

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fidel Castro

On July 26, 1953, a revolt against Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista broke out as about 130 young men attacked an army barracks. The leader of the revolt was a twenty-six year old lawyer named Fidel Castro. The revolt was a failure. Some of the attackers were massacred, other were imprisoned. Castro escaped to the mountains, but was captured and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Batista later pardoned Castro, which turned out to be a mistake that would end his dictatorship.

Castro attacked again in 1956. Castro promised he would replace Batista's dictatorship with free elections. He also promised to end government corruption. During Batista's regime, many American criminals were involved in Cuba's thriving tourist industry. Bribes were a common way of doing business in that era. Cuban business leaders, landowners, and Roman Catholic bishops persuaded the United States to withdraw its support from Batista and end arms sales to Cuba. On January 1, 1959, Batista and his family fled to Florida, taking with them a substantial portion of the Cuban treasury.

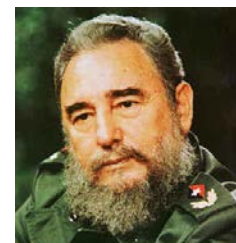
Castro's government initially had the backing of most of the Cuban people, but many of his supporters were soon alienated. Castro seized agricultural estates, factories, and utilities. It soon became apparent that Castro was setting up a one-party Communist government. From 1945 to 1990, the United States and the Soviet Union were the two strongest military powers in the world. Each fought for control of the developing nations of the world in what was known as the "Cold War." Shortly after Castro took power, Cuba severed its ties to the United States and formed a close relationship with the Soviet Union.

Many Cubans left the island to resettle in the United States, mostly in south Florida. The Cuban exiles sought American support in

overthrowing Castro's dictatorship. The American government helped organize and finance an invasion of Cuba by about 1500 exiles. The exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs, on Cuba's southeastern coast, in 1961. They were soundly defeated.

The following year, American spy planes discovered the Soviet government was building launching pads for nuclear missiles in Cuba. If the Soviets completed their project, nuclear missiles would be pointed at America from less than one hundred miles away. President John Kennedy threatened to invade Cuba, and the world came close to nuclear war. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles on the condition that the United States promise not to invade Cuba.

In 1980, thousands of Cuban citizens begged for a way to leave the country. American president Jimmy Carter agreed to accept the people who wanted to leave Cuba. Castro opened the port of Mariel to anyone who wanted to leave, but he was surprised and embarrassed by the number of people who accepted his offer.



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Castro saw an opportunity. He kept his agreement to allow citizens to leave from Mariel, but he insisted they take everyone. Castro emptied his prisons and discharged some of the sickest people from his hospitals. The Americans could either turn away exiled Cubans who had been waiting to embrace their families, or they could take the bad along with the good. America chose the second course, and accepted more than 125,000 Cubans. Castro stopped the exodus, but families continue to attempt to leave. They often resort to any boat or raft that could get them to the United States. Many perish at sea.

Answer in a complete sentences

*1. Was the American government correct when they accepted every Cuban Castro deported in the Mariel boatlift? Defend your answer.

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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Fill in the Blanks

Fidel C _____ attempted a r _____ against Cuban d _____ Fulgencio B _____ in 19 _____, but when the revolt *f _____, Castro e _____ to the m _____. C _____ was c _____ and s _____ to f _____ years in p _____, but B _____ later p _____ Castro.

C _____ attacked *t _____ years after the *f _____ revolt. He p _____ free e _____ and the end of government c _____. The U _____ S _____ withdrew its s _____ of the B _____ regime at the *r _____ t of Cuban b _____ leaders, l _____, and many R _____ Catholic b _____. Castro became the *l _____ r of C _____ when B _____ fled to F _____ in 19 _____.

Castro set up a one-party C _____ government in Cuba. Shortly after taking p _____, he s _____ his relationship with the U _____ S _____ and formed an alliance with the S _____ U _____. America was concerned because it was involved in a C _____ War with the *S _____, and each side hoped to influence d _____ nations.

A group of about 1500 Cuban e _____ tried to o _____ Castro's government in a 1961 i _____ supported by the A _____ government. The C _____ exiles landed at the B _____ of P _____ on the s _____ coast of C _____ in 19 _____, but were thoroughly defeated.

In 19 _____, American s _____ planes discovered that the S _____ government was building l _____ pads for n _____ missiles in C _____. American P _____ John K _____ threatened to i _____, and the w _____ came c _____ to n _____ war. S _____ premier Nikita K _____ agreed to r _____ the m _____ if A _____ agreed to not i _____ Cuba.

Many C _____ were *u _____ with their lives. They *pl _____ d _____ for an *o _____ p _____ u _____ i _____ y to leave Cuba. A _____ president Jimmy C _____ agreed to a _____ anyone who wanted to leave C _____. Castro o _____ the p _____ of M _____ to a _____ who w _____ to l _____, but he was s _____ and e _____ by the n _____ of p _____ who a _____ his o _____.

Castro decided to use his agreement to rid Cuba of people he considered *"u _____ d _____ s _____ r _____ b _____." He e _____ his p _____ and d _____ some of the s _____ people from his h _____. Castro forced A _____ to either close its *b _____ r _____ s _____, or to a _____ people he considered to be *p _____ o _____ l _____ ms. The U _____ S _____ agreed to a _____ all of Castro's e _____, so more than _____ Cubans arrived in America. Castro eventually c _____ the port in M _____, but many C _____ continued to *t _____ y to leave. They often resorted to any b _____ or r _____ that could get them to the United States. Many Cubans *d _____ at s _____.

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.