



Evolving Cuba & US Relations: Implications for Agricultural Trade & Partnerships

CUBA: From Personal Journey to Purdue Ag Educational Interests

Farm Policy Study Group, July 7, 2015, Purdue Univ. Beck Agricultural Center

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Today's Presentation:

1. A Brief Introduction of Cuba's History as it Relates to Today's Presentation
2. Brief Reflection on My Personal Journey as a Cuban-American Exile
3. Cuba Today, and Mine and Purdue Ag's Interests
4. Preparing for Spring Break 2016 Study Abroad Course to Cuba

Select Items on Cuban History

Pre-Columbian and Early Cuban History
The indigenous Guanajatabey, and the Caribbean migrant Taino and Ciboney. Christopher Columbus, 1492 & 1494. Spanish Colonization, starts in 1511, by 1550, native peoples/culture ceased. British & Haitian French, African slaves 18th & 19th Century (tobacco & sugar cane).



Select Items on Cuban History

Cuban War of Independence – 1890s... José Martí, Máximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo.
Spanish-American War... USS Maine.
Teller Amendment... US assist in Cuban Independence, but will not Annex.
Treaty of Paris (Dec. 10, 1898).
Platt Amendment (No foreign governments in Cuba; Guantanamo Bay; US could intervene militarily).



Select Items on Cuban History



Run to battle, men of Bayamo!
The motherland looks proudly to you;
Do not fear a glorious death,
Because to die for the motherland is to live.

To live in chains it's to live
Mired in shame and disgrace,
From the bugle hear the sound;
Run, brave ones, to battle!





Select Items on Cuban History

Republic of Cuba: 1902-1959 – Pre-Castro Era
Cuban Pacification: 1906-09 or "The Second Occupation of Cuba by US".
The Cuban Revolution: 1953–59 Fulgencio Batista & Castro's "26th of July Movement".






Select Items on Cuban History

Republic of Cuba: Post-1959 – Castro Era
 Unsuccessful Anti-Castro Escambray Rebellion -- 1959-65.
 Cuban expropriates: Petroleum Refineries, ITT, United Fruit Company, along with Agrarian Reforms, etc.
 US severed diplomatic ties with Cuba -- Jan. 3, 1961.
 Cuban membership in OAS suspended -- Jan. 22, 1962.
 US imposed Trade Embargo on Cuba -- Feb. 3, 1962.
 Kennedy ceases all US-Cuban Trade -- Feb. 7, 1962.
 Extends US Travel & Commercial Bans -- Jan. 8, 1963.
 Bay of Pigs Invasion (President Kennedy, April 1961, CIA-sponsored paramilitary *Brigade 2506*)... and Operation Mongoose.
 The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962.
 Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (IRO)... United Party of the Cuban Socialist Revolution (PURSC)... Communist Party (October 3, 1965 w/ Fidel Castro as First Secretary).
 New Constitution (1976) established Communist Party's central rule.

Select Items on Cuban History

Republic of Cuba: Post-1959 – Castro Era (Continued...)
 Dissidents, activists, journalists, thinkers, etc. imprisoned, tortured, executed...
 Between 1959-93, 1.2 million Cubans left Cuba for the US.
 Freedom Flights ('65) & Mariel Boatlift ('80).
 The "Special Period" started early 1990s as USSR dissolved (oil supplied dropped & 80% decline in trade of Cuban goods).
 US Dollar legalized in Cuba in 1994 (through 2004): The Dollar Economy vs. Peso Economy
 Convertible Pesos (from 2005 to present, 10% Tax).
 Helms-Burton Act of 1996 makes it very difficult for foreign companies doing business with Cuba to also do business in the US, forcing them to choose.

Select Items on Cuban History

Republic of Cuba: Post-1959 – Castro Era (Continued...)
 2006 President Fidel became ill, and 2008 Raul Castro became President.
 Economic reforms slowly instituted in 2010s to spur entrepreneurship.
 Exit Permit System ceased (2012) allowing freer travel.
 Movement toward normalization of relations – 2015.







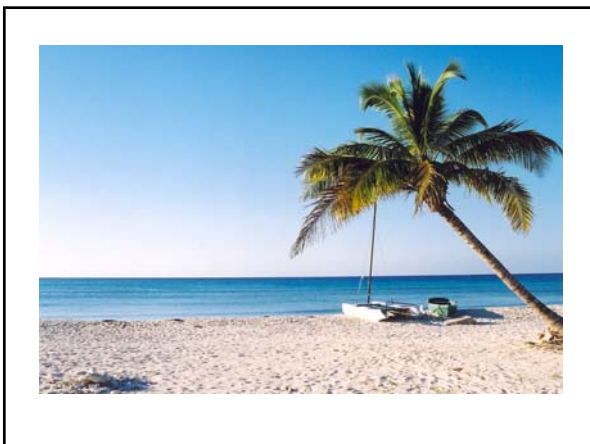

My Personal Journey As A Cuban-American Exile

A Brief Family History:
 Grand-ancestry: Paternal - Spanish-born; Maternal ancestry - Cuban-born.
 Father? Aurelio Manuel Fernandez Diaz. Educated in USA & Univ. Habana, CPA.
 Mother? Josephina Dorotea Verges Rodriguez. 10th Grade Education, worked at ITT.
 Me? I was born in November 1958, youngest of four children. Parents divorced.

During the Cuban Revolution...
 My uncle, Cesareo Fernandez Diaz, joined the pro-Castro "26th of July Movement," whereas my father, his brother, was staunchly anti-Castro. Nonetheless, as brothers, both supportive and protective of one another. Cesareo became chief architect for Castro government in 1959 (Eastern Havana). Heart attack and died months after appointment. My father became "an issue" to Castro, so he left Cuba to USA, never to return.

Mother and I were the last of family to leave Cuba (Nov. 1963; Freedom Flights) arriving in the USA after a two-month stay in Mexico USA (Dec. 1963). Arduous low-pay factory labor, we resided in Cuban and Hispanic low income communities. Education was the mantra onto road of the American Dream, to achieve a better quality of life. The rest, as they say, is history, very much based on the original Land-Grant vision and promise...









Interest in offering a Study Abroad course in CUBA

Interested faculty considering leading faculty-led Study Abroad to Cuba...

- Renewable Natural Resources
- Agriculture & Sustainability
- Urban Organic Farming & Food Systems
- Ecological & Environmental Systems
- Ecotourism & Coastal Ecology (incl. Fisheries)
- Community Development & Sustainability

Purdue's Spring Break 2016
 March 12 – 19, 2016

CUBA EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL
<http://cubaeducationaltravel.com/index.html>

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Collin Lavery (telephone discussion April 7th)

Run by Collin Lavery, a leading expert on Cuba and U.S.-Cuba relations, Cuba Educational Travel organizes educational exchange programs and people-to-people travel for U.S. citizens and residents to Cuba. We believe our two countries have much to learn from each other and meaningful exchanges that foster dialogue can be highly beneficial to strengthening the artistic, environmental, medical, scientific, and social science communities in the U.S. and Cuba. Most importantly, increased travel and people-to-people contact will strengthen ties between ordinary Americans and Cubans.

Cuba Educational Travel's mission is to connect the people of the United States and Cuba. This is done through coordinating travel between both countries - in both directions - to facilitate two-way learning, as well as producing studies and publications about issues of mutual concern and organizing events in the United States that deal with issues related to Cuba and U.S.-Cuba relations.

The founder and president of Cuba Educational Travel is Collin Lavery. Mr. Lavery's expertise and focus on U.S.-Cuba academic exchange and Cuba policy concerns date back many years.

Nearly a decade ago Lavery took part in a semester-long study abroad program between the College of Charleston and Havana's Institute of Philosophy, one of only a handful of U.S. programs on the island at the time. He then served as the director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas Cuba program for several years, being dozens of Members of the U.S. Congress and Congressional staff on fact-finding trips to Cuba. Mr. Lavery has edited the island over one hundred times and is the author of numerous reports and articles on diverse themes related to U.S.-Cuba relations and Cuban society. His recently released book, *Cuba's New Socialist Economic Reform and its Implications for U.S. Policy*, was widely reported on in U.S. and Cuban media.

Cuba Educational Travel is recognized and respected for its wide-ranging contacts with the Cuban people, as well as its ability to link other companies that offer generic Cuba travel experiences. Cuba Educational Travel considers organic, sustainable,

CUBA EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL
<http://cubaeducationaltravel.com/index.html>

People to People

Cuba Educational Travel is the leader in organizing high-impact educational travel to Cuba. Our people-to-people travel is the only U.S. citizen-led program in Cuba to be recognized by the U.S. and Cuban governments. Our people-to-people travel is the only U.S. citizen-led program in Cuba to be recognized by the U.S. and Cuban governments. Our people-to-people travel is the only U.S. citizen-led program in Cuba to be recognized by the U.S. and Cuban governments.

Research Trips

Cuba offers exciting research opportunities in everything from climate to the arts. Research ranging from the history of the United States to the U.S. and Cuban governments can be done and this exciting opportunity is available to the individual and also open to research teams from the state. We can facilitate the entire process and assist with your research agenda in Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel also provides dining and lodging on the Cuban coast and the island's most beautiful beaches and the Cuban coast.

Educational Exchange Programs

Cuba Educational Travel acts in the development and implementation of educational exchange programs. Developing educational programs in Cuba can be organized and carry the same prestige as studying from these schools or colleges. Educational exchange programs are available to U.S. citizens and residents. Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba.

Organize Conferences in Cuba

Cuba Educational Travel offers assistance in organizing and hosting conferences and seminars in Cuba. We have a long history of organizing conferences, seminars and forums in the United States for researchers and students. The Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is a leading provider of educational exchange programs to Cuba.

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