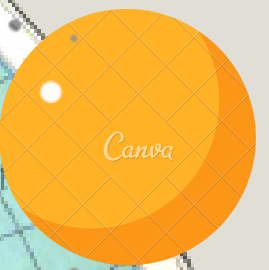




MAJOR GLOBAL ISSUES  
& CHALLENGES

# US - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS



1.

INTRODUCTION

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

CONTENT #1

2.

TIMELINE

3.

CONTENT #2

THE INVOLVEMENT OF  
THE US IN LATIN AMERICA

CONTENT #3

4.

CASE STUDIES

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PRESENT

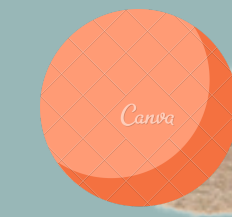
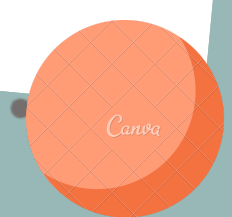
CONCLUSION

6.

SUMMARY

US - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

PRESENTATION  
OVERVIEW



# WESTERN HEMISPHERE



## North and South America



Canva

WHAT IS...

# WESTERN HEMISPHERE

- Comprising North and South America, and surrounding waters.
- Countries under the "Western Hemisphere" term are **Canada, the United States, Mexico, countries located in South America, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.**
- Portions of Africa, Europe, Antarctica, and Asia are also included.



Canva



# TIMELINE

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN...

# TIMELINE

1

1776 - 1830  
**FORMATIVE  
ERA**

2

1830s - 1890s  
**ENTERING THE  
19TH CENTURY**

3

1900 - 1945  
**IMPERIAL  
ERA**

4

1946 - PRESENT  
**POST-WAR  
ERA**

## FORMATIVE ERA

The beginning of the relationship between the US and Latin America nations

1

1776

The US won its independence



2

1821

After Mexico won its independence, the US moved towards recognition of new republics inspired by changes in British policy



3

1823

President James Monroe announced Monroe Doctrine which declared US opposition to further European territorial aggrandizement in Latin America

## ENTERING THE 19TH CENTURY

1

1835 - 1848

- Texas Revolution
- Annexation of Texas as a state
- Mexican War

2

1850s

US attention turned to Nicaragua

Most Americans believed that the US intervention was humanitarian but it actually stemmed from economic and strategic concerns

3

1868 - 1878

The US tried to mediate the war between Cubans and Spaniards



# IMPERIAL ERA

1

1898

The US victory over Spain commenced a tremendous expansion of US power and influence in Latin America

2

1904

President Theodore Roosevelt announced "Roosevelt Corollary" US has the right to intervene in Latin America whenever it wants

3

1913 - 1921

President Wilson was determined to advance US economic interests and preserve US security interests

[1915]  
Wilson launched a 19 year old de facto military occupation in Haiti

[1916]  
8 year military governance of the Dominican Republic

4

1939

The US obtained defense sites and labor forces from Latin America nations for the World War II

Anti-American sentiment was born

# POST-WAR ERA

1

1945

After the World Wars ended, the US shifted its political and economic concerns to Europe and Asia and tried to break down hemispheric economic barriers to US exports and private investments

2

1950

After the Korean War, the US emphasized regional and bilateral security agreements and became increasingly concerned about Communist influence in Latin America

# THE INVOLVEMENT OF US IN LATIN AMERICA



## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA**

Since the 1800s, the US has feared outside powers in their hemisphere that could threaten them:

- European Imperialism (British)
- Fascism (Germany/Italy)
- Communism (Soviet Union)

## **SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

- Many Latin Americans in the 1950s and 1960s viewed Communism as a solution to their economic/social problems.
- The US created several programs aimed at helping Latin America countries resist an alliance with the communist regimes.

# 1

## GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY



Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas (left) and US President Franklin D. Roosevelt (right) in 1936

- Launched in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- Marked a departure from traditional American interventionism.
- The US:
  - Renounced its right to unilaterally intervene in the internal affairs of other countries
  - Abrogated Platt Amendment (which prevented Cuba from doing business with other countries except US)
  - Withdrew US Marines from Haiti

# 2

## ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS



- Launched in 1961 by President Kennedy.
- 10 year plan
- Intended to provide:
  - Economic and military aid
- Goals:
  - Combat inequality
  - Improve education, public health etc.
  - Establish democratic governments

# 3

## PEACE CORPS



- Launched in March 1 1961 by President Kennedy.
- Volunteer program to assist developing nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- Still ongoing until today.



4

## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



- Organization formed to promote economic, military, and cultural cooperation among its members, which include almost all of the independent states of the Western Hemisphere.
- The United States and twenty other governments in the Western Hemisphere signed the OAS charter in 1948.
- To prevent any outside state's intervention in the Western Hemisphere

## **INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA**

- The US supported dictatorships in many Latin American countries because they were anti-communist.
- Many died in failed revolts and brutal crackdowns due to US intervention.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA TO THE US

1. MILITARY SECURITY

2. POLITICAL SOLIDARITY

3. SOURCE OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS

4. BRINGS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE

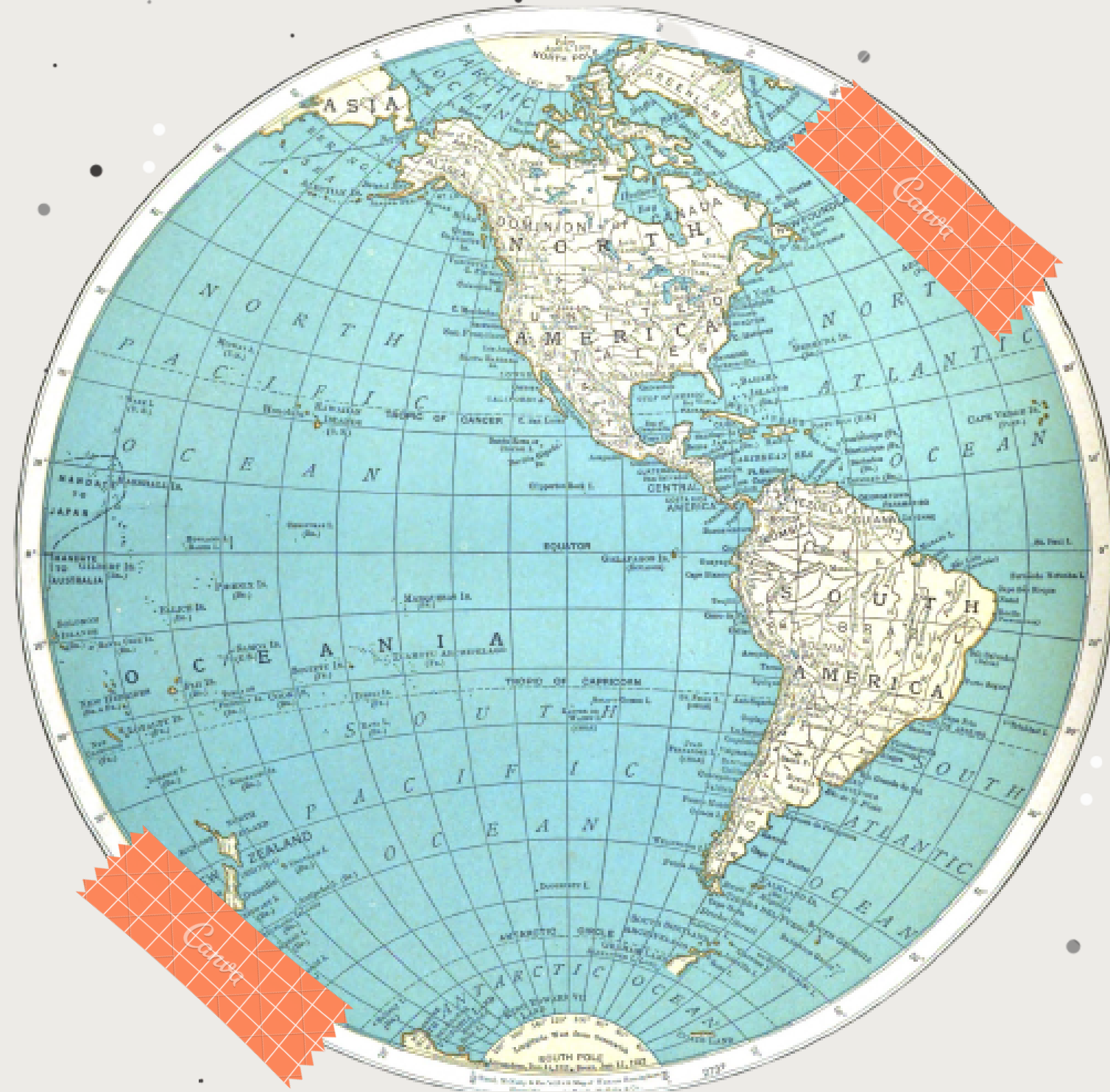
# THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA TO THE US



## 1. MILITARY SECURITY

- Latin America was said to be important for the forward defense of the US against any possible military attack by an extra-hemispheric power.
- Panama Canal:
  - allows the US to project its naval power in both the Pacific and the Atlantic.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA TO THE US



## 2. POLITICAL SOLIDARITY

- The Western Hemisphere idea – that the countries (North and South America) should stand together and apart from the rest of the world, united by shared values and interest
- To gain support for ceremonial purposes – the League of Nations, the United Nations etc.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA TO THE US

## 3. SOURCE OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS

- During the 1st half of the 20th century, Latin America was by far the most important source of imported petroleum for the US.
- Was also key supplier of several other raw materials needed for military purposes



# THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA TO THE US

## 4. BRINGS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE

- Main source of various mineral and agricultural imports.
- Arena for US private direct investment.
- Provided important opportunities for US economic expansion after World War II.

# CASE STUDIES





# 1

## CUBA

### Early Days

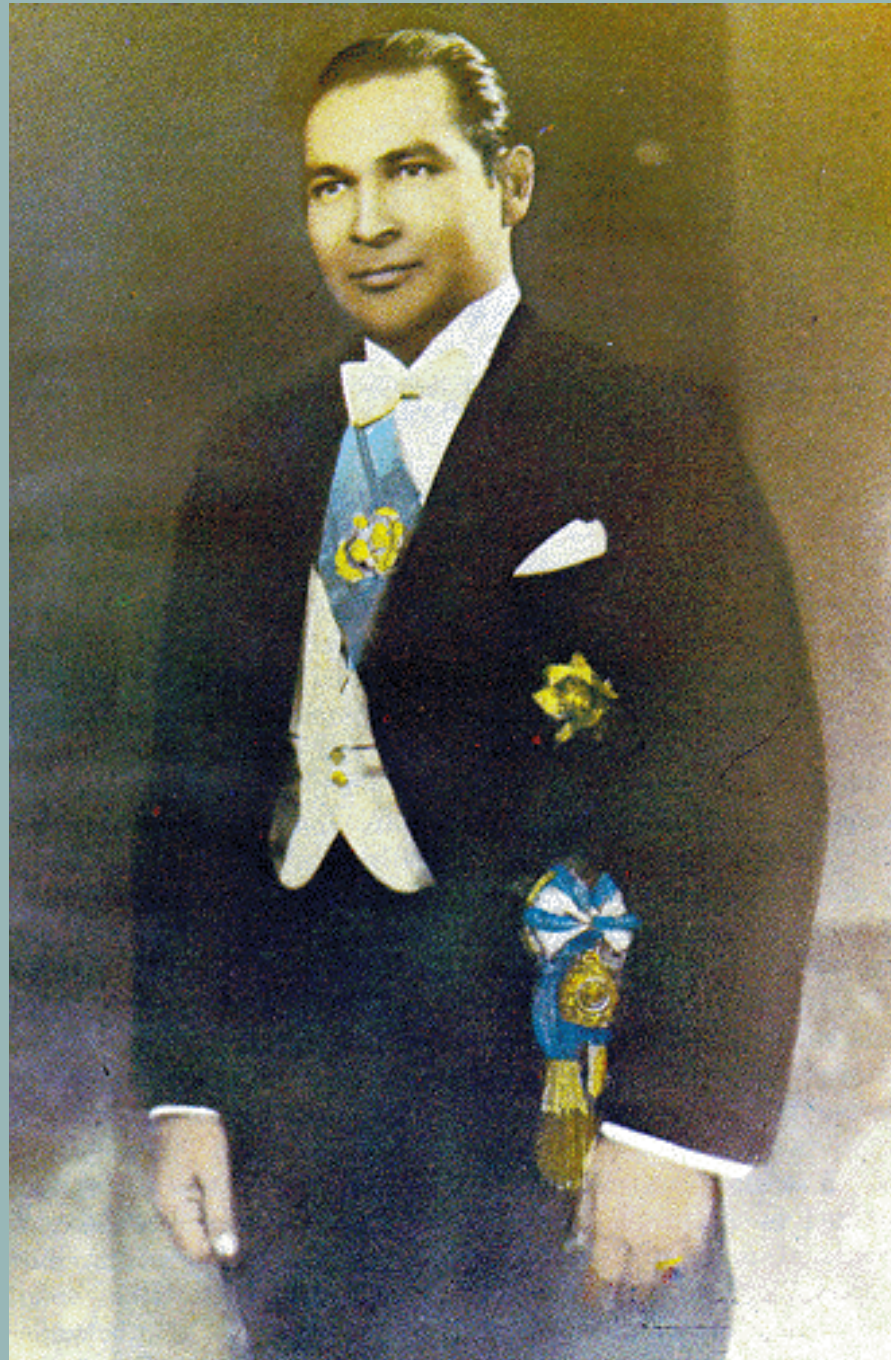
- In 1906, the US overthrew Cuba's first elected president, Tomas Estrada Palma.
- In 1917, Cuba was once again occupied by the US but it gained its independence over time.
- In exchange for Cuba's independence, the US forced Cuba to include Platt Amendment in its new constitution.
  - Prevented Cuba from leasing land to any countries but the US.



1

# CUBA

## Batista: The Dictator



Fulgencio Batista portrait, 1940



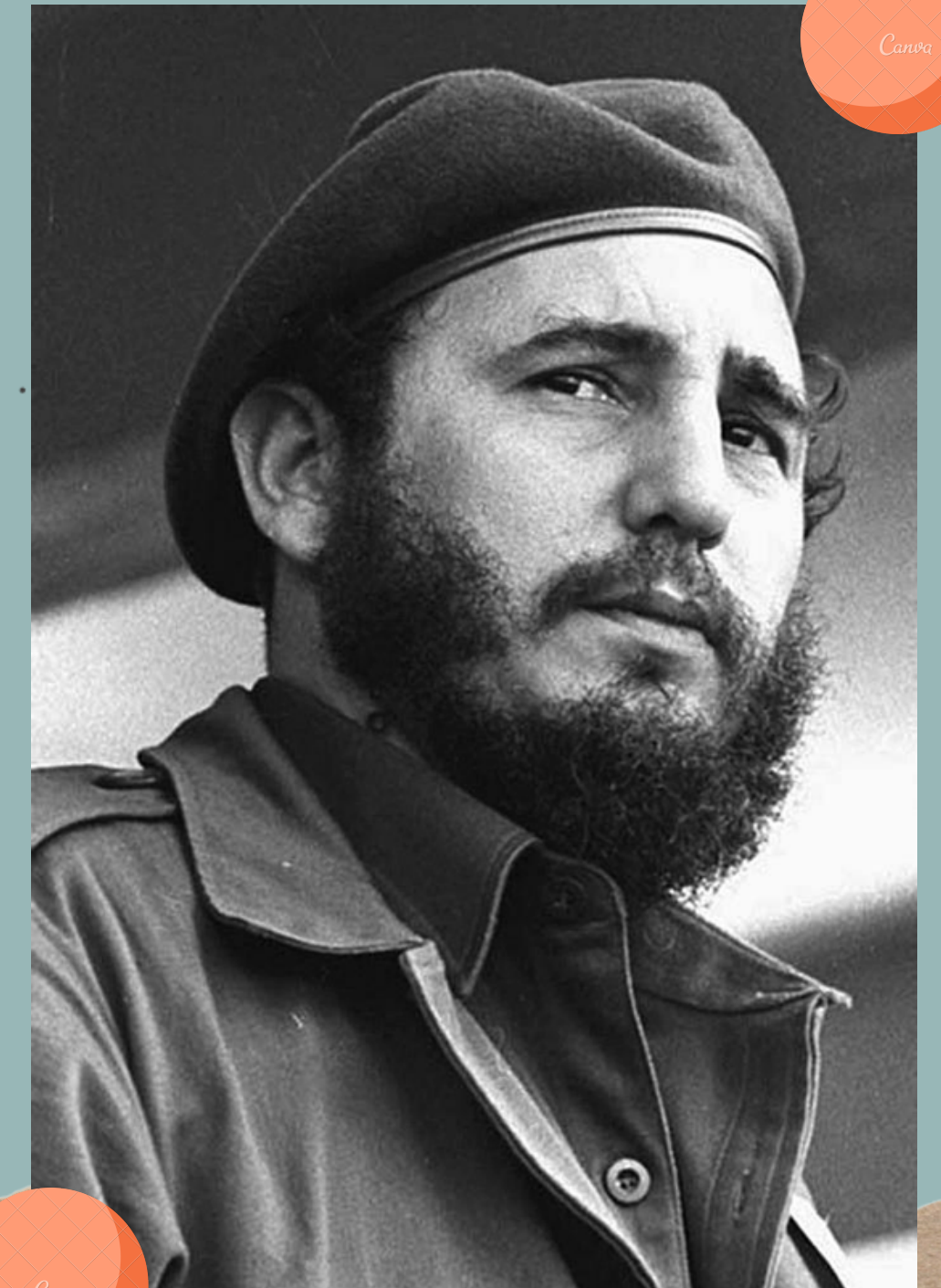
Batista's soldiers executing a rebel by firing squad in 1956.

1

# CUBA

## Uprising in Cuba

- During the 1940s and 1950s, Cuba was a US "satellite"
  - Ruled by Pro-US dictator Fulgencio Batista
- In 1959, Fidel Castro and his July 26th Movement overthrew the government
  - Developed close economic/political ties with the USSR
- Became an enemy to the US



Fidel Castro

1

# CUBA

## Bay of Pigs Invasion

- On April 1961, the US government launched an invasion with an aim to topple Castro's communist government
- Castro's regime was well equipped with Soviet weapons and managed to defeat the invasion.
- Hundreds died as the result.



1

# CUBA

## Cuban Missile Crisis stand-off

- On 1962, US spy plane detected missile sites on the island of Cuba.
- Kennedy placed a blockade around Cuba while demanded the removal of the missiles and the destruction of the sites.
- Negotiation went on for 13 days.



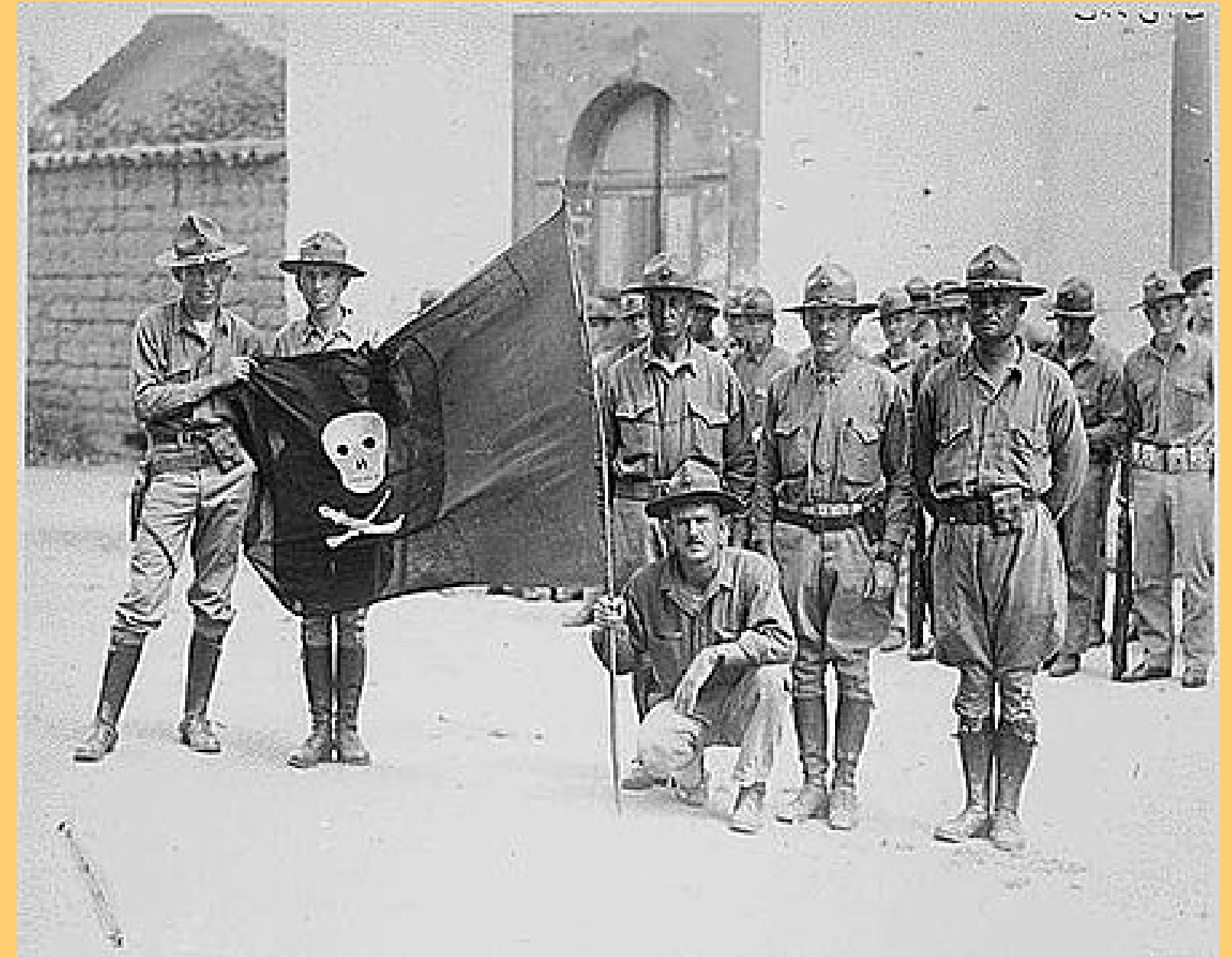
President John F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro, and Nikita Khrushchev

# 2

## NICARAGUA

### Banana Wars

- The Banana Wars were a series of conflicts and military interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean caused or influenced by the United States to protect its commercial interests.
- Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic were all venues of conflicts.
- The Banana Wars is a term coined for the conflicts involving the United States across Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean from 1898 to 1934.



US Marines with the captured flag of Augusto César Sandino in Nicaragua in 1932.

# 2

## NICARAGUA

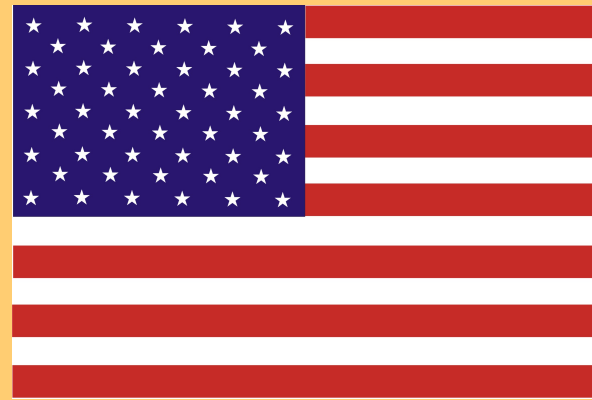
- In 1927, the US intervened the country and defeated the liberals and established its own rule - ruled by Pro-US, Somoza Family.
- In 1979, the Somoza government was overthrown by the Sandinistas
  - Communist-based political party
  - Popular support / promoted reforms
- In 1981, the US backed the Contras forces to overthrow the leftist government.
  - Funded by cocaine trade
  - A ban by Congress on aid to the Contras



2

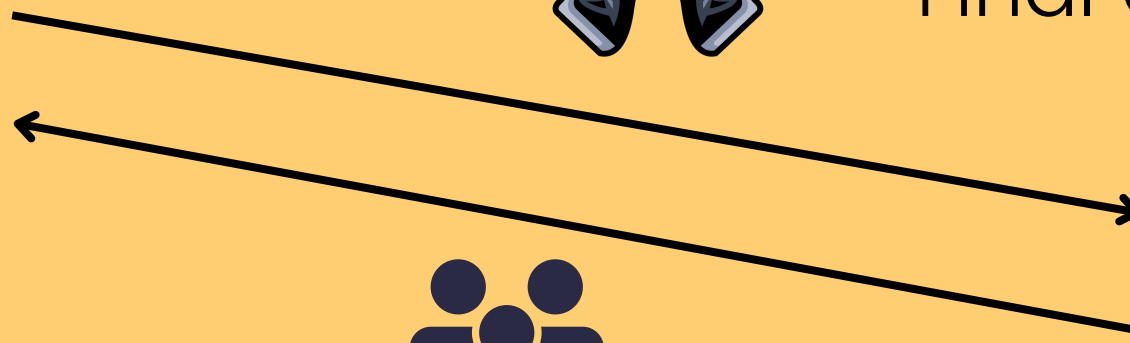
# NICARAGUA

## Iran - Contra Affair (1985)



Original amount: \$30 million  
Final amount: \$12 million

Funneled the remaining \$18 million to the Contras



The Contras



# OTHERS

- Puerto Rico (1898)
- Haiti (1915)
- Guatemala (1954)
- Brazil (1964)
- Dominican Republic (1966)
- Chile (1970)
- Argentina (1976)
- Grenada (1983)



**PRESENT**

## CURRENT SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA



- American Crece - a framework for supporting economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean by catalyzing private sector investment in energy and other infrastructure projects.

VS



- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - the \$1.5 trillion foreign and economic policy to establish maritime trade and invest in infrastructure projects in dozens of countries.

## CURRENT SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA



- There is still growing interdependence between the US and Latin America because of:
  1. Massive migration from Mexico, Central America etc. to the US
  2. Growth in the US labor force
  3. Cooperation from regional partners is essential to solve significant global problems such as climate change, narcotics etc.

## CURRENT SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA



How to counter the growing competition?

- New "Monroe Doctrine"  
Must trade on its strength; cultural similarities, large Latin American diaspora, stable financial system etc.

But will it work in today's modern world?



# SUMMARY

# **SUMMARY**

- US intention at first was to help Latin American countries but then it evolved into interventions to protect their own interests.
- US was the country with the most influence and power, leaving the Latin American countries with no choice but to obey.
- The current world order where both China and the US are now coexisting as superpowers, allows the Latin American countries to not be solely dependent on the US.

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