















CUBA - FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Should the Cuban embargo be lifted?**

Answer: I don't know.

- **Will Cuba change significantly under either Castro?**

Opinion: No

CUBA - FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Is Cuba better off after 50 years of Castro's totalitarianism?**

Fact: In 1958, Cuba ranked between 2 and 4 among all Latin American nations in all common measures of development

and prosperity (per capita income, ratio of middle vs upper and lower class, longevity, infant mortality, number of cars and televisions per household, etc). Currently, it ranks consistently among the lowest 5 with Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

CUBA - FINAL THOUGHTS

- **The Bottom line:**

Very few emigrated from Cuba before 1959 and there was a large positive immigration from Spain, Lebanon, China, other Latin American countries and even the USA. Since 1959, about two million (out of a current population of 9 million) have emigrated, mostly to the USA. Currently an average of several thousand people leave every year, mostly illegally.

CUBA - FINAL THOUGHTS

- Half of those come to Florida in small boats and rafts and it is estimated that about 20% of those who attempt this trip perish.
- Fact: During operation “Peter Pan” in the 1960’s, about 14,000 children ages 6-16 were sent by their parents, who could not leave Cuba, to unknown foster parents and orphanages run by churches in the USA.

Fidel Castro - Cuba



CUBA - FINAL THOUGHTS

- **What will happen after Castro?**

Answer: Nobody knows

- **What has been Cuba's greatest curse?**

Opinion: That Fidel Castro was born in Cuba.

- **What is Cuba's greatest blessing (and hope for the future)?**

Opinion: Being so close to the greatest and most generous country in the history of the world.



Thank you



THE XIX CENTURY

- Wars of independence
- Defeat of Bolivar's Pan-Americanism
- The rise of prominence of the "caudillo"
 - Santa Ana in Mexico
 - Garcia Moreno in Ecuador
 - Guzman - Blanco in Venezuela
 - Barrios in Guatemala
 - Porfirio Diaz in Mexico
 - Solano Lopez in Paraguay

THE XIX CENTURY - 2

- **Early democratic, progressive regimes:**
 - **Juarez - Mexico**
 - **Mitre, Sarmiento and Roca - Argentina**
 - **Balmaceda - Chile**
 - **Castilla - Peru**
 - **Alfaro - Ecuador**

THE XIX CENTURY - 3

- **Early (and only) imperialistic expansion of the USA:**
 - **Mexico: 1846 - 48 (Texas, New Mexico, California and parts of Nevada, Utah and Oregon; half of Mexico's territory but only 1-2% of its population)**
 - **Cuba, Puerto Rico and Phillipines : 1898; both Cuba and Philippines given independence later.**

XX CENTURY THROUGH WW II

- **Gradual maturation of Democracy - Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador and later in Venezuela (after Gomez) and Brazil (after Vargas).**
- **Intermittent re-emergence of caudillos**
- **Early beneficial immigration**
 - **Industrial revolution in Europe**
 - **Sao Paulo received 1 million European immigrants and Argentina 2 million**
 - **“Primogenitus” inheritance laws in Spain**
 - **Cuba alone received about 1/4 million “hard working” Spaniards at the beginning of the XX century**

XX CENTURY THROUGH WW II - 2

- **American interventionism - mostly positive**
 - **The United Fruit Company (1899)**
 - **Development of Central American infrastructure by US commercial interests**
 - **Building of the Panama Canal (1903-1910)**
 - **Eradication of yellow fever.**
 - **Brief and generally positive interventions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Guatemala.**

INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN

- **1810 - Buenos Aires (Patriotic Juntas)**
- **1810 - Mexico (Hidalgo and Morelos)**
- **1811 - Venezuela (Patriotic Junta)**
- **1814 - Nueva Granada/Colombia (Bolivar)**
- **1816 - Argentina - (Congreso de Tucuman)**
- **1816 - Chile (San Martin/O'Higgins)**
- **1821 – Peru and Ecuador (San Martin/Bolivar)**

INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN - 2

- 1822 - Brazil (Pedro I emperor)
- 1824 - Battle of Ayacucho (Sucre)
- 1826 - Bolivia (Sucre/Bolivar)
- 1898 - Cuba (Marti, Gomez, Maceo and the USA)

THE COLD WAR

- **The internationalization of terrorism:
Tri-continental Conference in Havana (1966) and establishment of
OSPAAL (Organization of Solidarity with the People of Asia, Africa
and Latin America)**

During the 70's and 80's, Cuba trained terrorists from many central and South American countries, from the IRA, the ETA (Basques), the PLO, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Germany (Red Brigades) and the USA (Black Panthers and the Macheteros from Puerto Rico). More secretly, as later revealed by Russia, Castro began to develop a significant research effort on biological warfare (including anthrax!). ?current status.

THE COLD WAR - 2

- **Marxist and Cuban-backed guerrilla movements**
 - **Bolivia - Che Guevara; defeated by CIA trained commandos(a few were Cuban Bay of Pigs veterans)**
 - **Nicaragua-Sandinistas; won power and then defeated in open elections in 1990.**
 - **Guatemala - direct Cuban support to guerrillas**
 - **Salvador - direct Cuban support to guerrillas**
 - **Argentina - Montoneros (some Cuban support)**
 - **Uruguay - Tupamaros (urban guerrillas)**
 - **Peru - “Sendero Luminoso” (Mao-marxist)**
 - **Colombia - the rise of the narco/guerrilla**
 - **Venezuela - direct Cuban backing; never a major threat**

THE COLD WAR - 3

- **President Carter agrees to return Canal to Panama (1979)**
- Has not been the catastrophe I would have predicted
- **Cuban (USSR-financed) adventurism in Africa, mostly Angola, Ethiopia and Congo, but at least in seven countries between 1976 and 1990.**
- **President Allende of Chile is overthrown by middle class/military uprising with discreet support of the CIA**
- **Falkland Islands war - 1982, US backs England.**

FINAL COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES - 3

- **Ecuador- Economy and political stability very threatened by populist reaction to neo-liberal policies, rebellion of large indigenous population, spread of violence from Columbia and “sierra” (Quito) vs. “coast” (Guayaquil) rivalries. The leftist-populist President, Rafael Correa seems to be siding with Chavez and Castro. Three of the former Presidents were deposed undemocratically during the last 10 years. Some pragmatic and pro-western (albeit moderately corrupt) politicians are still very powerful and may stage yet another coup in collaboration with some of the “old guard” of the military. This would be good for the country and for the West unless Correa gradually becomes more pragmatic a la Lula**
- **Peru - Threatened by poverty and return to coca production. Last president was Alan Garcia, a leftist who nearly ruined the country during his first Presidency and was exiled under accusations of corruption; however, he matured as a pragmatist, embraced free market policies and brought relative prosperity and growth to Peru. In spite of this the recent elections were won by a radical leftist Ollanta Humala. Will he also mature as a pragmatist and maintain free market policies or will he lean towards the Chavez clique?**

FINAL COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES - 4

- **Uruguay and Paraguay - Can not resist the economic downturn of Argentina but for now that is buffered by Brazil. So far politically stable but corruption, particularly in Paraguay, a real problem**
- **Costa Rica – Meca of Eco-turism. Will demilitarization continue to work? Long-standing democratic tradition. Threatened by borders with poorer countries.**
- **Panama- Doing surprisingly well. Canal thriving. Free trade agreement will help**
- **Rest of Central America and the Caribbean (except for Cuba and Haiti) - In surprisingly good shape politically in spite of economic difficulties and recurrent natural disasters. Recent upsurge of criminalized “gangs” (maras) increasingly linked to narco-terrorism together with inept and under-funded police forces and a politicized and unstable judiciary system pose a serious threat in Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. President Ortega of Nicaragua is an embarrassment. Is it possible that this former Marxist and rapist has “matured” and become a pragmatist? Probably not**

THREATS IN THE XXI CENTURY - 3

- **Downturns in American economy are felt more profoundly in South America and Mexico**
- **Persistence of caudillos - Chavez in Venezuela; his living icons are Castro, Khadaffi and Ahmadinejad. Ivo Morales in Bolivia won the Presidency on a platform of restoring coca production and socialism. Daniel Ortega won election in Nicaragua in spite of his history of almost ruining the country and systematically raping his step-daughter when she was 12 though 14 years of age**
- **Mexico - too large and too close to ignore. Enormous potential. Major threat. Fox mostly did the right things. New President, Calderon, is smart, conservative and pro-western but he won by the narrowest margin; opposition is very powerful. His decision to wage “war” on the narcos was corageous but may cost him his job...or his life! Immigration mayor threat!**
- **Turmoil in the Middle East and war in Iraq brought higher oil prices severely hurting the economy of oil-importing countries and promoting “petro-populism” in the oil-exporting nations (Venezuela)**

FINAL COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES - 4

- **Haiti- A true catastrophe. Without a world-wide major effort it may disintegrate. Current UN effort ineffective (and corrupt!). Performance of new President?**
- **Cuba - Much less important since end of Cold War. Current regime is unlikely to survive beyond the Castros without major reform or revolution from within (?violent vs evolutionary). Raul Castro is the “runt” of the family- zero charisma, serious problem with alcohol. Fidel will pass. But when? Hopefully soon!**