

## Who Was Fidel Castro

An account of the life, career, personal and public character, talents, and shortcomings of the Cuban leader, written by a psychiatrist and former U.S. government official

Takes up U.S.-Cuba relations, Cuba's role in the fight against apartheid rule in South Africa, the overthrow of the Grenada revolution, and the social consequences of the foreign debt in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Early in Ann Louise Bardach's Cuban voyage she came across *Cartas de Presidio* or *The Prison Letters of Fidel Castro*. Edited by Luis Conte Aguero, who was the recipient of most of these letters, they are cited in every important work from Hugh Thomas' opus *Cuba* to Tad Szulc's Fidel biography, and everything in between and since. These twenty-one letters (nine to Conte Aguero, six to his late sister and close collaborator, Lidia, one to his wife Mirta, one to his comrade in combat, Melba Hernandez letters, one to the great scholar Jorge Manach) are regarded as the single most valuable and revelatory document regarding Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution. Never before published in English, these letters were written when Castro was imprisoned for his failed attack on the Moncada from 1953 to 1955 and reveal a man of spectacular ambition and steely determination. A man, who despite being incarcerated to serve a lengthy prison term, never wavers in his confidence that he will one day rule Cuba.

Cuban-born historian and radio broadcaster shatters the myth that most Cubans support Fidel Castro. A clear, concise and compelling history of the internal resistance Cubans have waged for 44 years against Castro's tyranny, Encinosa chronicles the heroism displayed by many and the suffering endured by most. *Unvanquished* will mark a breakthrough in America's understanding of Castro and Cuba.

Examines the U.S. media's role in perpetrating Fidel Castro's totalitarian agenda and spreading his propaganda, describing how and why the dictator has been glorified in the mainstream American press.

In response to the American administration's attempt to isolate Cuba, Fidel Castro delivered a series of speeches designed to radicalize Latin American society. As Latin America experiences more revolutions in Venezuela and Bolivia, and continues to upset America's plans for neo-liberal imperialism, renowned radical writer and activist Tariq Ali provides a searing analysis of the relevance of Castro's message for today.

"A compelling fictional personage-by turns arrogant, funny, pompous, lewd, self-absorbed and self-deluding."—Michiko Kakutani, *New York Times* An audacious "biography" of the ex-president of Cuba told in Castro's own outrageous, bombastic voice. Prize-winning author and journalist Norberto Fuentes was once a revolutionary: a writer with privileged access to Fidel Castro's inner circle during some of the most challenging years of the revolution. But in the late 1990s, as the regime began sending its oldest comrades to the firing squad, he became *A Man Who Knew Too Much*. Escaping a death sentence and now living in exile, Fuentes has written a brilliant, satirical, and utterly captivating "autobiography" of the Cuban leader—in Fidel's own arrogant and seductive language—discussing everything from Castro's early sexual experiences in Birán to his true feelings about Che Guevara and his philosophy on murder, legacy, and state secrets. Critics have long admired Fuentes's writing; one U.S. article called him "Norman Mailer's Cuban pen pal." Akin to Gertrude Stein's *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, or Edmund Morris's *Dutch*, this wickedly entertaining, true-to-life masterpiece is as imaginative and outsized as Castro himself.

When Fidel Castro died on November 25, 2016, many people around the world responded with mixed emotions. Learn all about the man who shaped Cuba for more than half a decade. After overthrowing Fulgencia Batista in 1959, Fidel Castro became the leader of an island country only ninety miles away from Florida. While in power, Castro outlasted ten US presidents and turned the small nation into a one-party state with influence over the entire world. Called a leader by some and a dictator by others, Castro defined not one but several eras in world politics.

Rhetoric during and after the Cold War years has painted starkly contrasting portraits of Cuba's Fidel Castro: an unblemished idealist on the one hand, a ruthless dictator on the other. This insightful book, the most intimate and dispassionate biography of the revolutionary leader to date, shows that neither assessment is true. Leicester Coltman, British ambassador to Cuba in the early 1990s, came as close to personal friendship with Castro as any foreigner was permitted. With frequent contact and regular conversations, Coltman was in a unique position to observe the dictator's personality in both public and private situations. Here he presents a close-up view of the man who for half a century has been loved, admired, feared, and hated, but seldom really understood. Coltman chronicles the events of the Cuban leader's extraordinary life from the political activism of his university days in Havana to periods of exile, imprisonment, and guerrilla warfare alongside Che Guevara, to the uncertainties of his old age. Drawing on personal observation and archival sources in Cuba and abroad, Coltman explores the contradiction between the private character and the public reputation, and highlights the complexities of the consummate actor who continues to play a crucial role on the international stage.

Summer 1958, 300 revolutionaries led by a 30-year-old Fidel Castro turned the tide in Cuba by defeating 12,000 soldiers in combat. *I Am Cuba* is a historically accurate novel of society, politics, war, and love in Cuba in the 1950s.

Dr. Jeffrey M. Elliot and former Rep. Mervyn M. Dymally here contribute a lengthy, revealing interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro, discussing a wide-ranging series of topics dealing with local and international politics and economics, as well as the future of Cuba, the third world, Central and South America, and the United States.

The author of this book takes a highly original approach to understanding the past three decades of Cuban history—he offers an analysis and interpretation of the prolific writings and speeches of Fidel Castro and of numerous interviews with him. Through Castro's own words, Sheldon Liss examines the evolution of the Cuban leader's political and social

A selection of speeches and interviews with Fidel Castro, dating from June, 2000 to November, 2001. The Cuban leader presents an indictment of the world economic and political order.

He is the only world leader to have outlasted nine US presidents, has survived over 600 assassination attempts and remains one of the twentieth century's most controversial figures. Here Castro tells his story in full for the first time, speaking openly about everything from his parents and earliest influences to his imprisonment, guerrilla war and the Cuban revolution and on to the Bay of Pigs, the missile crisis and his relationship with Che Guevara. He also remembers the people he knew, from John F. Kennedy to Ernest Hemingway. Whatever your views on Castro are, this is an essential record of an incredible life and even more extraordinary times."

Sweig shatters the mythology surrounding the Cuban Revolution in a compelling revisionist history that reconsiders the revolutionary roles of Castro and Guevara and restores to a central position the leadership of the Llano. Granted unprecedented access to the classified records of Castro's 26th of July Movement's underground operatives--the only scholar inside or outside of Cuba allowed access to the complete collection in the Cuban Council of State's Office of Historic Affairs--she details the debates between Castro's mountain-based guerrilla movement and the urban revolutionaries in Havana, Santiago, and other cities.

Baseball has been as much of a national pastime to Cuba as it has to the U.S., due in no small part to Fidel Castro's love of the game. This book chronicles the central role Castro played in transforming the sport from professional to amateur status in the small island country, which has produced dozens, if not hundreds, of baseball stars.

Describes the life of the leader of Cuba, outlines the four stages of the Cuban Revolution, narrates his successes and failures, and includes a timeline extending from 1926 through 2002.

By his mastery of the spoken word, Fidel Castro reveals the unfolding process of the Cuban revolution, its extraordinary challenges, crises, chaos and achievements. Part of a two-volume anthology, this first volume is based on Castro's speeches. This is the first autobiographical selection to be published in English that gives a glimpse of Fidel - the boy and the young man - who was to become one of the outstanding, if controversial, political leaders of the century. The book brings together a range of interviews and talks in which Fidel Castro speaks candidly about his family background, his religious education and political influences.

In *The Double Life of Fidel Castro*, one of Castro's soldiers of 17 years breaks his silence and shares his memoir of years of service, and eventual imprisonment and torture for displeasing the notorious dictator, and his dramatic escape from Cuba. Responsible for protecting the *Lider maximo* for two decades, Juan Reinaldo Sánchez was party to his secret life – because everything around Castro was hidden. From the ghost town in which guerrillas from several continents were trained, to his immense personal fortune – including a huge property portfolio, a secret paradise island, and seizure of public money – as well as his relationship with his family and his nine children from five different partners. Sanchez's tell-all expose reveals countless state secrets and the many sides of the Cuban monarch: genius war leader in Nicaragua and Angola, paranoid autocrat at home, master spy, Machiavellian diplomat, and accomplice to drug traffickers. This extraordinary testimony makes us re-examine everything we thought we knew about the Cuban story and Fidel Castro Ruz.

The CIA analyst who tracked Castro for decades explores the mind and motivations of the man who governed Cuba for nearly half a century. On trial in Santiago for leading a bloody assault on the city's Moncada garrison, young revolutionary leader Fidel Castro uttered a phrase in court that would come to serve as a rallying cry for his 26th of July Movement and his regime thereafter:

"History will absolve me." Despite the fact that his methods resulted in great loss of life on both sides, Castro never wavered in his belief that in the final reckoning his life's work would be vindicated—his violence necessary in bringing a new government to Cuba and a new political model to the developing world. For decades, CIA analyst Brian Latell tracked Castro relentlessly—getting to know his habits, his fears, and the passions that drove him. In this book, the author of *After Fidel* and *Castro's Secret* steps from the shadows to paint a complex and nuanced portrait of the man he came to know better than any other intelligence target—revealing the mind and motivations of one of the most mercurial, passionate, and dominating leaders of the twentieth century. "One of America's foremost Cuba analysts." —George J. Tenet, former CIA director

This intimate, revisionist portrait of Fidel Castro, showing how an unlikely young Cuban led his country in revolution and transfixed the world, is "sure to become the standard on Castro's early life" (*Publishers Weekly*). Until now, biographers have treated Castro's life like prosecutors, scouring his past for evidence to convict a person they don't like or don't understand. *Young Castro* challenges us to put aside the caricature of a bearded, cigar-munching, anti-American hothead to discover how Castro became the dictator who acted as a thorn in the side of US presidents for nearly half a century. In this "gripping and edifying narrative...Hansen brings imposing research and notable erudition" (*Booklist*) to Castro's early life, showing Castro getting his toughness from a father who survived Spain's class system and colonial wars to become one of the most successful independent plantation owners in Cuba. We see a boy running around that plantation more comfortable playing with the children of his father's laborers than his own classmates at elite boarding schools in Santiago de Cuba and Havana. We discover a young man who writes flowery love letters from prison and contemplates the meaning of life, a gregarious soul attentive to the needs of strangers but often indifferent to the needs of his own family. These pages show a liberal democrat who admires FDR's New Deal policies and is skeptical of communism, but is also hostile to American imperialism. They show an audacious militant who stages a reckless attack on a military barracks but is canny about building an army of resisters. In short, *Young Castro* reveals a complex man. The first American historian in a generation to gain access to the Castro archives in Havana, Jonathan Hansen was able to secure cooperation from Castro's family and closest confidants. He gained access to hundreds of never-before-seen letters and interviewed people he was the first to ask for their impressions of the man. The result is a nuanced and penetrating portrait of a man at once brilliant, arrogant, bold, vulnerable, and all too human: a man who, having grown up on an island that felt like a colonial cage, was compelled to lead his country to independence.

Describes the rise to power of the revolutionary leader opposed to the corruption and violence of the Batista regime, and the many strands of his more than thirty years of rule.

Traces the life of the Cuban Prime Minister, describes his childhood and education, recounts his overthrow of the Batista government, and looks at the challenges he has faced, including the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis

FIDEL CASTRO August 13, 1926 – November 26, 2016. "A revolution is a struggle between the future and the past."  
--Fidel Castro From revolutionary and symbol of strength to Cold War adversary, Fidel Castro was one of the world's most controversial leaders, and perhaps its most enduring. As Cuba's towering and charismatic president for nearly fifty years, Castro's influential leadership captivated allies and enemies alike. By virtue of passionate oration and committed sense of purpose—good or bad—Castro kept the Cuban people devoted and the world enthralled. From his earliest years as a student rebel to his role in Cuba's social reform to The Cuban Missile Crisis, his life is covered in extensive detail within this book. The transfer of power to Raul Castro is explored as well as the changes to Cuban/American diplomatic relations, including Obama's view of America's relationship with Cuba. Castro's death is covered as well as the world's the reaction to it, including the views of American and Cuban people and the differing reactions of Obama and Trump. A comprehensive look into each stage of Castro's life and leadership More than a dozen color photos spanning the Cuban leader's life Comes complete with Castro's most resonating speeches Fidel Castro: In His Own Words is not only a reflection of Castro's life, triumphs, and misdeeds, but it is a look at the people and places affected by his politics before,

during, and after the age of Cuban embargo. Regardless of readers' political preference, there is no doubt that this captivating leader's influence on the Cuban people, The United States, and the world will continue to echo through time. Describes the life of the man who ruled Cuba from 1959-2016, after leading a successful revolution overthrowing Batista's government and establishing a Communist regime in its place.

This title examines the remarkable life of Fidel Castro. Readers will learn about his family background, childhood, education, and political pursuits. Color photos, detailed maps, and informative sidebars accompany easy-to-read, compelling text. Features include a timeline, facts, additional resources, web sites, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Essential Lives is a series in Essential Library, an imprint of ABDO Publishing Company. Grades 6-9.

Fidel Castro is one of the most interesting and controversial personalities of our time – he has become a myth and an icon. He was the first Cuban Caudillo – the man who freed his country from dependence on the USA and who led his people to rediscover their national identity and pride. Castro has outlived generations of American presidents and Soviet leaders. He has survived countless assassination attempts by the CIA, the Mafia, and Cubans living in exile. He has become one of the greatest politicians of the 20th Century. His biography, and the history of his country exemplify the tensions between East and West, North and South, rich and poor. As Castro's life draws to a close, the question as to what will become of Cuba is more important than ever. Will Castro open Cuba to economic reform and democratization, or stick to his old slogan socialism or death? In this remarkable, up-to-date reconstruction of Castro's life, Volker Skierka addresses these questions and provides an account of the economic, social, and political history of Cuba since Castro's childhood. He draws on a number of little-known sources, including material from the East German communist archives on Cuba, which were until recently inaccessible. This is an exciting, painstakingly researched, and authoritative account of the life of one of the most extraordinary political figures of our time.

From 1959 to 2006, 48 years of power, Fidel Castro Ruz's leadership has been one of the longest of the contemporary era. This volume is dedicated to one of the leading personalities of the contemporary political world. It is an illustrated biography, rich with photos and documents that recount the myth of a leader and give evidence on both the light and the shadows of a historical epoch in which Castro has been the indisputable protagonist.

This book argues that Fidel Castro's political support of Africa was not motivated by economic, selfish, or geopolitical considerations, but instead by altruism, certainty in his worldview, and the historical connection between the peoples of Cuba and Africa.

Fidel Castro When Fidel Castro died on November 25, 2016, it seemed as if much of the world didn't quite know what to make of the revolutionary leader. The images of loyal Cubans in Havana openly crying in the streets stood in stark contrast to the Cuban exiles and their descendants just 90 miles away in Miami, Florida. While Cuban citizens were mourning, Cuban Americans were celebrating; they were laughing, dancing, and drinking to celebrate Castro's demise. It seems that Fidel Castro was just as polarizing in death as he was in life. Inside you will read about... - The Beginnings of a Revolutionary - Castro Meets Che Guevara - The Bay of Pigs - The Cuban Missile Crisis - Castro's Soviet Ally - The Assassination Conspiracy - Doctors For Oil And much more! Learn more about the life of one of the twentieth century's most controversial figures.

'You cannot kill ideas. Fidel, for the Third World, was not merely another leader. He was the mirror of its aspirations. That mirror will never be shattered.' - From the Introduction Fidel Castro's speeches were classrooms for the revolution. Through these speeches, Fidel came before the people to explain the conjuncture and problems the government faced with honesty and by putting them into historical context. Each of his speeches is a tour de force of explication, a history lesson, a sociology lesson, a political lesson, and even a lesson on literature. Fidel reached back to revolutionaries from an earlier time and dug into the data produced by the government. The traditions, experiences, and oral histories of national liberation and Marxism-Leninism articulated by Fidel came alive as he spoke to new audiences engaged in building a socialist experiment just miles away from the heart of the empire. Fidel Castro launched a battle of ideas in defense of socialist thought and the permanent mobilization of the people's consciousness. The speeches collected in this book carry forward the battle of ideas that framed the last decades of Fidel's life until he left us on 26 November 2016 at the age of ninety.

"Also: 'Cuba--twenty years of revolution' by Jack Barnes"--Cover.

A revelatory memoir of the 17 years Juan Sanchez spent as one of Fidel Castro's personal soldiers, in his innermost circle Castro was more than just a politician. His is a story that involves heroic voyages through turbulent oceans, affairs with young women from all over the world, spies, assassins, betrayal, conquest, riots, and battles. He was controversial, inimitable, cruel, courageous, stubborn, disrespectful of human rights, and utterly indomitable.

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