Cuban society and political system

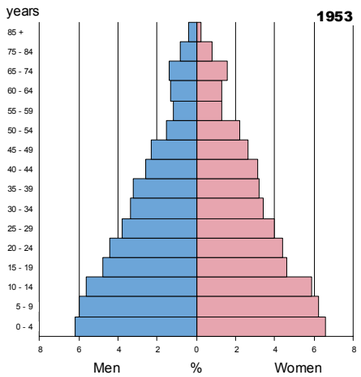
A complex amalgam of different ethnic groups

Cubas Population is ethnicaly heterogeneous, the result of intense and prolonged processes of free and forced immigration and racial mixing over the past five centuries. The Islands aboriginal population was virtually exterminated within a few decades of the arrival of the spanish conquistadores. The conquest and colonization of the island produced the immigration of Spanish settlers and importation of African slaves for the fieldwork on large sugarplantations, processes that continued well into the ninteenth century when other populations, notably the Chinese, contributed to Cubas ethnic diversity.

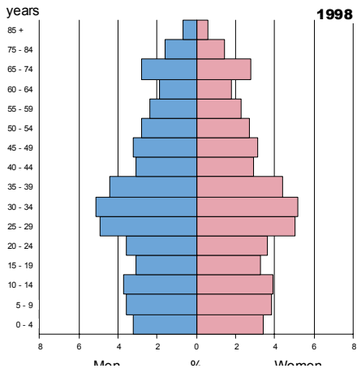
The multitude of faiths reflects the diverse cultural elements. Catholicism, which was brought to the island by Spanish colonialists at the beginning of the 16th century, is the most prevalent professed faith. African slaves brought their nature religions to Cuba. As a way of resistance and cultural survival, they cunstructed Santería out of memories from Africa and combined them with elements of Catholicism. For example the orisha Ochún is associated with Cubas patron saint „La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre“. Other african religions practised are Palo Monte and Abakúa. Cuba has also communities of Protestants Jews and Muslims.

Demographics

Cuba‘s birth rate (11.6 births per thousand population in 2003) is one of the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Its overall population has increased continuously from around 7 million in 1961 to over 11 million now, but the rate of increase has slowed in the last decades. Cuba, which has unrestricted access to legal abortion, has an abortion rate of 58.6 per 1000 pregnancies in 1996 compared to a a Latin American average of 27. Immigration and emigration have had noticeable effects on the demographic profile of Cuba during the 20th century. Between 1900 and 1930, close to a million Spaniards arrived from Spain. Since 1959, over a million Cubans have left the island, primarily to Miami, Florida.



Population characteritics of a Third World country



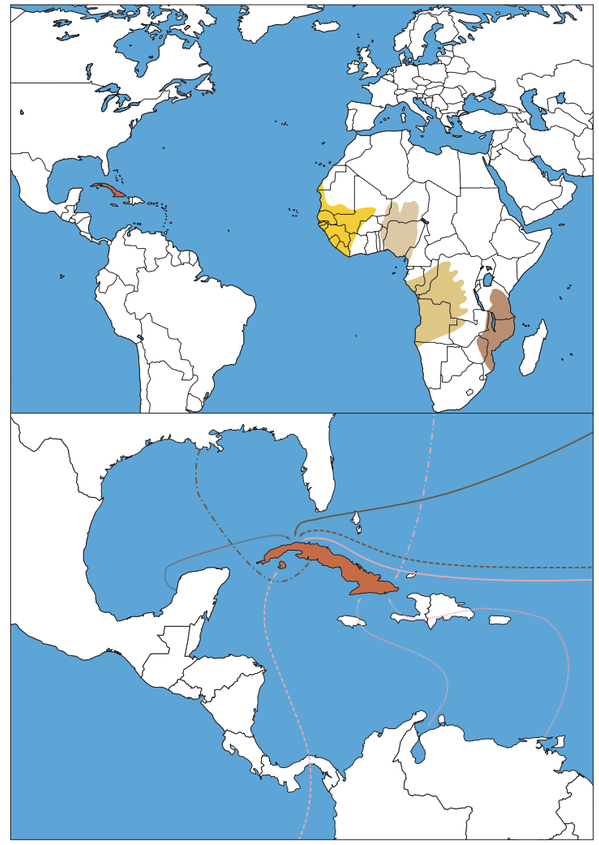
Population characteritics of a First World country

1511-1886 Bantu people from todays Angola and Congo

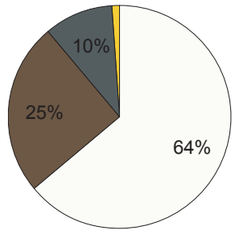
1511-1868 Bram, Madingo and Malinke people from todays Senegal Guinea a.o

1868-1886 Makwa from todays Mozambique, Tanzania a.o

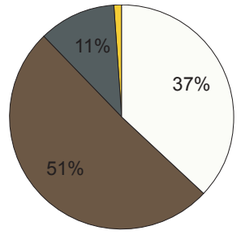
1762-1886 Ibibio, Ijaw and other people from the Niger



Census with self-classification

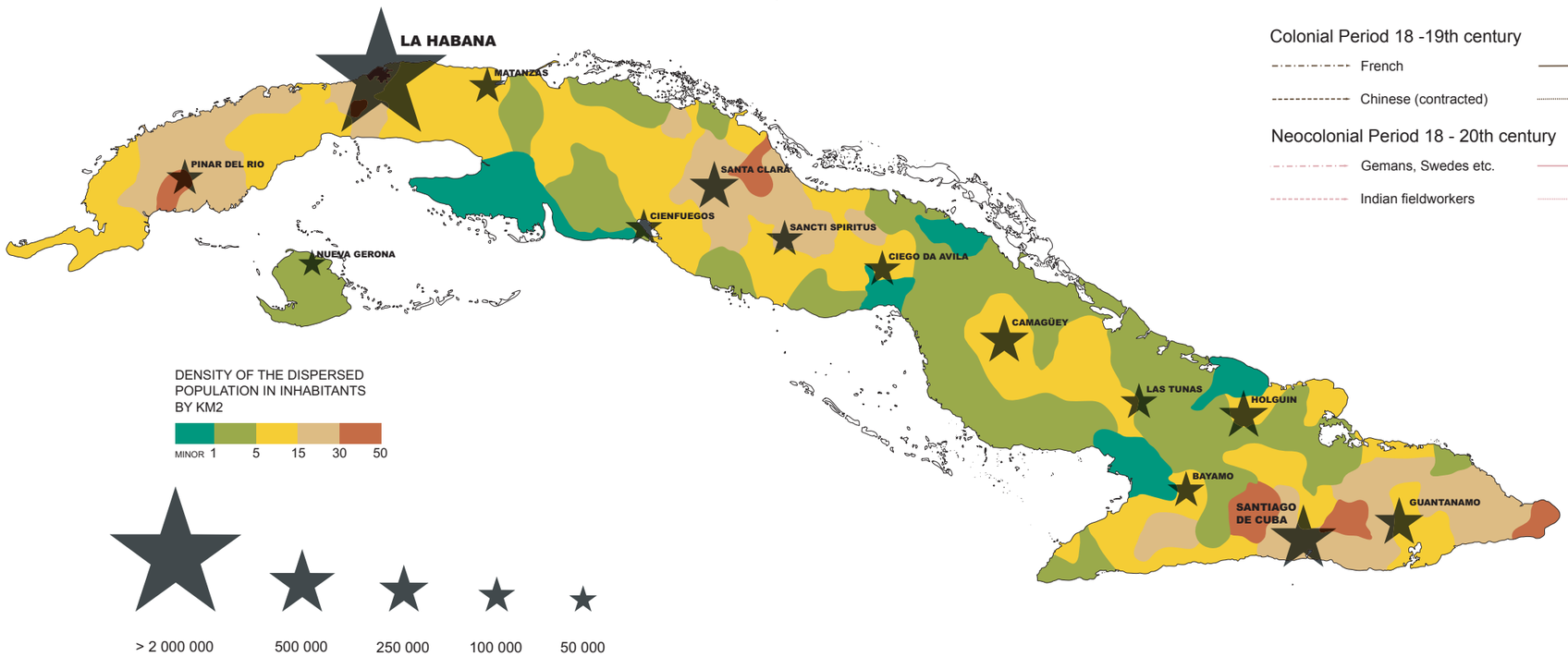


More objective census of a american agency



Mestizos Whites Blacks Chinese

Population statistics, 2003



Colonial Period 18 -19th century

French
Spaniards
Chinese (contracted)
Mexican Indians

Neocolonial Period 18 - 20th century

Gemans, Swedes etc.
Japonese colonists
Indian fieldworkers
Fieldworkers from the Antilles

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Cuban society and political system

"Maximo Lider"
Fidel Castro Ruz
Born: 13.08.1926
Comander in - Chief
President of the State Council
Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers
First Secretary of the Comuniste Party of Cuba

Grupo de Apoyo y Coordinación del Comandante en Jefe (Fidel Castros inner staff)

Raúl Castro Ruz
Born: 03.06.1931
First Vice President
Head of the Armed Forces
Second Secretary of the Comuniste Party of Cuba

Carlos Lage Dávila
Born: 15.10.1951
Secretary of the Executive Commitee
Vicepresident of the State Council
Member of the Political Bureau

Governement Administration

Executive Commitee
In addition of the Council of Ministers , there is this smaller powerful body, consisting of the President, the Executive Secretary, the First Vice President, and the five Vice Presidents.
Members: Fidel Castro (P), Raúl Castro (FVP), Carlos Lage Dávila (ES), José Ramón Fernández Alvarez (VP), Pedro Miret Prieto (VP), Osmany Cienfuegos Gorriarán (VP), Otto Rivero Torres (VP), José Luis Rodríguez Torres (VP)

Council of Ministers
The Council of Ministres is the highest ranking executive and administrative body. It oversees the various ministries, state commitees and institutes, and the provincial and municipal assemblies that administer the state. It consists of all members of the Executive Commitee and the heads of the national ministries. Around 40 person

Provincial Governements
This organ represents the policy of the ministries in the provinces. The leaders are the presidents of the Provincial Assemblies.

Municipal Governements
They forms the lowest bodies of the executive branch of governement

Public Enterprises

Political Leadership

Political Bureau
This is the leading body of the Communiste Party(PCC) with over 20 members. First Secretary is Fidel Castro
The present Cuban constitution ascribes the role of the Party to be the "leading force of society and of the state".The Cuban party is more deeply committed to the concept of socialism than other ruling parties and has been more reluctant in engaging in market reforms though it has been forced to accept some capitalist measures in its economy.

Central Commitee
The Central Commitee which meets between party congresses consists of 150 members. Since a few years the power of the party is concentrated more and more on the Political Bureau and the Central Commitee has rather duties of representation.

Secretariat Departements

Provincial Commitees

Municipal Commitees

Party Commitees

Party Core Members

Party Membership
The party had a membership of over 780,000 when the Fifth Party Congress was held in 1997. 32.1% of the membership are classified as workers while 13.8% are "professionals and technicians," 8.2% teachers and professors and 7.5% are "service workers."

Legislative Judiciary

Concil of State
The Council of State is composed of 31 members elected by the National Assembly of People's Power. It has the authority to exercise most legislative power between sessions of the National Assembly of People's Power, subject to its approval, and to call the National Assembly of People's Power into session between its scheduled twice yearly sessions. The membership consists of a President, a Secretary, a First Vice President, five Vice Presidents, and 27 additional members. The President, the Secretary, the First Vice President, and the five Vice Presidents are also members of the Council of Ministers.

National Assembly
The National Assembly of People's Power (Spanish: Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular) is the legislative parliament of the Republic of Cuba and the supreme body of State power. It has 609 members elected from single-member electoral districts for a term of five years.The current Cuban Parliament is more representative than in the past 36% are women, 33% are black and 25% are manual workers in produktive or service industries. The National Assembly has little real power. It only meets for two days twice a year, usually to approve legislation and policies initiated by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers.
The Assembly's current President is Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada

Supreme Court
Prosecutors
Judiciary

Provincial Assemblies
All provincial and municipal assemblies are also directly elected. It exists 1200 delegates in 14 Provincial Assemblies.

Municipal Assemblies
Cuba is divided in 169 municipies

Neighborhood, Local Delegates

Voters
Citizen over the age of 16 are eligible to vote

Mass Organizations

- Commitees for the Defense of the Revolution
- Organization of Pioneers José Martí
- Federation of Secondary Students
- Workers Confederation of Cuba
- Federation of University Student
- Cubans women's Federation
- National Association of small Farmers
- Union of young Comunists

List of Ministries and Ministers

- Economy and Planning	José Luis Rodríguez García
- Interior	Abelardo Colomé Ibarra
- Foreign Affairs	Felipe Pérez Roque
- Justice Roberto	T. Díaz Sotolongo
- Armed Forces	Raúl Castro
- Public Health	Jose Ramón Balaguer Cabrera
- Work and Social Security	Alfredo Morales Cartaya
- Agriculture	Maria del Carmen Pérez
- Education	Luis Ignacio Gómez Gutiérrez
- Culture	Abel Prieto
- Higher Education	Juan Vela Valdés
- Central Bank of Cuba	Francisco Soberón Valdés
- Science, Technology and the Environment	Fenando Gonzales
- Information Science and Communications	Ramiro Valdés Menéndez
- Domestic Trade	Marino Alberto Murillo Jorge
- Foreign Trade	Raúl de la Nuez Ramírez
- Sugar Industry	Ulises Rosales del Toro
- Finances and Prices	Georgina Barreiro Fajardo
- Construction	Fidel Fernando Figueroa de la Paz
- Basic Industry	Yadira Garcia Vera
- Light Industry	José Silvano Hernández Bernárdez
- Auditing & Control	Gladys Maria Bejerano Portela
- Fishing Industry	Alfredo López Valdés
- Food	Alejandro Roca Iglesias
- Tourism	Manuel Marrero Cruz
- Iron, Steel and Engineering Industry	Fernando Acosta Santana
- Transportation	Jorge Luis Sierra Cruz
Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz	
- Attorney General	Juan Escalona Reguera
- President of the Cuban Civil Aviation Institute	Rogelio Acevedo González
- President of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute	Ernesto López Domínguez
- President of the National Institute of Sports	Julio Christian Jiménez Molina
- President of the National Hydraulic Resources Institute	Jorge Luis Aspiolea Roig
- Permanent Representative to the UN	Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz

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