

# Bibliography

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