

Timeline

1200 - The Taino people arrive in Cuba. They settle much of the region growing maize, tobacco, yucca plants and cotton.

1492 - Christopher Columbus arrives in Cuba and claims Cuba for Spain.

1511 - Spanish conquest begins under the leadership of Diego de Velazquez, who established Baracoa and other settlements in Cuba. A large portion of the native Taino population was killed over the next several years by disease.

1514 - The settlement that would later become the city of Havana is established.

1526 - Slaves from Africa are brought against their will to work the tobacco fields. Eventually they begin working sugar crops as well.

1762 - The British attack Havana and take control as part of the Seven Years War.

1763 - Havana is returned to Spain by the Treaty of Paris.

1791 - The start of the Haitian Revolution on the nearby island of Hispaniola. Thousands of refugees flee to Cuba.

1868 - 1878 - Ten Years War of independence ends in a truce with Spain promising reforms and greater autonomy. These promises were never met.

1886 - Slavery is abolished.

1895 - 1898 - Jose Marti leads a second war of independence; US declares war on Spain.

1898 - U.S. defeats Spain, which gives up Cuba and gives it to the US.

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

1906 - 1909 - Estrada resigns and the US occupies Cuba following a rebellion led by Jose Miguel Gomez. US occupation of Cuba ends.

1909 - Jose Miguel Gomez becomes president following elections supervised by the US. His government soon participates in lots of corruption.

1912 - U.S. forces return to Cuba to help put down black protests against discrimination. The U.S. also wants to protect U.S property in Cuba from the armed rebellion led by Afro-Cubans.

1917 - 1922 - U.S. leads another military intervention in Cuba after a disputed presidential election and armed rebellion.

1924 - Gerardo Machado establishes a dictatorship.