

CUBA BRIEF



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A “Reflection” to Fidel Castro

Since becoming ill in July of 2006, and transferring power to your brother Raul, you have written over 250 “Reflections.” They have varied from declarations, letters, eulogies or simply tirades, a clear demonstration that you cannot give up your personal power and influence. The control you have exercised over 11.2 million Cubans for over fifty years is very difficult for you to let go.

As a Cuban-American born in Cuba in 1954, I still remember vividly your victorious entrance in Havana and how all the hopes and promises of changes you talked about excited the island nation. However, it did not take long for many to realize that you were more interested in your own personal power and alliance with communism than the good of the nation.

As the July 26th Anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba approaches, I thought it was time that someone wrote a “reflection” to you on why you and the Cuban Revolution have failed.

First, in case you don’t know, the Cuban people on the island mock you for your ridiculous and erratic behavior. Cuba’s youth have now gone as far as contradicting the very ideology you indoctrinated them with beginning from their early days in school. The economic conditions are as bad or worse, than during the “Special Period” (1991-present) and only appear to be worsening. Even members of your own inner circle like Felipe Perez Roque and Carlos Lage were removed from their positions simply for criticizing you personally and your system of governing. Your own brother General Raul Castro has told you repeatedly that if your failed system is going to continue, basic economic reforms are needed. When will you realize that your days are quickly coming to an end and so is your power?

The great statesman Winston Churchill described a practical test for the success of government is to ask the following: “Does the government...rest upon a free, constitutional basis...? Is there a right to free expression of opinions, free advocacy, and free criticism of the government? Are there courts of justice free from interference by the executive branch and free from all association with political parties?will the rights of individuals, subject to his or her duties to the state, be maintained, asserted and exalted? In short, does the government own the

people or do the people own the government? When answering these questions, it is very clear to see that your revolution has failed, but more importantly, you have failed, as you are a prisoner in your own system.

We can also mark your success in establishing Communism in Cuba by your own standards. 1) You have never established a “Dictatorship of the Proletariat,” as you have been Cuba’s sole dictator, 2) Cuba is far from a classless society, as rising inequalities currently strain any credibility the Revolution may have left, and 3) Your “worker’s paradise” is far from a reality as millions of Cubans have fled your island when given the opportunity.

The sun is beginning to shine once again over the island of Cuba. Change has begun to take place and you will not be able to stop it. Even though you have tried to destroy the Cuban people, you have not succeeded at destroying their spirit and thirst for freedom.

Many innocent Cubans have died in your jails for no justifiable reason and many remain in jails across the island because you see them as a threat to your personal power. Many have died in the ocean seeking freedom and a better future. All this has made the Cuban people stronger and has actually given them the will to end your tyranny.

Fidel, once you are gone everything will change, including your own brother’s policies. It must be difficult to personally accept that your days on earth are numbered. As you once stated “History will absolve me.” Let me assure you that once the last chapter of your failed revolution is written, history will not be kind to you and it cannot absolve you. Your name shall not be uttered in the same sentence as some of our great Cuban patriots, Jose Marti and Father Felix Varela who put our great country before themselves. You will simply be a dark asterisk in the history of the Cuban nation.

So as July 26th approaches, I suggest you reflect and think about what you have done and accomplished—this could be your final opportunity. Lastly, a word of caution to your brother Raul: stop and think carefully because the very system you have helped your brother build is prepared to turn on you.

Fidel and Raul, it is time you admit your mistakes and step aside so that perhaps history will be kinder to you. Let the Cuban people be free.

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