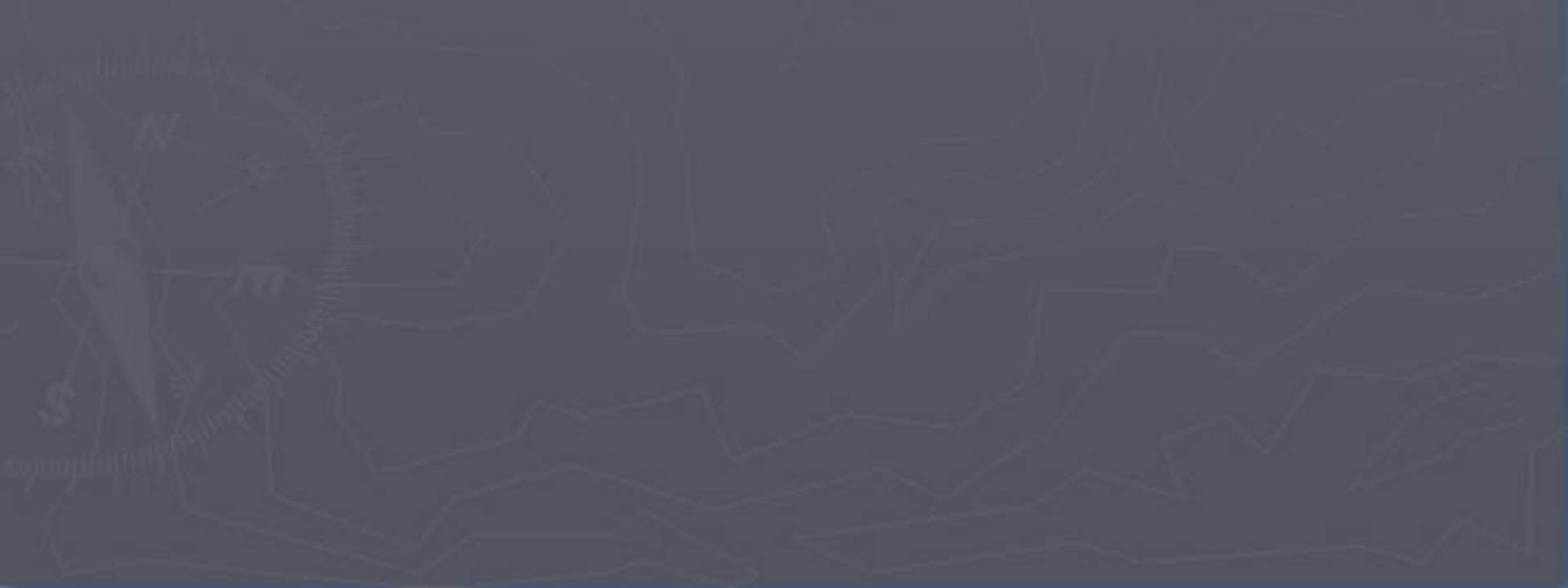


Geo-Political Issues in Central America



Monroe Doctrine at Work

- In 19th Century the United States Told Europe to stay out of American affairs in return the United States would stay out of European affairs



Involvement in the Cold War

- Unstable governments and proximity to United States made Central America a hot spot for the Cold War
 - CIA vs. KGB battles
 - Training of agents and fighters
 - Ex. Contras of Nicaragua



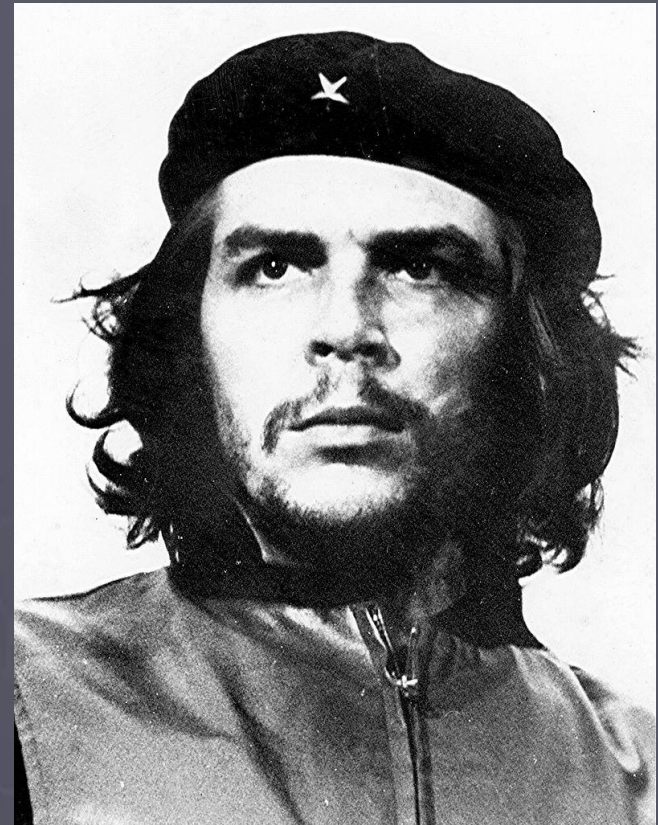
Fidel Castro

- Led overthrow of military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959
- Nationalized US owned industries in 1960 and limited private ownership
 - Led to US ending diplomatic relations
 - Many Cubans flee to United States



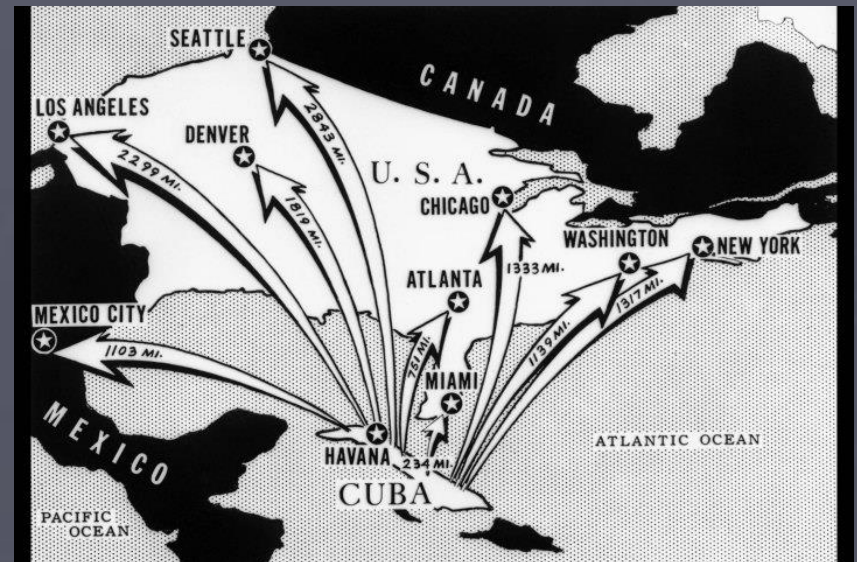
Che Guevara

- Revolutionary leader from Argentina responsible for many socialist revolutions across Americas
 - 1953 Guatemala
 - Stopped by CIA
 - Cuba 1959
 - Successful
 - Bolivia 1966
 - Executed 1967



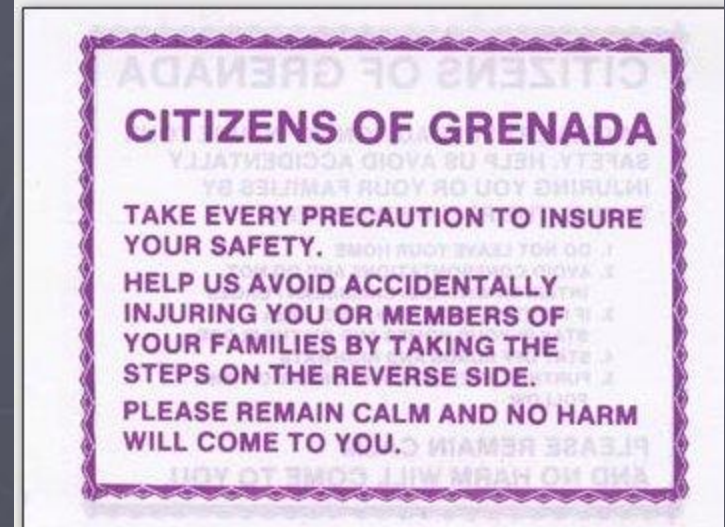
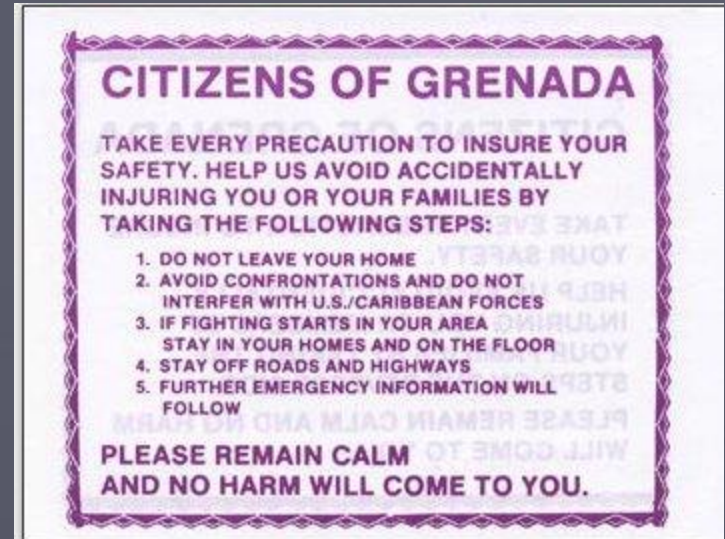
Cuba and the Cold War

- Bay of Pigs Invasion
 - April, 1961
 - CIA trained fighters trying to overthrow Castro regime
- Cuban Missile Crisis
 - October 1962
 - Russian Long range missiles found in Cuba



Grenada

- Granada had been developing close ties with Cuba since independence in 1974
- Marxist coup in 1983
 - US Soldiers moved in to protect American Nationals
 - Used tourist maps since no other good maps existed
- Government deposed and free elections established



Banana Republic

- Term used to describe countries under the control of foreign companies
 - Often companies exploiting a country's natural resources
 - Ex. United Fruit Company in Honduras
 - Take advantage of vulnerable governments



Commercial “Development”

- Countries hoping for foreign investment invited companies in with tax breaks
 - Countries hope companies will also build infrastructure
- Companies gain political power with control of economy
 - Influence legislation
 - Muscle out local competition
 - Profits go to company headquarters

La United Fruit Co. by Pablo Neruda

. . . The Fruit Company, Inc.

Reserved for itself the most succulent,
The central coast of my own land,
The delicate waist of the Americas.

- It rechristened its territories
As the "Banana Republics",
And over the sleeping dead,
Over the restless heroes
Who brought about the greatness,
The liberty and the flags,

It established a comic opera. .

The School of the Americas

- Established in United States to train Latin American fighters
 - Used to train anti-communist and anti-narcotic fighters
 - Roughly 64,000 fighters
- Renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in 2001

“The School of the Americas was biggest base for destabilization in Latin America.”

- Panamanian President Jorge Illueca

Manuel Noriega

- Graduate of School of the Americas
- 1983 Noriega creates a military dictatorship in Panama
- United States intervenes
 - 1989 attempts to get a military coup
 - 1990 United States invades Panama
 - Arrests Noriega on drug trafficking charges



The Drug Trade

- Cartels in Latin America grow and illegally smuggle illicit drugs into United States
 - Mexico and Colombia especially
 - Cartels build private armies to fight governments
 - Ex. Zetas in Mexico and FARC in Colombia

