

## Chapter 1

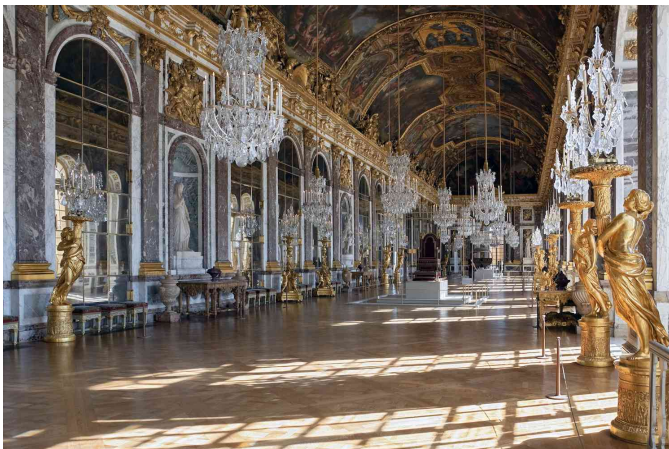


- **Merenguitos:**

## Chapter 2



- **Guayabera:**
- **Fidel Castro:** Cuba's president from 1976 to 2008 (when he died). He led the Cuban Revolution of 1953-1959 that overthrew President Fulgencio Batista and made him Cuba's most powerful person.
- **Che Guevara:** An Argentine revolutionary who helped Castro wage the revolution.
- **Paladar:** Informal restaurants run by Cubans out of their homes with permission from the government. Most official restaurants are either too expensive or filled with tourists (because without these people, who can afford the high prices, which basically subsidizes the place, the restaurant wouldn't exist). Paladares provide Cubans with a local, affordable, realistic place where they can dine out with their peers.
- **Fulgencio Batista:** The man who was military dictator of Cuba and was overthrown by the Cuban Revolution waged by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in 1959.
- **Miramar:** A neighborhood in Cuba where the big houses previously occupied by wealthy associates of Fulgencio Batista are now occupied by military generals and high-ranking officials of the Castro government.
- **Baroque style:** A style of architecture that prevailed in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries and features extravagant designs, that include layered, highly decorated interiors with bronze sculptures, intricate tapestries, sculpted mirrors, moldings, and paneling, elaborately painted ceilings, and crystal chandeliers.



- **Mojo criollo:** Signature Cuban marinade—Garlicky, citrusy flavor
- **La Bayamesa:** The national anthem of Cuba

### Chapter 3

- **El Encanto:** A chain of department stores in Cuba
- **Corsair:** French word for “privateer”
- **University of Havana:** The main university of Cuba. Fidel Castro studied here. The university was closed by Batista out of fear that it would cultivate thinkers and revolutionaries.
- **Diario de la Marina:** A long-running newspaper in Cuba. It was conservative, but opposed the military dictatorships of Gerardo Machado (1930’s) and Batista (1950’s). The newspaper also opposed Fidel Castro. In 1960, Castro closed the newspaper.
- Old Cuban society liked to flaunt wealth
- **Vedado:** A neighborhood—largely commercial zone—in Havana
- **Benny Moré:** A Cuban singer who specialized who *sonero*
- **Soneo:** The art of vocal improvisation in *son cubano*
- **Son cubano:** A genre of music that evolved in the highlands of eastern Cuba in the 19th century and from elements of Spanish and African origin

### Chapter 5

- **Versos Sencillos:** A book of poems by José Martí. It includes his most famous poem, “Cultivo una rosa blanca.”
- **José Martí:** A Cuban poet whose work inspired the Cuba’s movement for independence from Spain in 1898. He is considered the father of Cuban independence.
- **Guantanamera:** A famous Cuban song that combines verses from Martí’s *Versos Sencillos*.
- **Celia Cruz:** A famous Cuban singer who was nicknamed the Queen of Salsa and is one of the most important artists in the history of Latino(a) music. She lived from 1925 to 2003.
- **Maduros:** Sweet plantains
- **Tostones:** Plantain chips
- **Guarapo:** A sweet drink that comes from the juice of sugar cane
- **Lechón asado:** Roasted pork

### Chapter 6

- **26th of July Movement:** The group led by Fidel Castro that waged the Cuban Revolution
- **Sierra Maestra Mountains:** Where the revolutionaries were fighting the Batista regime
- **Organización Auténtica:** Ill-fated group of guerilla fighters
- **Directorio Estudiantil Universitaria:** A group who failed to assassinate Batista. They were fighting for revolution, but were separate from and opposed Fidel Castro.
- **José Antonio Echeverría:** The leader of DRE who was killed in an assault on the National Radio Station
- **Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria:** A group of students who together with the DRE fought their way into the presidential palace and attempted to assassinate Batista
- Communist Party—Increasingly difficult relations with Batista
- **Situation in Cuba:** In Cuba, there is an enormous wealth gap. The wealthy elites control the sugar, tobacco, coffee, and tourism industries, the main drivers of income in Cuba, live in Miramar, and maintain friendly relations with dictator Batista. Most Cubans, however, are poor, live in the countryside, fear to speak out against Batista, and work for low wages in the industries mentioned above. Cuba is divided. Havana is developed and prosperous thanks to the money of the elites. The countryside feels distant and disconnected. Still, though, elites are not safe from Batista, as he seems like a dictator who will do as he pleases.

- **Paseo del Prado:** A famous street of Havana.
- **1933:** Overthrow of Machado
- **1940 Constitution:** The legal declaration in Cuba that gave people the rights to vote and private property, and protected women from pay discrimination based on gender and gave them the right to demand equal pay. The constitution also redefined the role of the government.
- **Barrio Chino (Chinatown):** Sugar industry brought Chinese workers to the island. Some stayed when their contracts expired. Others remained, forming *Barrio Chino*.
- **Sugar industry controversy:** Brought money and prosperity to the island, but also the abuse and mistreatment of workers for the benefit of elites, like plantation owners
- **Radio Rebelde:** A “rebel” radio station in Cuba
- **Moncada Barracks:** The second largest military garrison in Cuba. Here, the first attempt by the July 26th movement to overthrow the Batista Regime failed.

### Chapter 8

- Fulgencio Batista was twice the president of Cuba, first from 1940-1944, when he passed the 1940 Constitution, which made him seem like a “good guy.” But, in 1952, he returned to the presidency as a dictator.
- **Some more of Cuba’s problems:** The American mafia runs the country, and tourists swarm the beaches and stay in hotels that Cubans cannot afford. Cubans are upset with the brothels and casinos, too.
- **Andrés Rivero Agüero:** Batista’s prime minister, the head of government and third highest political office in Cuba. (Meanwhile, the Cuban president is the “head of state.”)

### Chapter 10

- **Cuban convertible peso:** The peso that tourists receive when they convert their home currency upon arrival to Cuba. It is pegged to the USD and worth more than the regular Cuban peso. The result is that many people, including doctors and lawyers, work side jobs in the tourist industry because they can make more from tips of Cuban convertible peso.
- Some Cuban people are afraid to mention the Castros’ name for fear of retribution.



- **Hotel Nacional de Cuba:**
- **Museum of the Revolution:** Previously the Presidential Palace until the end of Batista’s second regime.



- **Great Theatre of Havana:**



- **Cathedral of Havana:**
- Fidel Castro attempted to eradicate religion (most of which was Catholicism) from Cuba.
- **La Cabaña:** The infamous prison run by Che Guevara after the revolution



- **Tamales Cubanos:**
- **Ration book:** Every Cuban has this book. It entitles them to rice, sugar, cooking oil, eggs, pasta, and coffee every month, protein (probably chicken) every ten days, a bread roll every day, and salt every few months. Young children and pregnant women get milk.
- **Waiting in lines:** You have to cue for “everything” in Cuba. People wait in lines all over Cuba just to get milk. Wealthy families will hire someone to wait in lines for them.
- **Cuba imports its food.**
- **Casas particulares:** Private homes with rooms that the owners have converted to guest rooms for tourists.
- **Ropa Vieja:** This phrase means “old clothing” and is a typical Cuban dish of shredded beef stewed in a tomato-based sauce. Here is the origin of the name: Long ago a poor man wanted to be able to afford to buy meat for his family to eat, so he sold his old clothing in order to get the money to buy the meat.
- **La Rampa:** Also known as Calle 23, the main street in the Vedado district of Havana.
- **Wi-fi zones:** Internet is scarce in Cuba. They have wi-fi zones scattered throughout public places where people conglomerate to use the Internet.
- **Havana Hilton:** A cinema that Fidel Castro once used as his headquarters and home
- **Coppelia:** An ice cream shop made famous by Fidel after the revolution
- There is tension and “distance” between Cubans who have stayed and Cubans who have left.

#### Chapter 11

- **Malecón:** Boardwalk in Havana
- Fidel’s movement was supported largely by sons of wealthy Cubans. Fidel himself was the son of a wealthy farmer.

#### Chapter 13

- Fidel nationalized the rum company.

- Really nice paragraph about loss, or slow descent into poverty at the bottom of p. 160: *The thing with loss is that at first, you don't notice. You lose your favorite pair of shoes, but there is still another, and the baby needs to be fed, and your husband has had a long day at work, so why worry? And when you lose the next pair of shoes, well, you've already lost one pair, so the novelty has worn off. You're upset for a moment because now you've lost two pairs, but dinner needs to be made, and when you took your ration card to get food, they were out of milk and chicken again, and who has time to worry about shoes? And then this goes on for a time until you realize you're down to your last pair and they have holes in them, the dirt from the streets covering your skin, the soles falling apart, your toes pinched, and when you're finally able to replace them, there's an overwhelming sense of relief, and you forget you once had twenty pairs, that once you lived like kings, and now you serve on bended knee, fighting for every inch.*
- "The country is not ours; it's merely on loan from Fidel."
- **The Special Period:** A period of economic crisis that began in Cuba in 1991 after the Soviet Union dissolved and no longer supported Cuba.

#### Chapter 14

- **Gerardo Machado:** The president of Cuba from 1925-1933 who ruled as a tyrant..

#### Chapter 18

- **Havana society:** A phrase used to refer to the wealth elites of Havana

#### Chapter 19

- **Battle of Santa Clara:** The turning point of the Cuban revolutionary war. Three thousand Cuban military soldiers, tired of fighting their own people, lost to 300 revolutionaries led by Che Guevara. Forces led by Che derailed a train containing reinforcements for Batista's army. Santa Clara, Cuba has become a shrine to Che.
- **Loma del Capiro / Capiro's Hill:** Also in Santa Clara, where the second prong of the battle took place.
- **Granma:** The name of the yacht that brought men, including Che, from Mexico to Cuba to fight as revolutionaries in the Cuban Revolution.
- **Parque Leoncio Vidal:** The main plaza of Santa Clara

#### Chapter 21

- **Rafael Trujillo:** The president of Dominican Republic, also a tyrant, with whom Batista is an ally. He gives Batista refuge after Batista's escape from Cuba

#### Chapter 22

- **Cuban Exile Movement:** A program by the United States to help resettle refugees from Cuba upon Fidel's takeover
- **Revolution of 1933:** The movement in Cuba that removed Gerardo Machado from power.
- **President Machado:** A Cuban general in the Cuban War of Independence (from Spain, 1895-1898) and Cuba's president from 1925-1933.
- **U.S. occupation of Cuba:** After the Spanish-American War (1898), Spain ceded four territories to the United States: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, and Guam. The island was a "protectorate" of the United States until 1909, after it had been decided that the country was stable enough to hold its own elections, although the U.S. continued to influence the country over the next few decades.

#### Chapter 25

- Fidel Castro staged public trials and executions upon taking over.
- **Changó:** The Yoruba and Santeria god of thunder, lightning, fire, drumming, and dancing

- **Santero:** A priest in the Santería religión
- **Santería:** An African diasporic religion that developed in Cuba in the late 19th century and mixes components of the Yoruba religion of West Africa, Catholicism, and Spiritism.
- **Fundamental Law:** Cuban law written and passed by Fidel Castro upon his takeover of Cuba in 1959. Act 25 of Cuban Fundamental Law helped turn Cuba into a totalitarian state, as it abolished the death penalty and made dissent punishable by death.
- **El Vaquerito:** Roberto Rodríguez Fernández, a 23-year-old Cuban man who died leading a group to take the hill in the Battle of Santa Clara

### Chapter 27

- “Some are more equal than others.”
- **Social dangerousness:** A charge that can be levied by the Cuban government against a suspected dissident for suspected dissidence or the potential to inspire dissidence



- **Picadillo:**
- **Wet foot, dry foot policy:** Fleeing Cubans who were captured in the water were sent back to Cuba; Cubans who arrived on land could stay

### Chapter 28

- **Manuel Urrutia Lleó:** The first president of post-Batista Cuba (basically, Fidel’s puppet)

### Chapter 30

- **Peter Pan kids:** Cuban kids whose parents put them on a plane alone to the United States so that the kids would have a better life with hopes of reuniting one day
- **Operation Peter Pan:** The official name of the United States program that was put into place to collect children defecting from Cuba
- **Maríel Boatlift of 1980:** The operation that ensued after Castro announced that Cubans could defect from the country and the United States agreed to receive them. More than a hundred thousand Cubans left the country for the U.S.

### Chapter 31

- **Next Year in Havana:** The title of the book refers to a saying that Cubans use between each other about when things may return to normal, when they can return to Cuba if they’ve left, when they can speak and act freely amongst each other, etc. It’s a future time that they long for, but may never come.