

United States policy in Cuba- a chronology

Examine the information on this historical timeline and then answer the questions at the end.

- 1809- President Thomas Jefferson declares that the United States wants to acquire Cuba.
- 1812- The acquisition of Cuba is one goal of the United States during the War of 1812.
- 1823- Secretary of State John Quincy Adams announces U.S. interest in annexing Cuba.
- 1848- President James Polk authorizes the U.S. Ambassador to Spain to negotiate for the purchase of Cuba.
- 1850- 52- A private American army tries to conquer Cuba and make it part of the United States.
- 1854- United States President Franklin Pierce tries to purchase Cuba from Spain.
- 1873- Spanish authorities in Cuba execute Americans trying to smuggle guns into Cuba.
- 1895- Cuban revolutionaries destroy U.S. owned property in Cuba.
- 1898- Under President McKinley, the United States invades and conquers Cuba during the Spanish-American War.
- 1901- In exchange for independence, Cuba is forced to agree that the United States will be allowed intervene in Cuban affairs. Cuba also agrees to allow the United States to keep a naval base in Cuba at Guantanamo.
- 1906- United States troops land in Cuba. They remain until 1909.
- 1934- President Franklin Roosevelt announces a "Good Neighbor" policy. The United States gives up the "right" to interfere in Cuban affairs but keeps Guantanamo naval base.
- 1952- The United States supports the Batista dictatorship in Cuba. In return, Batista protects U.S. businesses in Cuba.
- 1956- Fidel Castro launches a revolution against the Batista government.
- 1959- The Batista government collapses. Castro and his supporters triumph.
- 1959- The Cuban revolutionary government takes over U.S. owned property in Cuba. The U.S. places an embargo on trade with Cuba.
- 1960- Cuba signs a friendship agreement with the Soviet Union.
- 1961- The United States supports an anti-Castro invasion of Cuba at the Bahia de Cochinos (the Bay of Pigs). The invasion fails.
- 1962- Photograph taken by spy planes show that the Soviet Union has placed nuclear weapons in Cuba. President John Kennedy orders a naval blockade of Cuba until the Soviet Union agrees to remove the missiles.

1- According to this timeline, when does the United States first become interested in making Cuba a part of the United States?
a) 1854 b) 1898 c) 1809 d) 1956

2) Which United States Presidents tried to purchase Cuba from Spain?
a) Jefferson and Adams b) Polk and Pierce c) Theodore Roosevelt d) Franklin Roosevelt

3) Who was President when the United States invaded and conquered Cuba?
a) Theodore Roosevelt b) McKinley c) Franklin Roosevelt d) John Kennedy

4) Who was President when the United States declared a "Good Neighbor" policy towards Cuba?
a) Theodore Roosevelt b) McKinley c) Franklin Roosevelt d) John Kennedy

5) Who was President during the Cuban Missile crisis of 1962?
a) Theodore Roosevelt b) McKinley c) Franklin Roosevelt d) John Kennedy

6) Which events are underlying causes of Cuban mistrust of the United States?
a) Repeated U.S. efforts to take over Cuba.
b) U.S. maintaining control over the Guantanamo naval base.
c) U.S. support for the Batista dictatorship.
d) All of these reasons can be considered underlying causes.

7) Which event is an immediate cause of United States opposition to the Castro government?
a) The Soviet Union places missiles in Cuba.
b) The revolutionary government takes over U.S. owned property in Cuba.
c) Under President Franklin Roosevelt, the United States agreed not to interfere with Cuban affairs.
d) All of these reasons can be considered immediate causes.

8) How did the United States learn about Soviet missiles in Cuba?
a) The Soviet Union made an announcement in the United Nations.
b) Fidel Castro accidentally mentioned it during talks with President Kennedy.
c) United States spy planes took photographs of the missiles.
d) United States troops discovered the missiles after the U.S. invaded Cuba.

9/10) The U.S. argues that Cuban Communism is a dangerous virus infecting the western hemisphere. Cuba argues that the U.S. is an imperialist power that wants to make the nations of the western hemisphere obey its will. Who do you agree with? Why?