

# Closing *Diaries*, opening *Reminiscences*



Monday, January 29

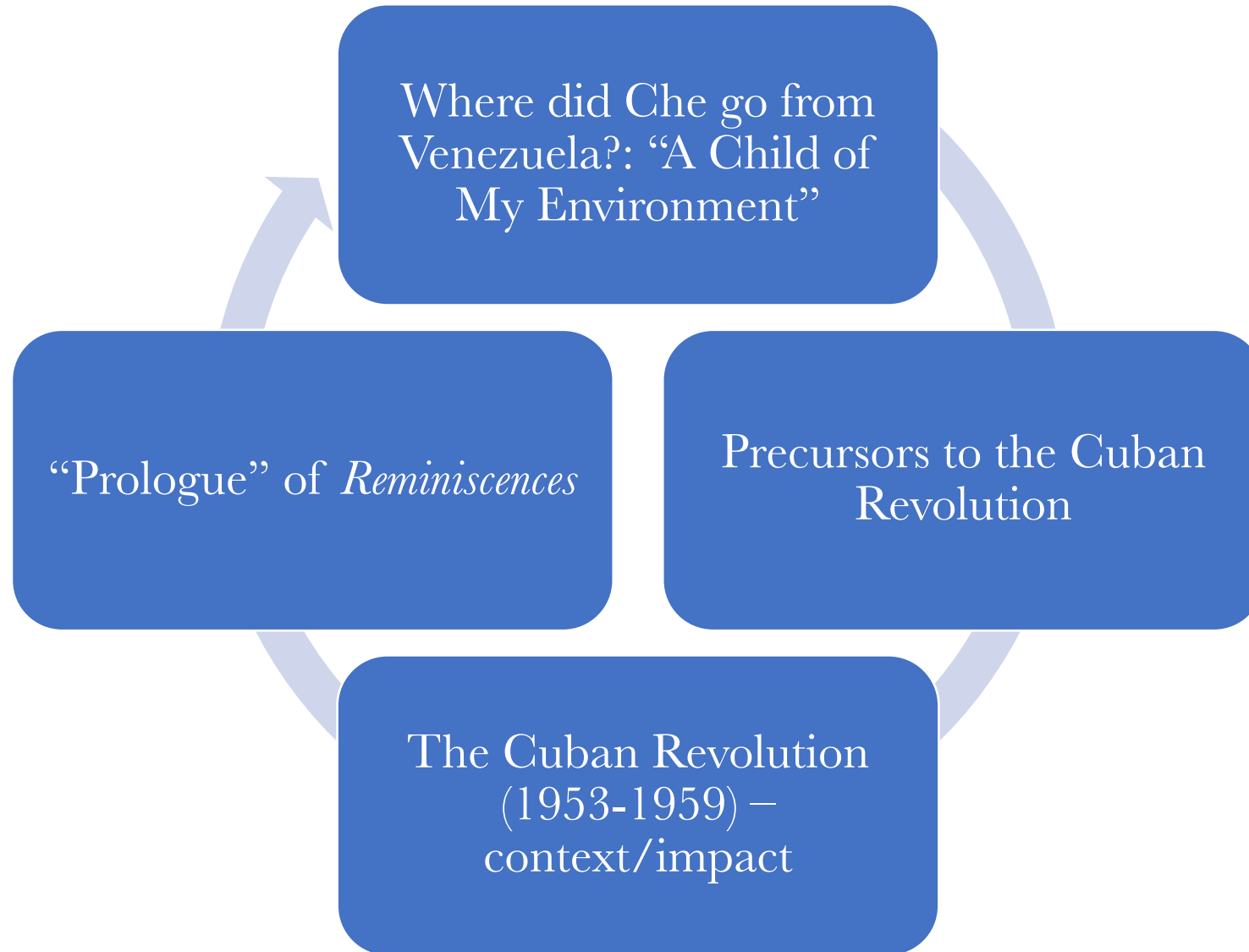
# Readings of the Week

- **Monday:** *The Motorcycle Diaries*— “A Child of My Environment,” *Reminiscences* – “Prologue”
- **Wednesday:** *Reminiscences*—“Alegría de Pío, “Air Attack”, “The Morale and Discipline of the Troops,” “Death of a Traitor”
- **Friday:** *Reminiscences*—“Bitter Days,” “Reinforcements,” “El Patojo”

- Mindset shifts rooted in experience and practice
- Privilege (and awareness of one's privilege) as a pathway toward change
- New perspectives arise from struggles
- Personal growth/enriched perspectives provoked by discomfort, exposure to difference, and practice
- Humility leads to change/awareness
- Capitalism – imperialism – (neo)colonialism – humanity
- Antagonism (us/them) – is it necessary?

Trends in this week's discussion!

# What's on for today?



**Warm-up:** Why does Che describe himself as “A Child of My Environment”? What did he learn between his Various journeys and his time in Cuba, based on this *a posteriori* analysis of his “lessons learned”? How does he connect his work as a doctor and revolutionary (his two passions) in this speech? What key concepts emerge?

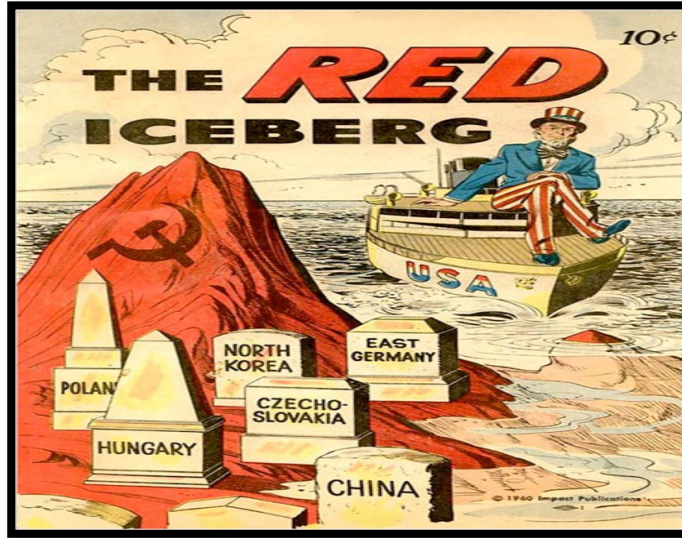


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# Precursors to the Cuban Revolution



Need a quick refresher? Go here after class:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duk\\_paBBTwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duk_paBBTwE)



# Che: The Man, The Rebel, Revolution

Decisive Details and Moments  
that Shaped Che

Rosario, Argentina  
1928

Guatemala (1953)

Middle class  
upbringing

Asthmatic  
athlete

Attends medical school  
Buenos Aires University

Marriage to  
Hilda Gadea

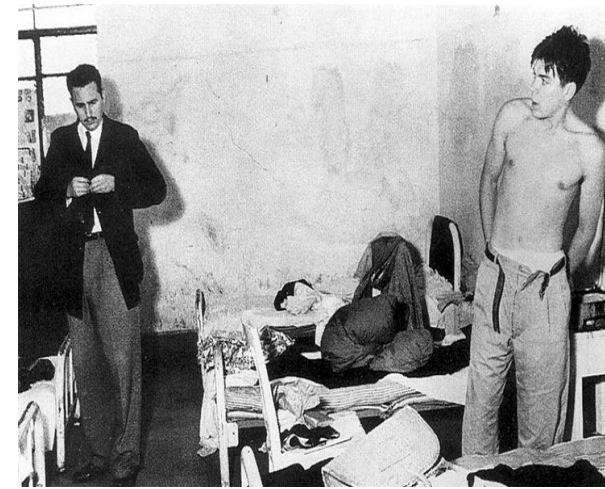
Fidel Castro, lawyer  
Rebel leader

Mexico (1955)



Alberto Granado  
*"La poderosa"*  
South American Journey  
(1952)

-Social Medicine  
-Transitional periods



# The Cuban Revolution (1953-1959)



## Primary Goals

Overthrow Batista

Agrarian Reform

Revision of Educational  
System

### **Transition**

new government, *new man*

## Some key Participants

- Fidel and Raúl Castro
- **Ernesto “Che” Guevara**
- Camilo Cienfuegos
- Haydée Santamaría
- Celia Sánchez
- Melba Hernández

**Vanguard + dictatorship of the Proletariat**



# How does Che “write” the Revolution?

## During the Revolution ...

Diaries  
Letters  
Radio Communication  
Interviews



## After the Revolution...

Polished Campaign Diaries  
Theoretical Hypotheses  
Political Speeches

*Reminiscences of the Cuban  
Revolutionary War (1961)*

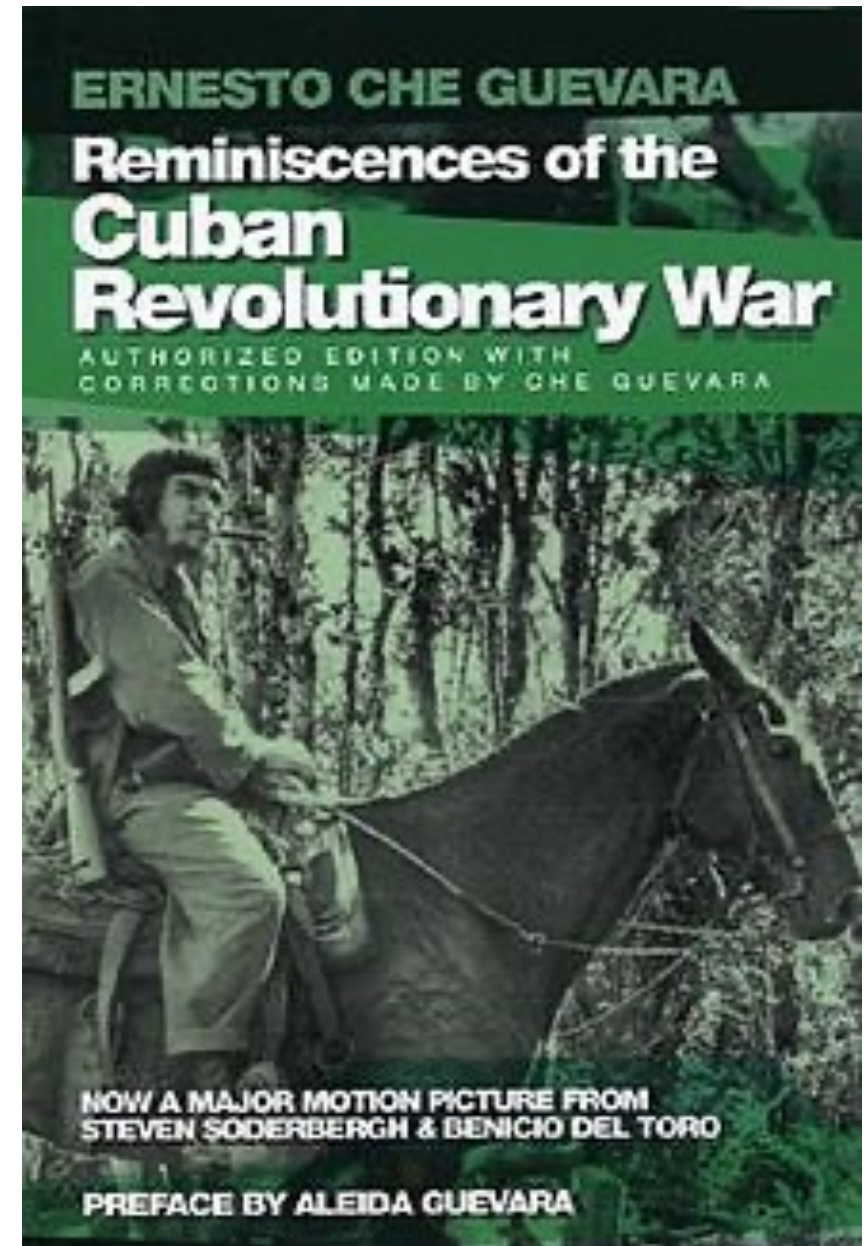
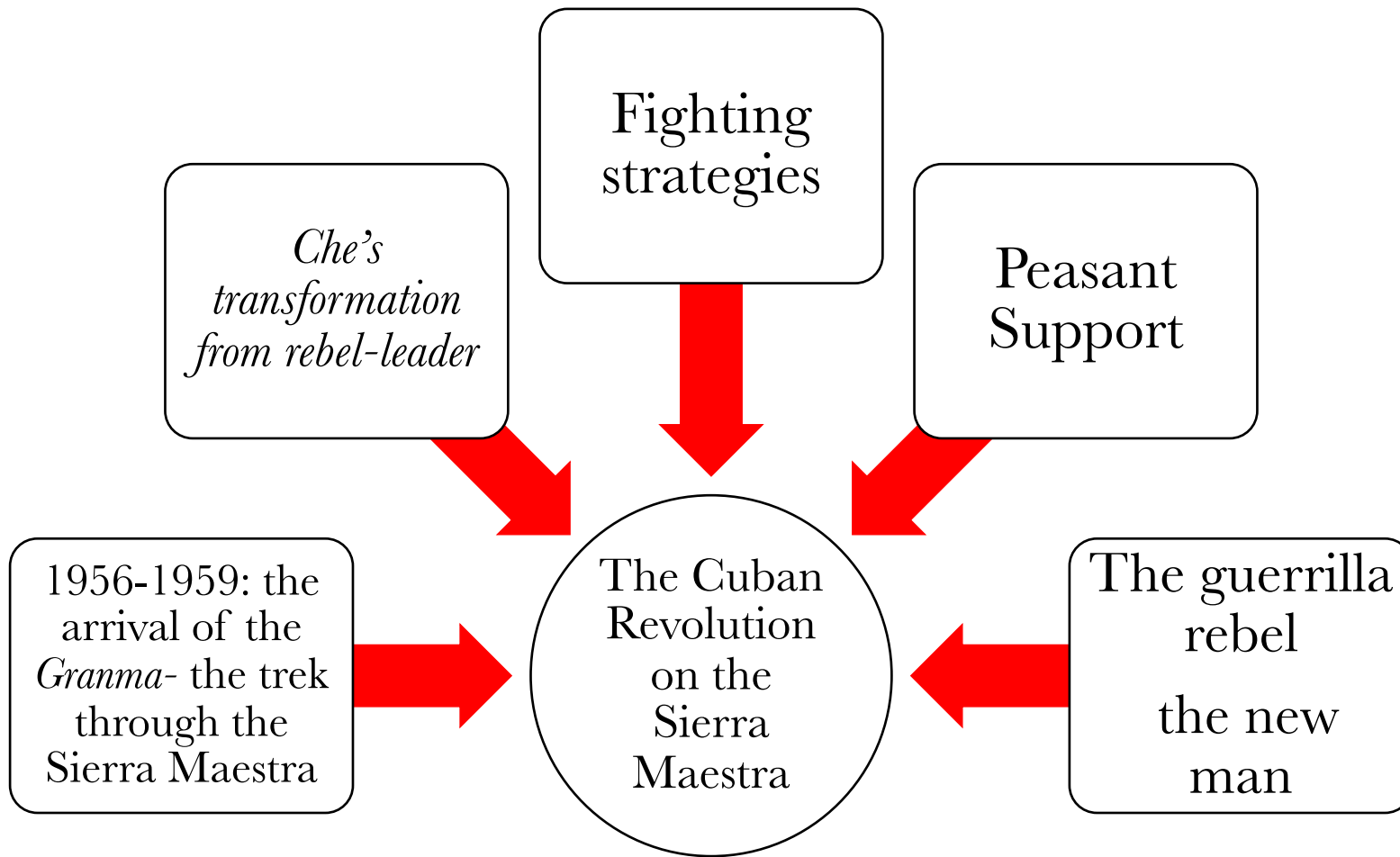
*Guerrilla Warfare (1961)*  
*Socialism and Man in Cuba (1965)*



**“What the world needs is  
two, three, many  
Vietnams.”**

Che Guevara, Speech to the  
Tricontinental (1967)

# Reminiscences (1961)



# A word from our author



Why does Che write  
*Reminiscences*, according to his  
“Prologue”?

# What should we look out for in Che's *Reminiscences*?

- First person account – fragmented
- Published *after* the triumph of the Cuban Revolution (1959) and in the context of Castro's speech *Words to the Intellectuals* (1961)
- Che, in this moment, *is*, the face of transcontinental revolution...
- And he is extremely well-read ... and artfully rhetorical...





# Guiding Questions

1. What is the condition of the rebel troops upon arriving to the *Sierra Maestra*?
2. What details does Che include/exclude from his narrative? Why do you think he does this?
3. What details of his specific (personal) experience does he include? Does his experience differ from that of the other rebels?
4. What are some of the issues that Che and the other rebels face early on in the fight? Is there a remedy for them?
5. Can you see some of the concepts/thematic lines that Che brings out in “A Child of My Environment” in *Reminiscences*? What other topics/concepts/themes begin to arise?

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