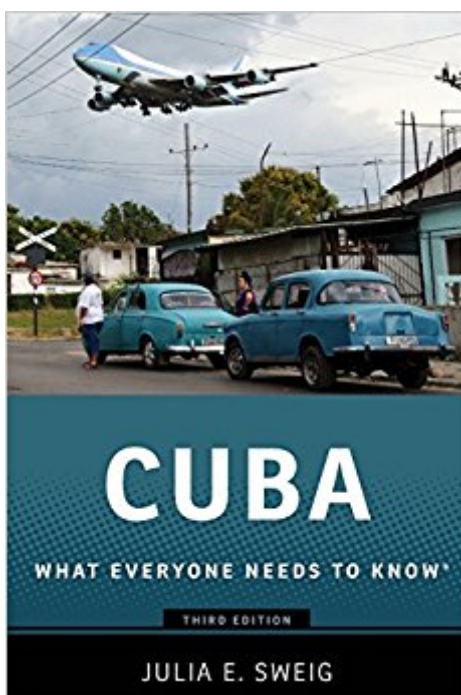


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# Cuba: What Everyone Needs To Know<sup>®</sup>



## Synopsis

Ever since Fidel Castro assumed power in Cuba in 1959, Americans have obsessed about the nation ninety miles south of the Florida Keys. America's fixation on the tropical socialist republic has only grown over the years, fueled in part by successive waves of Cuban immigration and Castro's larger-than-life persona. Cubans are now a major ethnic group in Florida, and the exile community is so powerful that every American president has curried favor with it. But what do most Americans really know about Cuba itself? In this third edition of the widely hailed *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*®, Julia Sweig updates her concise and remarkably accessible portrait of the small island nation. This edition contains a new foreword that discusses developments since Obama and Raul Castro announced the normalization of US-Cuba relations and restored formal diplomatic ties. A new final chapter discusses how normalization came to pass and covers Pope Francis' visit to Cuba, where he met with Fidel and Raul Castro. Expansive in coverage and authoritative in scope, the book looks back over Cuba's history since the Spanish American War before shifting to recent times. Focusing equally on Cuba's role in world affairs and its own social and political transformations, Sweig divides the book chronologically into the pre-Fidel era, the period between the 1959 revolution and the fall of the Soviet Union, the post-Cold War era, and -- finally -- the post-Fidel era. Informative, pithy, and lucidly written, it is the best compact reference on Cuba's internal politics, its often fraught relationship with the United States, and its shifting relationship with the global community. *What Everyone Needs to Know*® is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Excellent and... evenhanded.... [It] packs a phenomenal amount of complex history into clear and simple prose." --Los Angeles Times (review of the first edition) "Sweig's useful ready reference is highly recommended." --Library Journal (review of the first edition) "Splendid...Sweig displays a talent for succinctness and clarity, as well as a subtle, deep knowledge of Cuban affairs." --Foreign Affairs (review of the first edition) "For several years, Julia Sweig, America's premier expert on Cuba, has been my guide for all matters related to this beautiful, cursed, and consequential island nation. This book - economical, information-packed, and exceedingly well-written - is Sweig's indispensable contribution to our knowledge of Cuba at a particularly tumultuous time in its history." --Jeffrey Goldberg, National Correspondent, The Atlantic

Julia E. Sweig is Senior Research Fellow at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She is the award-winning author of several other books, including *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground*, for which she won the American Historical Association Herbert Feis Award for best book of the year by an independent scholar. She has been traveling to and writing about Cuba since 1984. She lives with her family outside of Washington, DC.

This book came highly recommended as I am heading to Cuba in a couple of weeks. But I absolutely cannot get into it. I have tried a hundred times, and I finally just gave up. The format she employed is a question and answer format, both provided by her. There is no flow to the story. She comes with great credentials, though, so I feel bad about giving up on this.

Absolutely everything you need to know. Loved the history, but as you get closer to the present day there seemed to be repetition. I am going to Cuba on a mission trip. The trip will be much more enjoyable having read this book.

A solid body of info useful to anyone visiting Cuba who wants to understand more than where the best mojitos are slung. Along with history, etc., it's also helpful in that it offers the insights of one who has been there, knows the people, and understands the gray areas of living under the Cuban

system--some good, some not so much, but more complex than just an unthinking target for pro-dem. ideologies.

Very useful book if one wants to understand more about the US-Cuba relationship. I found that the info within helps give context. My wife read it and, during a recent trip to Cuba, many of my relatives were very pleasantly surprised by how much she knew about Cuba's history. She told them that it was mostly from what she learned reading this book.

Excellent and informative book on Cuba, how it has developed since the revolutions and where it is now.

But this book suffers from the lack of a good editor. The structure, basically a timeline of questions and answers, is useful for a website but unsatisfying in literature.

An excellent, objective book by one who knows her subject. Most informative and worthwhile. Highly recommended for those who want a reasonable in-depth discussion about Cuba and its relationship (or lack thereof) with the United States. It is a pity that the book concludes while Obama was still president, hence does not comment on the failure by Trump to forge ahead and instead attempt to march backward in time.

A detailed historical account of the economic, geopolitical, and social challenges of Cubans on the island, and abroad. A great read for any one interested in learning, but take your time as there is a lot of information.

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