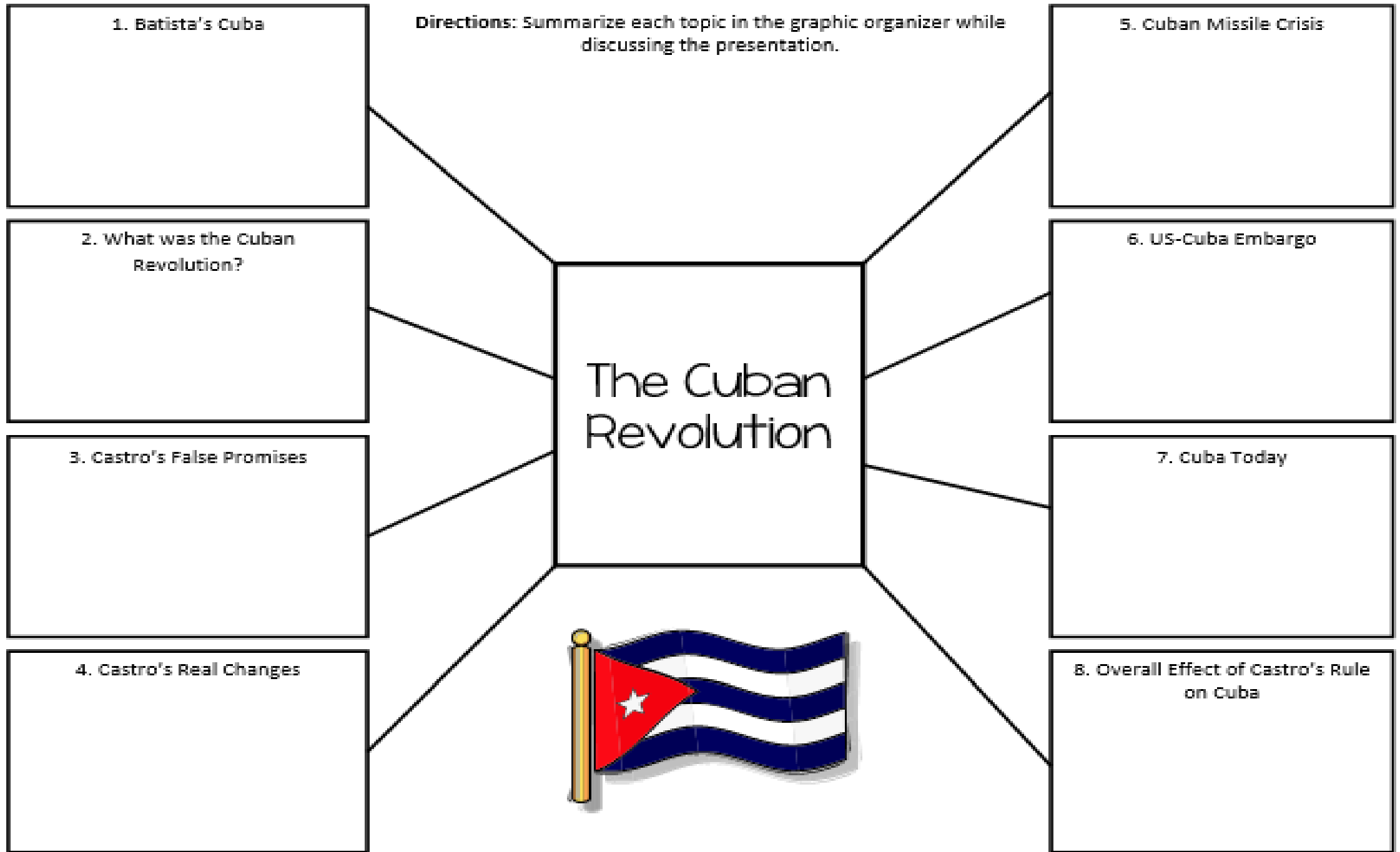




The
Cuban
Revolution



Where is Cuba?



Cuba in the 1900s

- Cuba gained its independence from Spain in 1898.
- In the 1900s, Cuba's wealth was controlled by American companies.
 - The main businesses in Cuba were sugar and mining companies.
- The leader of Cuba was Fulgencio Batista.



Fulgencio Batista

Batista's Cuba

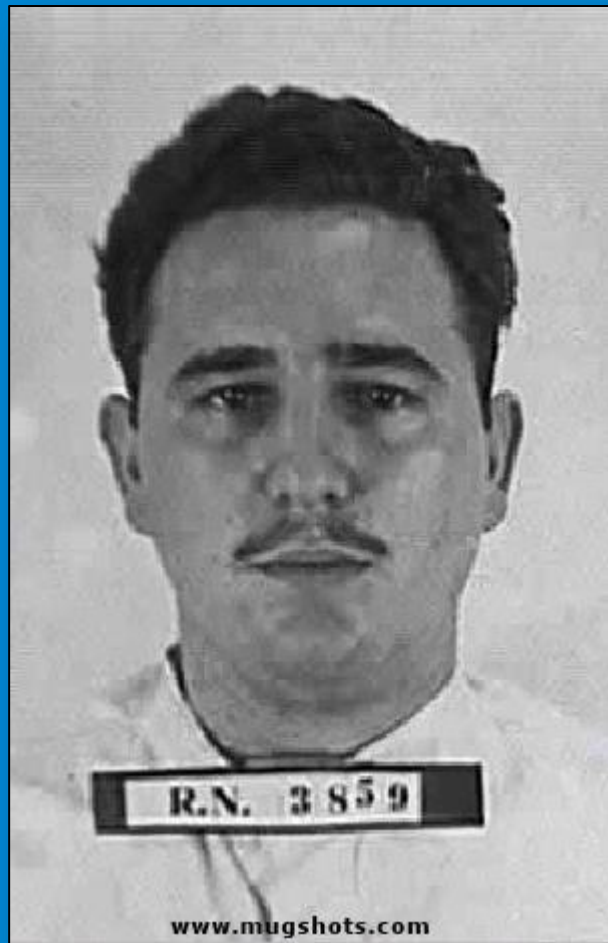
- Fulgencio Batista had originally been elected as president, but made himself dictator of Cuba.
- Many people were unhappy with Batista's rule.
 - Poverty was abundant, education was poor, and healthcare was limited.
- Social and economic problems helped lead to the unrest of many Cubans.
 - There was a small class of rich Cubans with all the power, while the majority was very poor and had little to no power.

Power to the People

- Soon, revolutionaries lead by Fidel Castro began to rise up against the government.
 - Castro and his forces led an unsuccessful overthrow of the government in 1953, but began a full scale war against Batista's government in 1955.
- Castro attempted to overthrow Batista's government for seven years.
 - Castro and his "army" lost many battles to Batista – he was even arrested and sentenced to 15 years in jail!
- Castro was released in 1955 after serving only two years and fled to Mexico to put together a new group of rebel fighters.
- By 1959, Castro and his men drove Batista and his supporters out of Havana and took over the government.



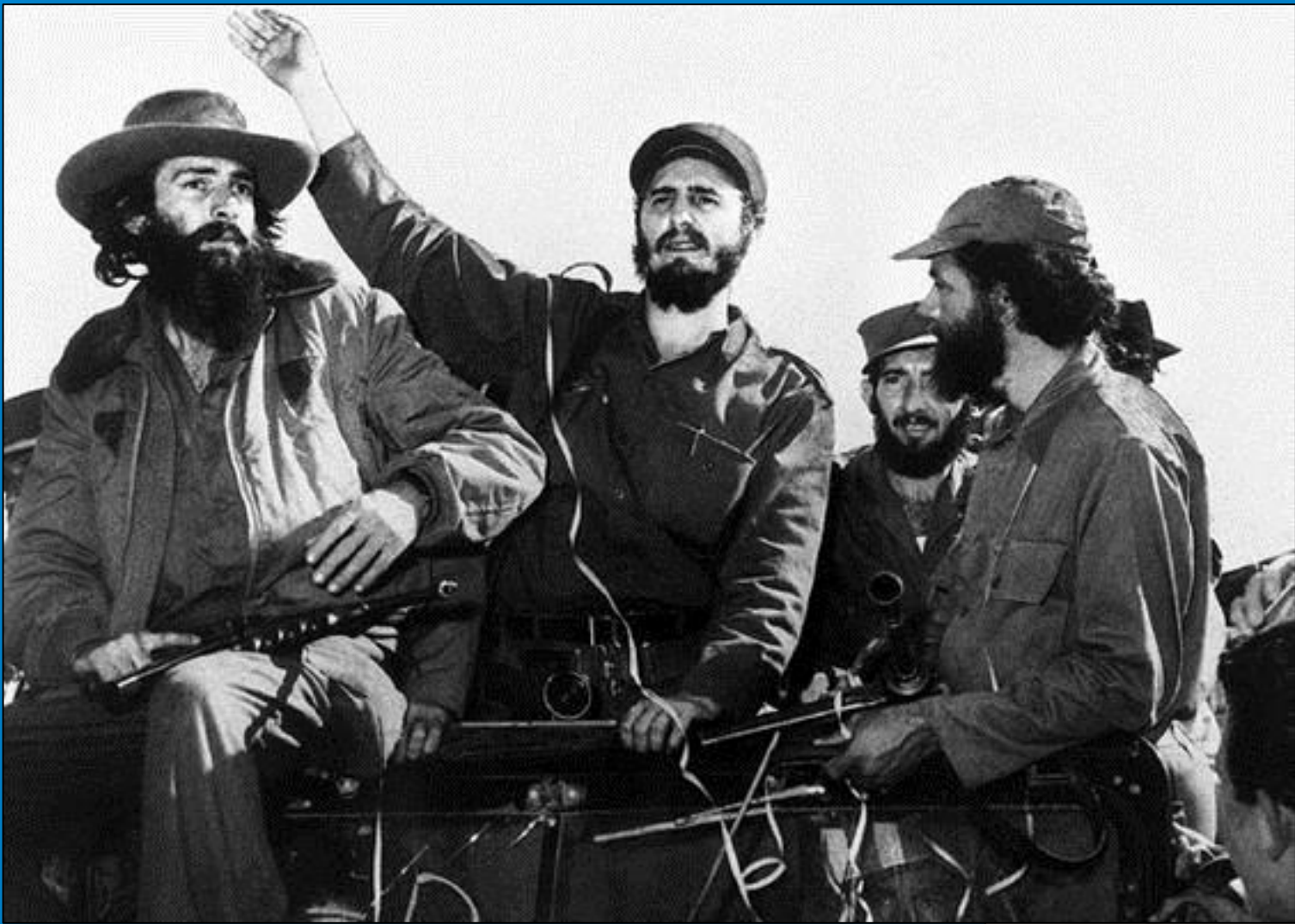
Fidel Castro



Castro Released from Prison

Cuban Revolution

- In 1959, Castro defeated the Batista government.
- Castro seized absolute power and made himself dictator of Cuba.
 - He then had 700 of his enemies executed and many more were thrown in prison.
- The US originally backed Castro because he promised to make Cuba a democracy...
 - US even sent him supplies to help defeat Batista.



Castro's Promises

- Castro promised to:
 - end American dominance over Cuban businesses,
 - re-distribute the wealth evenly to all Cubans,
 - make every Cuban literate,
 - and he wanted to give all Cubans healthcare and higher life expectancy.



The Real Changes

- Castro failed to do many of the things he promised he would do.
- Castro began organizing a Communist government right away:
 - He declared that all property belonging to Americans now belonged to the Cuban government.
 - All farms, factories, & businesses now belonged to the government.
 - Cubans no longer had the right to protest against the government.
 - Cuban newspapers, radio, & TV were shut down.
 - The government became the only source for news.
 - Churches were closed and property was taken over by government.
- Castro's government gave less freedom to Cuba's citizens.

Impact on US

- It was the ultimate goal of Fidel Castro to break ties between Cuba and the United States.
- After the revolution, relations between the American government and Cuban government got worse and worse.
- US didn't like having a communist country so close.
 - US didn't like Cuba having ties with the Soviet Union because they were involved in the Cold War.
- Americans who owned land and businesses in Cuba lost their property.
- Castro forced American civilians to leave Cuba.

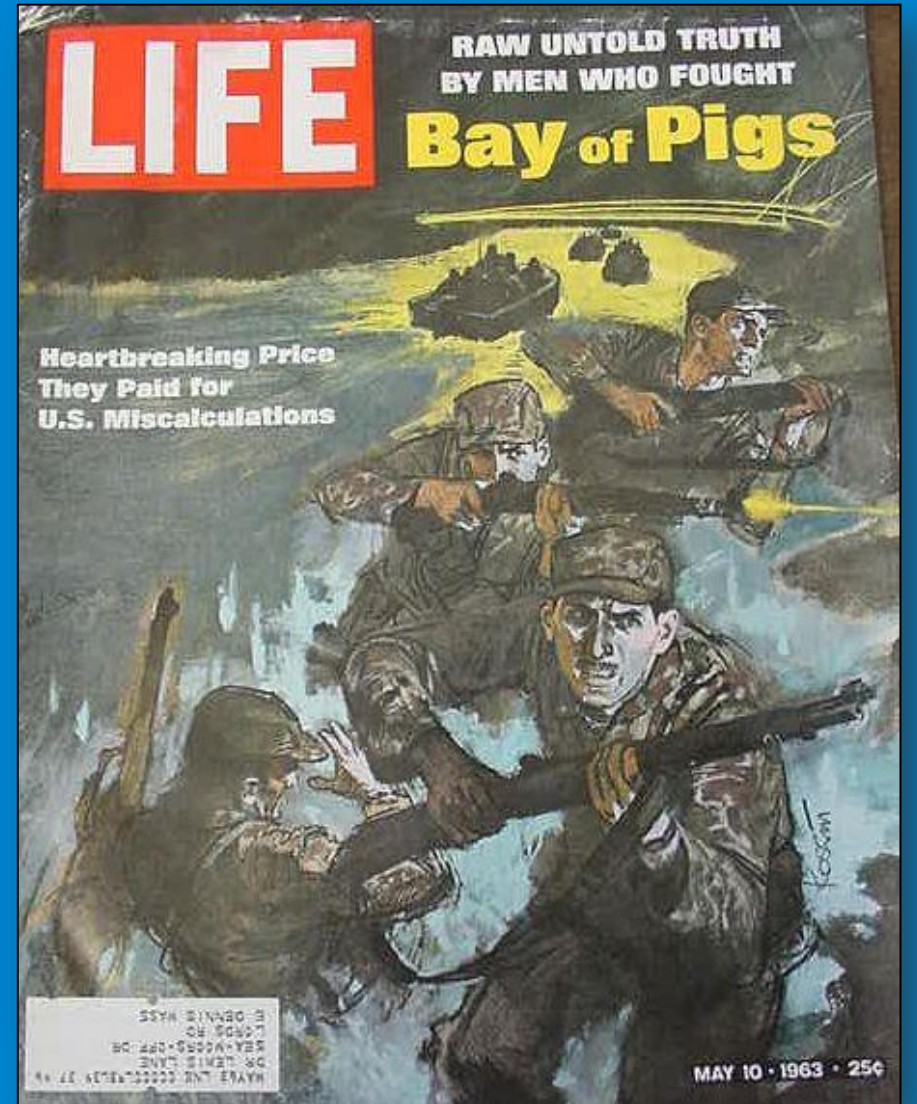
Bay of Pigs

- This was a plan to arm Cuban exiles living in Florida and send them to Cuba.
 - Once the exiles arrived in Cuba, unhappy Cubans would join them at the Bay of Pigs and they would overthrow Castro.
- The invasion was a disaster because Castro's forces intercepted the plan and captured the invaders.
 - No rebellion against Castro occurred, but this sparked a deep hatred for the United States.





Captured During Invasion



Cuban Missile Crisis

- In October of 1962, US planes spotted secret Soviet missile bases in Cuba.
 - President Kennedy announced to US citizens that the Soviets had placed long-range missiles in Cuba.
 - This was an extremely **TENSE** time (height of the Cold War) that could have led to **WWIII**.
- **Resolution:**
 - President Kennedy agreed not to invade Cuba and to remove US missiles from Turkey; in return, Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba.



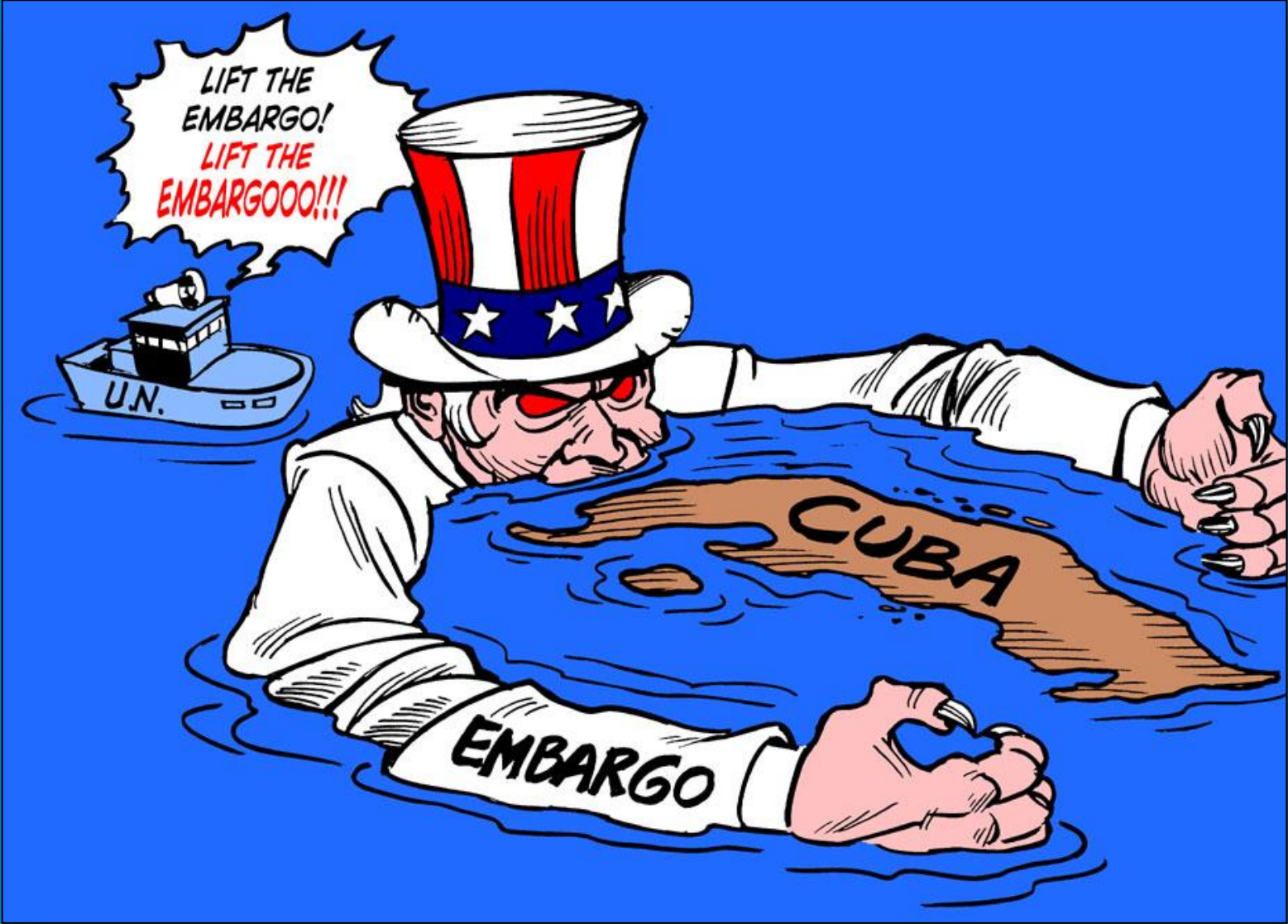
Missiles' Range

US-Cuba Embargo

- Due to the harsh events, US placed an embargo on goods from Cuba in 1962.
 - Cuba's sugar cane crop could no longer be sold in the US, which hurt Cuba's economy.
 - The embargo is still in place today.
- As a result of the embargo, poor harvests, and bad government planning, Cuba's economy has become very poor.

**October 23, 1962: President
Kennedy signs the bill to
place a trade embargo on
Cuba.**





LIFT THE
EMBARGO!
LIFT THE
EMBARGOOO!!!

U.N.

CUBA

EMBARGO

SWICK

US & Cuba Today

- Relations have not improved much over the past 50+ years.
 - There is still an embargo on goods to/from Cuba.
- In the early 1980s and 1990s, there were periods in which large numbers of Cubans escaped their island for America.
 - Thousands of Cubans left because Castro would not allow free elections, freedom of speech, freedom of press, etc.

Cuban Refugees



Castro Today

- After a decline in health, Fidel Castro gave up the Cuban presidency on February 19, 2008.
 - His brother, Raul Castro, is now the Cuban dictator.
- Most Cubans despise the Castro regime, but are too afraid to oppose the government.

Raul & Fidel Castro



