

## Steven

- 1800- {19th century}

**1844**- year of the lash

**1868**- The first war of Cuban independence, also known as the *Ten Years' War*, begins. It lasts until 1878.

**1886**- slavery is abolished in Cuba

**1898** - US defeats Spain, which gives up all claims to Cuba and cedes it to the US.

- 1900- {20th century}

**1902** - Cuba becomes independent with Tomas Estrada Palma as its president; however, the Platt Amendment keeps the island under US protection and gives the US the right to intervene in Cuban affairs.

**1906-09** - Estrada resigns and the US occupies Cuba following a rebellion led by Jose Miguel Gomez.

**1909** - Jose Miguel Gomez becomes president following elections supervised by the US, but is soon tarred by corruption.

**1925** - Socialist Party founded, forming the basis of the Communist Party.

**1934** - The US abandons its right to intervene in Cuba's internal affairs, revises Cuba's sugar quota and changes tariffs to favour Cuba.

**1952** - Batista seized power again and presides over an oppressive and corrupt regime.

**1959** - Castro leads a 9,000-strong guerrilla army into Havana, forcing Batista to flee. Castro becomes prime minister, his brother, Raul, becomes his deputy and Guevara becomes third in command.

**1960** - All US businesses in Cuba are nationalised without compensation.

**1961** - Washington breaks off all diplomatic relations with Havana. The US sponsors an abortive invasion by Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs; Castro proclaims Cuba a communist state and begins to ally it with the USSR.

**1962** - Cuban missile crisis ignites when, fearing a US invasion, Castro agrees to allow the USSR to deploy nuclear missiles on the island. The crisis was subsequently resolved when the USSR agreed to remove the missiles in return for the withdrawal of US nuclear missiles from Turkey. Organisation of American

States (OAS) suspends Cuba over its "incompatible" adherence to Marxism-Leninism.

**1965** - Cuba's sole political party renamed the Cuban Communist Party.

**1976** - Cuban Communist Party approves a new socialist constitution; Castro elected president.

**1980** - Around 125,000 Cubans, many of them released convicts, flee to the US.

**1994** - Cuba signs an agreement with the US according to which the US agrees to admit 20,000 Cubans a year in return for Cuba halting the exodus of refugees.

**1998** - The US eases restrictions on the sending of money to relatives by Cuban Americans.

## **Emily**

- **2000- {21st century}**

**2000**- US House of Representatives approves the sale of food and medicines to Cuba.

**2002**- Russia's last military base in Cuba, at Lourdes, closes down.

**2004**- US sanctions restrict US-Cuba family visits and cash remittances from expatriates.

**2004**- President Castro announces ban on transactions in US dollars, and imposes 10% tax on dollar-peso conversions.

**2008**- Raul Castro takes over as president, days after Fidel announces his retirement.

**2008**- Bans on private ownership of mobile phones and computers lifted.

**2008**- June - Plans are announced to abandon salary equality. The move is seen as a radical departure from the orthodox Marxist economic principles observed since the 1959 revolution.

**2011**-November - Cuba passes law allowing individuals to buy and sell private property for first time in 50 years.

**2011**-December - The authorities release 2,500 prisoners, including some convicted of political crimes, as part of an amnesty ahead of a papal visit.

**2013-February** - The National Assembly re-elects Raul Castro as president. He says he will stand down at the end of his second term in 2018, by which time he will be 86.

**2014-September/October** - Cuba sends hundreds of frontline medical staff to West African countries hit by the Ebola epidemic.

**2014-December** - In a surprise development, US President Barack Obama and Cuba's President Raul Castro announce moves to normalise diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed for more than 50 years.

**2015-January** - Washington eases some travel and trade restrictions on Cuba. Two days of historic talks between the US and Cuba take place in Havana, with both sides agreeing to meet again. The discussions focus on restoring diplomatic relations but no date is set for the reopening of embassies in both countries. President Raul Castro calls on President Obama to use his executive powers to bypass Congress and lift the US economic embargo on Cuba.

**2015-July** - Cuba and US reopen embassies and exchange charges d'affaires.

## Fun Facts-

- Cuba holds one of the highest literacy rates in the world at 99.8%.
- Cuba has two different currencies: One is used by tourists, and the other is used by Cuban
- Until 2011, there was an import ban on cars in Cuba. That meant that the majority of the cars on the road were classic cars from the 50's
- Cuba is the most populated country in the Caribbean, with more than 11 million residents.
- The only cars that Cuban citizens can own legally are cars created and bought before 1959. After this year, the Cuban government seized all of the cars, and owns them all to this day. Most of the pre-1959 cars in the country are from the United States.
- Fidel Castro erected a statue of John Lennon from *The Beatles* in 2000. Castro admired Lennon and believed he was a true music revolutionary.
- In Cuba, ballerinas are at the height of stardom and popularity. In fact, they often earn more money than doctors.

- Cuba is the only country that Americans need government permission to visit.
- On New Year's Eve, Cubans burn dolls in order to symbolize forgetting bad times and looking forward to new and good times during the New Year.
- The aerial view of Cuba resembles an alligator, and it's sometimes referred to as El Coccodrillo.
- When Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba, he immediately ordered all game sets of Monopoly to be destroyed.
- Cuba is one of two countries where the sale of Coca-Cola is prohibited
- Christmas did not become an official holiday in Cuba until 1997.

## Sources:

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