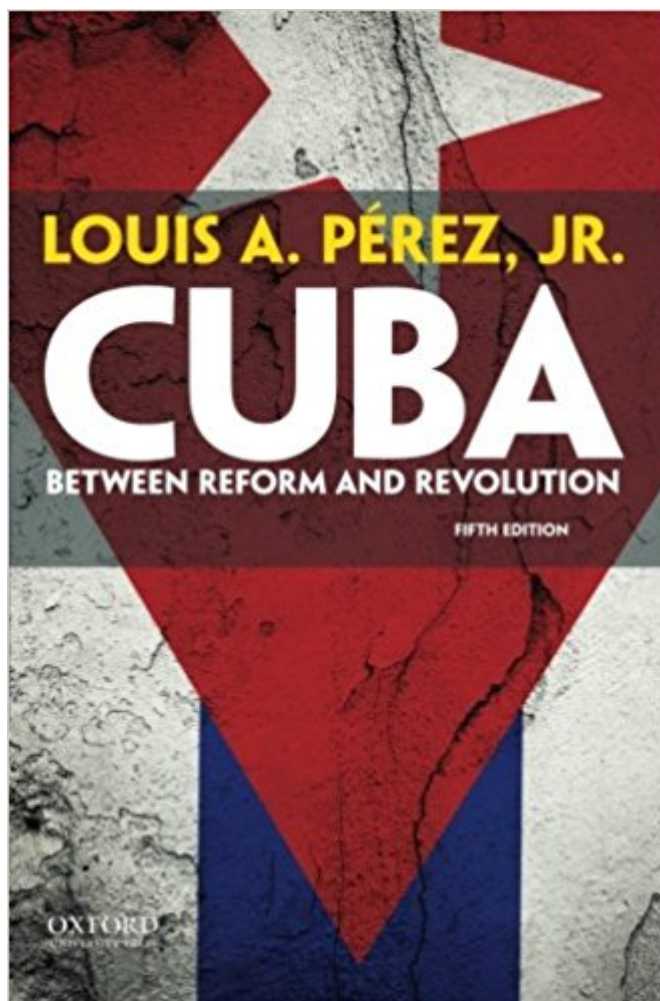


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# Cuba: Between Reform And Revolution



## Synopsis

Spanning the history of the island from pre-Columbian times to the present, this highly acclaimed survey examines Cuba's political and economic development within the context of its international relations and continuing struggle for self-determination. The dualism that emerged in Cuban ideology--between liberal constructs of patria and radical formulations of nationality--is fully investigated as a source of both national tension and competing notions of liberty, equality, and justice. Author Louis A. PÃ©rez, Jr., integrates local and provincial developments with issues of class, race, and gender to give students a full and fascinating account of Cuba's history, focusing on its struggle for nationality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is the best overview of the modern history of Cuba. PÃ©rez is the most informed and articulate scholar of Cuba in the world, as far as I am concerned."--Dale Graden, University of Idaho  
"PÃ©rez has a deep knowledge of the subject matter and moves easily from one historical period to the next. The text is very effective because of Perez's easy-to-follow narrative, meticulous knowledge of Cuban affairs, and engaging style."--Jorge Chimea, Wayne State University

Louis A. PÃ©rez, Jr., is J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Cuba in the American Imagination* (2008), *On Becoming Cuban* (2007), and *The War of 1898* (1998).

Cuba is one of those countries that everyone in America knows about, but really doesn't know anything about. This book does a solid job of laying out the history of the largest island in the Caribbean starting with a short chapter on its geography and Pre-Columbian tribes through the colonial period and the Revolution of 1959 and ending at around 2013. This fifth edition was published in 2014, which means it doesn't cover the most recent changes in Cuba's relations with the United States, but it does take a long look at the changes Raul Castro has been putting in place since his brother, Fidel, stepped down from power in 2006. In fact it takes too long a look. One of the problems of this book is that as it gets closer to the present the author tends to stuff more into each chapter, going from a first chapter of 15 pages in length to a last chapter of 50+ pages. Normally, this wouldn't be a problem, but the other stumbling block of this book is that it takes a holistic rather than a narrative approach to the topic. What I mean is that each chapter is subdivided by Roman numerals and each subdivision tackles some aspect of the period the chapter is covering, usually in a chronological manner, but most of the time bouncing around the period. It reminded me a lot of the way George R.R. Martin writes his A Song of Ice and Fire books as this author is trying to capture how a lot of different things are going on at once. That means that you have to keep track of what else is happening and when and where. It can be confusing to follow at times, but I suppose that that is because this book was written for a university-class audience, not for popular consumption. Still, this is a rather good look at both the length and depth of Cuban history and I would recommend it as a good starting point for anyone who is interested in learning more about the history of the island.

The best source for research on Cuba. Fantastic read for its information and superior writing style. 10/10 would recommend to all interested in learning about Cuba from an unbiased perspective.

Product exactly as described - prompt delivery.

As an anthropologist, I found this book an invaluable introduction to Cuban history, and I would certainly use it as a text for undergraduates. Perez starts with Cuba's geography and a quick review of its pre-Columbian peoples, and ends with Cuba in the Post-Cold War World. The book is readable and concise, and gave me insights into U.S. designs on Cuba that began with our second President. Perez goes through Cuba's history in extricating itself from Spain only to be dominated by the U.S., and then gives a very good account of Cuba under its various presidents up until the Revolution. His account of the Revolution and its roots is dispassionate and unbiased, though it

won't seem like that to right-wing exiles who would like to see everything about Castro totally demonized. I disagree with other reviewers that the role of the U.S. is not included. It certainly is. With 329 pages, you can't go into extreme depth on all topics to everyone's tastes, but I for one was surprised by how old U.S. ambitions toward the island are. If you want to get into Cuba-U.S. relations in more depth get Perez' book "Ties of Singular Intimacy." This third edition is an updated version that includes events in the exile community up to 2004, and includes a nice political chronology at the end, along with a 75 page guide to the literature. Make sure you get this one and not the older edition if you want an updated history. The older edition is blue with a white stripe across the middle. You can get the other one used here on for cheap if you don't need to go past 1996. THIS is the book to read on Cuba if you want to get a thorough idea about its history without making the commitment necessary to read Hugh Thomas' book, which is about 1400 pages, or longer collected volumes.

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