

Societies of the World 15

The Cuban Revolution, 1956-1971: A Self-Debate

Jorge I. Domínguez
Fall term 2011
MWF at 10, plus section
Course web site:
<http://isites.harvard.edu/k80129>

Office Hours: MW, 11:15-12:00
or by appointment
WCFIA, 1737 Cambridge St.
Office #216, tel. 495-5982
email: Jorge_Dominguez@harvard.edu

WEEK 1

W Aug 31 01.Introduction

F Sep 2 Section in lecture hall: Why might revolutions occur?

Jaime Suchlicki, Cuba: From Columbus to Castro and Beyond (Fifth edition; Potomac Books, Inc., 2002 [or Brassey's Fifth Edition, also 2002]), pp. 87-133. ISBN 978-1-5-7488436-4.

Louis A. Pérez, Jr., Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution (Third edition; Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. xii-xiv, 210-236. ISBN 978-0-1-9517912-5.

WEEK 2

(Weekly sections with Teaching Fellows begin meeting this week, times to be arranged.)

M Sep 5 HOLIDAY

W Sep 7 02.The Unnecessary Revolution

F Sep 9 03.Modernization and Revolution

[Sourcebook] Cuban Economic Research Project, A Study on Cuba (University of Miami Press, 1965), pp. 409-411, 619-622

[Sourcebook] Jorge J. Domínguez, "Some Memories (Some Confidential)" (typescript, 1995), 9 pp.

[Sourcebook] James O'Connor, The Origins of Socialism in Cuba (Cornell University Press, 1970), pp. 1-33, 37-54

[Sourcebook] Edward Gonzalez, Cuba under Castro: The Limits of Charisma (Houghton Mifflin, 1974), pp. 13-110

[Online] Morris H. Morley, "The U.S. Imperial State in Cuba 1952-1958: Policy Making and Capitalist Interests," Journal of Latin American Studies 14, no. 1 (May 1982): 143-170

WEEK 3

M Sep 12 04.The Necessary Revolution: State Structures

W Sep 14 05.The Accidental Revolution

F Sep 16 Question period

[Sourcebook] Carlos Franqui, Diary of the Cuban Revolution (Viking-Penguin, 1980), pp. 9-19, 65-66, 72-75, 77, 80, 83, 95-98, 121-124, 202-205, 229-231, 239-242, 244-245, 247-250, 260-265, 268-270, 272-276, 300-304, 364-365, 396-399, 416-419, 428-430, 486-489

[Sourcebook] Marta Harnecker, Fidel Castro's Political Strategy: From Moncada to Victory, with History Will Absolve Me (Pathfinder Press, 1987), pp. 14-17, 45-70

[Online] Fidel Castro, History Will Absolve Me
<http://www.marxists.org/history/cuba/archive/castro/1953/10/16.htm>

[Sourcebook] Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution (Pathfinder Press, 1987), pp. 45-50, 55-60, 73-81

WEEK 4

M Sep 19 06.The Rebellion: Castro's Strategic Genius

W Sep 21 07.The Rebellion: Collective Insurgency

F Sep 23 Extra section just for Freshmen in lecture hall

[Online] U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1955-1957, vol. 6 (U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 16-17, 30-31, 628-629, 633, 845-876

[Online] U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1958-1960, vol. 6 (U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 1-27, 36-39, 42-45, 48-62, 71-74, 83-85, 92-93, 117-126, 134-136, 144-147, 154-157, 262-266, 270-271, 278-281, 295-297, 300-307, 316-329

[Sourcebook] Earl Smith, The Fourth Floor (Random House, 1962), 115-118, 164-175

[Sourcebook] Fulgencio Batista, Cuba Betrayed (Vantage Press, 1962), pp. 92-103, 123-127, 131

WEEK 5

M Sep 26 08.Revolution Betrayed: a New Dictatorship

W Sep 28 “Meeting of US Secretary of State Advisers” section in lecture hall.

F Sep 30 09.Revolution Fulfilled: the Logic of Socialism

Suchlicki, Cuba, pp. 137-151

Pérez, Cuba, pp. 237-256

[Sourcebook] Cuban Economic Research Project, A Study on Cuba, pp. 740-770

[Sourcebook] O’Connor, The Origins of Socialism in Cuba, pp. 279-314

[Sourcebook] Richard E. Welch, Jr., Response to Revolution: The United States and the Cuban Revolution (University of North Carolina Press, 1985), pp. 3-26

WEEK 6

M Oct 3 FIRST PAPER DUE at class time

M Oct 3 10.US/USSR I: The Structure of US Hegemony

W Oct 5 General Hour Test Review in lecture hall

F Oct 7 HOUR TEST: in lecture hall

WEEK 7

M Oct 10 HOLIDAY

W Oct 12 11.US/USSR II: The U.S. Pushed

F Oct 14 Question period. Freshman parents welcome.

[Sourcebook] Philip Bonsal, Cuba, Castro, and the United States (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1971), pp. 38-77, 89-91, 100-153

[Online] Aleksandr Alexeev, "Cuba After the Triumph of the Revolution," 24 pp.

[Online] Alan Luxenberg, "Did Eisenhower Push Castro into the Arms of the Soviets?" Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs 30 no. 1 (1988): 37-64

[Sourcebook] Richard E. Welch, Jr., Response to Revolution: The United States and the Cuban Revolution (University of North Carolina Press, 1985), pp. 29-63

[Sourcebook] Morris H. Morley, Imperial State: The United States and Revolution in Cuba, 1952-1986 (Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 72-130

WEEK 8

M Oct 17 12.US/USSR III: Cuba's Initiatives

W Oct 19 Cuban feature film "Memories of Underdevelopment" at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St., followed by discussion.

W Oct 19 13.Fidel Castro: The Dictator

F Oct 21 14.Fidel Castro: The Revolutionary

[Sourcebook] Lee Lockwood, Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel (Revised edition. Westview Press), pp. 87-117, 147-191, 211-234, 290-294

[Sourcebook] Gonzalez, Cuba under Castro, pp. 146-189

[Online] Richard Fagen, "Charismatic Authority and the Leadership of Fidel Castro," Western Political Quarterly 28 no. 2 (1965), pp. 275-284

[Online] Fidel Castro, "I Will Be a Marxist-Leninist to the End of My Life," <http://www.walterlippmann.com/fc-12-02-1961.html>

[Online] Fidel Castro, "The Revolution Must Be a School of Unfettered Thought," www.walterlippmann.com/fc-03-13-1962.html

[Online] Castro, Fidel, "Against Bureaucracy and Sectarianism," March 26, 1962. pp. 3-40
http://digitool.fcla.edu/R/IX8HKMLAU8GGY1K2LM668K6VBU4BJTSLR17UJF6PD3C2GILTT3-03116?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=363249&local_base=GEN01&pds_handle=GUEST

WEEK 9

M Oct 24 15.Economy I: The Transition to Socialism

W Oct 26 Cuban feature film “One Way or Another” at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St., followed by discussion.

W Oct 26 16.Economy II: The Transition to Chaos

F Oct 28 Question Period

[Sourcebook] Carmelo Mesa Lago, The Economy of Socialist Cuba (University of New Mexico Press, 1981), pp. 7-28

[Sourcebook] Arthur MacEwan, Revolution and Economic Development in Cuba (St. Martin's Press, 1981), pp. 95-109

[Sourcebook] Archibald Ritter, Economic Development of Revolutionary Cuba (Praeger, 1974), pp. 259-306

[Sourcebook] Bertram Silverman, Man and Socialism in Cuba (Atheneum, 1971), pp. 3-26, 277, 289-296, 307-315

[Sourcebook] Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution, pp. 203-204, 210-230

WEEK 10

M Oct 31 17.The Making of a New Society

W Nov 2 18.The State versus the Society

W Nov 2 Documentary film “Nobody Listened” at 7 PM, CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium #S010, 1730 Cambridge St.

F Nov 4 19.The Totalitarian Regime

[Sourcebook] Richard Fagen, The Transformation of Political Culture in Cuba (Stanford University Press, 1969), pp. 33-68

[Sourcebook] Lowry Nelson, Cuba: The Measure of a Revolution (University of Minnesota Press, 1972), pp. 147-162

[Sourcebook] Elizabeth Sutherland, The Youngest Revolution (Dial Press, 1969), pp. 148-190

[Sourcebook] Oscar Lewis, Ruth Lewis, and Susan Rigdon, Four Women: Living the Revolution: An Oral History of Contemporary Cuba (University of Illinois Press, 1977), pp. ix-xxi

[Sourcebook] Alejandro de la Fuente, A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth Century Cuba (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), pp. 259-296

[Online] Jacob Meerman, "Poverty and Mobility in Low-status Minorities: The Cuban Case in International Perspective," World Development 29:9 (2001), pp. 1457-1459, 1471-1475

WEEK 11

M Nov 7 20.The Good Socialist Citizen

W Nov 9 Documentary film: PBS "Castro's Challenge," in lecture hall

F Nov 11 HOLIDAY

[Sourcebook] Jorge Valls, Twenty Years and Forty Days: Life in a Cuban Prison (Americas Watch, 1986), pp. 1-68

[Sourcebook] Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution, pp. 231-241, 365-370

[Online] Ernesto (Che) Guevara, "Socialism and Man in Cuba" (1965)
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/guevara/1965/03/man-socialism.htm>

[Online] Ernesto (Che) Guevara, Letters to his children, his parents, his daughter Hildita, and Fidel Castro <http://www.companeroche.com/index.php?id=33>

[Sourcebook] Fagen, The Transformation of Political Culture in Cuba, pp. 69-103

[Online] Revista (Winter 2009): Rafael Hernández, "The Red Year: Politics, Society, and Culture in 1968," 21-24; Julio César Guancho, "The Crisis of the Scissors: Paradoxes of a Revolution in Progress," 25-26; Elizabeth Dore, "Cubans' Memories of the 1960s: The Ecstasies and the Agonies," 34-36. <http://www.drclas.harvard.edu/publications/revista/>

WEEK 12

M Nov 14 21.The Duty of Internationalism

W Nov 16 22.The Cuban Threat

F Nov 18 23.Building the State

[Online] Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev, "Letters between Castro and Khrushchev," 7 pp.

[Online] Fidel Castro, "The Road to Revolution in Latin America,"
<http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1963/19630726.html>

[Online], Fidel Castro, "Those Who Are Not Revolutionary Fighters Cannot Be Called Communists," <http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1967/19670314.html>

[Online] Fidel Castro, "On the Events in Czechoslovakia,"
<http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1968/19680824.html>

[Sourcebook] Morley, Imperial State, pp. 135-155, 178-196, 218-219, 235-239

Jorge I. Domínguez, To Make a World Safe for Revolution: Cuba's Foreign Policy (Harvard University Press, 1989), pp. 61-77

[Online] Ernesto (Che) Guevara, "At the Afro-Asian Conference" (1965)
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/guevara/1965/02/24.htm>

[Online] Ernesto (Che) Guevara, "Message to the Tricontinental" (1967)
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/guevara/1967/04/16.htm>

[Sourcebook] Piero Gleijeses, Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976 (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 101-123, 155-159

WEEK 13

M Nov 21 24.Building a Socialist Nation

W Nov 23 HOLIDAY

F Nov 25 HOLIDAY

[Sourcebook] Morley, Imperial State, pp. 301-316

Pérez, Cuba, pp. 257-266, 270-288

[Sourcebook] Gonzalez, Cuba under Castro, pp. 190-216

[Online] Fidel Castro, Report on the Cuban Economy, Speech Delivered on the 17th Anniversary of the Moncada Assault, <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1970/19700726.html>

[Sourcebook] Nelson, Cuba: The Measure of a Revolution, pp. 184-206

WEEK 14

M Nov 28 25.Cuba Today

W Nov 30 “Emergency Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba”: section in lecture hall

F Dec 2 SECOND PAPER DUE at lecture

F Dec 2 26.Presentation of Final Exam and Concluding Lecture

READING PERIOD ASSIGNMENT. Read one of the following:

Jorge I. Domínguez, To Make a World Safe for Revolution, 1-86, 92-94, 113-137, 141-146, 184-192, 202-205, 219-226, 248-282, 290-293. ISBN 978-0-6-7489325-2

OR

Jorge I. Domínguez, Cuba: Order and Revolution (Harvard University Press, 1978), pp. 54-243, 249-254, 260- 282, 323-326, 341-346, 356-359, 364-365, 371-377, 464-511.

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn->

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Course Requirements:

This course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:00 a.m., plus a section at some other hour to be arranged. Four films will be shown, three of them in the evening. You are required to attend all of these activities.

GRADING PATTERN:

Monday, October 3, first paper due, 15% of grade

Friday, October 7, hour test, 15% of grade

Friday, December 2, second paper due, 15% of grade

Section participation: 15% of grade, includes 5 ONE-PAGE PAPERS

Final examination, Saturday December 17, 40% of grade

Failure to fulfill any one of the requirements leads to failure in the course. No pass/fail. Late papers will receive a grade penalty.

PAPERS: times font, type-size 12, double-spaced.

FIRST PAPER (7-8 pp.): You are an Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State or to the White House Chief of Staff. It is 1957 or 1958. You chair a meeting called to forecast events in Cuba. Write a memorandum to your boss. First, summarize briefly what you as the Adviser think are the facts; cite and refer to primary documents from WEEK 4 of the course. Second, sketch two policy options that emerge from the discussion. Assume that all public statements made by Cuban rebels are known to you as Adviser but assume also that the private correspondence in the Franqui and Guevara readings is not. Third, step outside of your role as Adviser: identify what difference (if any) it would have made for the statement of the facts or for either option if the private correspondence had been public. Refer to primary readings from the course. A good argument anticipates the objections that other reasonable people will raise. The first paper is due Monday, October 3 at class time.

SECOND PAPER (6-7 pp.): You can choose either of two topics: 1) Calculate the Soviet economic subsidy to Cuba through sugar purchases under two different quantitative assumptions. Formulate arguments that contradict each other based on the two calculations. Assess which calculation and which argument makes most sense. Data will be given. Or 2) Assume that you are a political actor in Cuba in the 1960s and that you wish to promote or to change a particular policy. Design a strategy to accomplish your goal. Identify your likely supporters and opponents and assess the chances of success. Refer explicitly to course readings. The second paper is due Friday, December 2 at lecture.

SECTION PARTICIPATION AND GRADING: To improve your learning and the quality of section discussion, YOU WILL WRITE FIVE ONE-PAGE PAPERS, AT LEAST TWO OF WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE HOUR TEST. Turn them in to your Teaching Fellow prior to Section. You will receive “discussion questions” in advance of section; pick a question to write your paper. You will get a check-mark on these papers; if warranted, you might get a “check-minus” or a “check-plus.” These papers will be part of the Teaching Fellow’s assessment of your section participation.