



**Enter Fidel Castro**

# Personality (Perez)

- Wanted to be judged by history (313)
  - New generation was fulfillment of unmet aspirations and unkept promises of the past
  - Needed a substantive & symbolic break w/ past
- Gifted orator, energetic, told people what they wanted to hear
- Achieved mythical status by 1959 → Doves



# Opposition

- PEREZ: Autenticos & Ortodoxos part of fall of Batista, but also part of the rise (314)
  - Gets rid of opposition by controlling judges, other means
  - 70% Proletariat, so vast audience for Castro's message



# Reforms (319-321)

- 1500 decrees in first nine months
- Health, education, unemployment relief
- **Urban Reform Law** (March '59) – Discouraged private housing in favor of public housing
- **Agrarian Reform Law** (May '59) – Real estate restricted to 1K acres; sugar, rice, livestock to 3333
- **PEREZ**: Proles, Afro-Cubans benefitted greatly & think Castro is a hero → upper/middle class suffer & flee to FLA



# Elections? (321-22)

- **Che Guevara** tells people elections will be held at the appropriate time; Revolution now, elections later
  - Che::Castro similar to Trotsky::Lenin



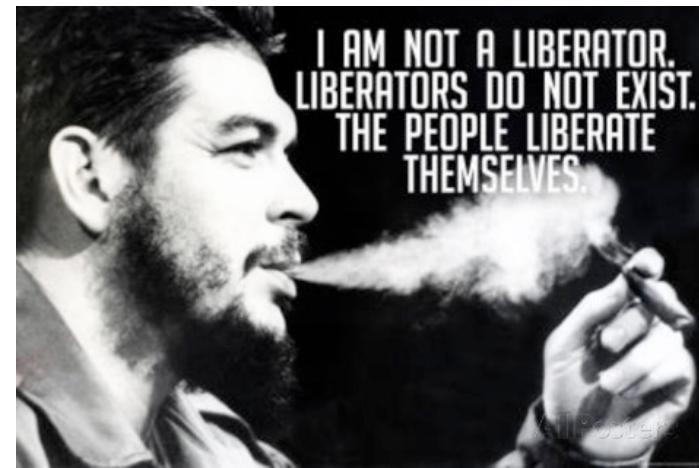
# Economics (326)

- Gov. jobs replaced by PSP members, union leaders
- US threatens CUB w/ embargo → USSR steps in
  - Refineries & assets nationalized, mostly USA owned
- By Oct. '60, most industry is nationalized
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Reform Law** – Prohibited multiple residence ownership; rest confiscated by state
- Jan. '61 – US severs diplomatic ties w/ Cuba



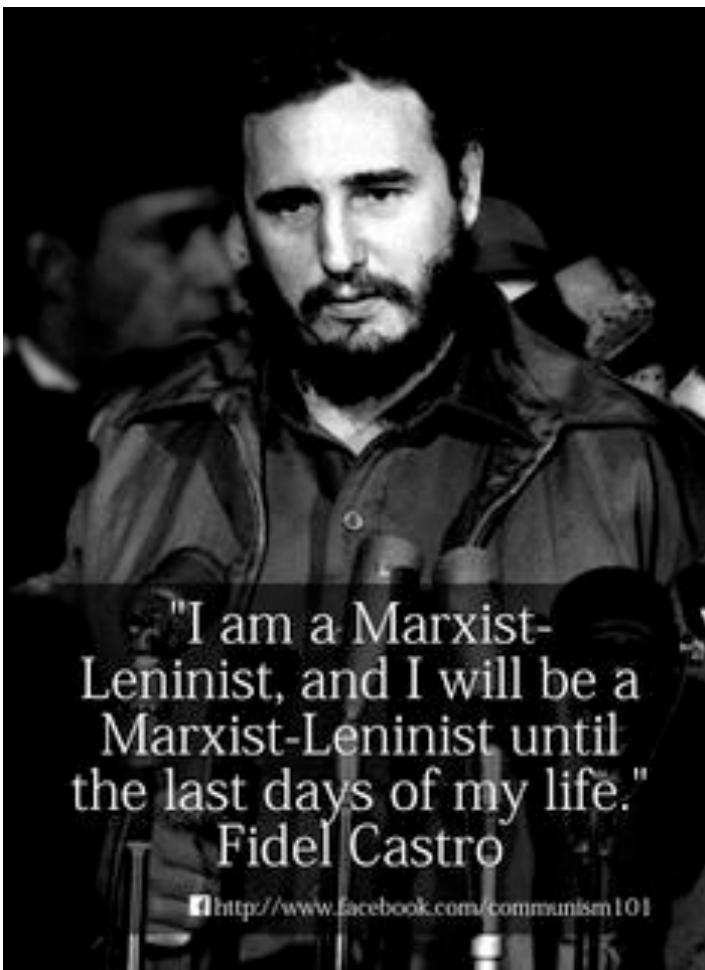
# A Decided Shift...

- Che's "Crossroads" (323)
  - Revolution made it as far as they could w/ Liberals/USA
- Cubans focus on nationalization of industry → 85% under state control (328)→
  - Used new liquid assets to help the rest of the economy
- Middle Class, formerly US dependent, lost its base & left instead of opposing revolution (329)
- Old mass organizations & replaced with new revolutionary ones (330)



# Cold War Interlude (331)

- Bay of Pigs & Cuban Missile Crisis further solidified movement → 100K opposition imprisoned
- **May Day, 1961** – Castro denounces 1940 Const.



# **\*Why Castro is Different (332-33)\***

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- Castro survived, unlike Martí in 1890s
- Embraced reform, unlike in 1933
- Didn't just succeed because of Soviets
  - Employed socialist mechanisms for economic reasons, not in reaction to US hostility or USSR support
- Seized foreign property, and survived
- Internal opposition in disarray; internally secure
- New, secure army & press; church irrelevant
- Revolution had a mind of its own + unique historical conditions
- Middle class flight removed liberal/Western opposition & US embraced them with open arms
- No US bailout like last two times