



# WORLD HISTORY PLAY: ¡Viva la Revolución! (pp. 8-11)

► **NCSS STANDARD**  
Power, authority, & governance

*Fifty years ago, Fidel Castro staged the most successful revolution in modern times in the Western Hemisphere. Despite decades of opposition by the U.S. and groups of Cuban exiles, he has survived 10 American Presidents. Now that Castro has ceded power to his brother, we might soon witness the end of an era.*

## ■ Background

- It is impossible to know just how many people have left Cuba for the U.S. since 1959. The 2000 census listed more than 800,000 official Cuban immigrants. The actual number is probably much higher. Many people have died in the attempt to cross the Straits of Florida. The list of émigrés has included prominent musicians, artists, and athletes. The family of singer Gloria Estefan, who was born in 1957, was among those to flee in the first days of the Cuban Revolution. Her father fought at the Bay of Pigs, was taken prisoner by Cuba, then was released with other soldiers under a deal struck by the Kennedy administration.
- U.S.-Cuba relations have long been poisoned by suspicion on both sides, and citizens of each country have not been allowed to travel freely to the other. But as a presidential candidate, Barack Obama called for easing restrictions on travel, and allowing Americans to send money to relatives in Cuba. As *JS* went to press, news accounts reported that this was about to be announced. A complete lifting of the U.S. embargo on Cuba would need approval by Congress.

## ■ Vocabulary

- **embargo** (*n*): an official order prohibiting commerce.
- **ominous** (*adj*): menacing or threatening.

## ■ Content-Area Questions

### CULTURE/SOCIAL STUDIES

1. What complaints did the Castro brothers have against the U.S.? (The U.S. backed the dictator Batista; American companies owned the best farmland; Americans partied in casinos, while ordinary Cubans stayed poor.)
2. What objections did Cuba’s affluent, personified by Bernardo and other characters in Scene 4, have to Castro and the revolution? (Castro

was turning into a dictator and embracing Communism; the revolution was taking property and robbing them of “everything we worked for.”)

### GEOGRAPHY

Where did Castro’s rebels hide? (the Sierra Maestra mountains)

### LANGUAGE ARTS

What saying about revolutionaries does the rebel Camilo Cienfuegos quote? What do you think it means? (“The people are the sea, and the revolutionaries are the fish who swim in it.” Answers will vary but should include the idea that no revolution can succeed without the support of the common people.)

## ■ The Big Debate

What does Castro mean when he says, “History will absolve me”? Do you think he was right? How much time has to go by before “history” makes a final judgment? Give reasons to support your answers.

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## Teen Scene: Growing Up Adopted (pp. 6-7)

► **NCSS STANDARD**  
Individual development & identity

*Adopting a child often brings great joy to a family. But it is not without its unique complications, particularly when the child is from overseas. This article introduces readers to two American girls who were adopted from China, and the richness of their cultural mix.*

### ■ **Backstory**

China is the world's most-populous country (1.3 billion). Because of its strict birth-control regulations, as many as 1 million children, mostly girls, are abandoned every year. The Chinese culture places a premium on sons, so families are more likely to give up daughters. Today, thousands of these girls are growing

up in American families. China was the top country of origin for international adoptions to the U.S. until recently, when China implemented stricter foreign-adoption laws.

### ■ **A Word of Caution**

Some of your students may be adoptees. Whether domestically or foreign born, some may be more sensitive about their adoptive status than others.

### ■ **Review and Reflect**

- Which elements of Juliette's bat mitzvah reflect her Chinese heritage? (held in a Chinese restaurant, reading a poem in Mandarin Chinese and English)

- Deborah Johnson says that children adopted into a different culture often think they left some invaluable things behind. What, for instance? (Answers will vary. May include religious or cultural traditions, knowledge of history, extended family.)

### **WEB LINKS**

- Equality for Adopted Children: [equalityforadoptedchildren.org](http://equalityforadoptedchildren.org)
- "Fewer Foreign Children Adopted": [usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-10-foreign-adoptions\\_N.htm](http://usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-10-foreign-adoptions_N.htm)
- Total Adoptions to the United States [charts & graphs]: [adoption.state.gov/news/total\\_chart.html](http://adoption.state.gov/news/total_chart.html)



## News Special: Lives at Risk (p. 3)

► **NCSS STANDARD** Civic ideals & practices

*If you or your students want to contribute to or take part in efforts to help the people of Darfur, be sure to choose a reputable agency. Nicholas Kristof, the noted New York Times journalist who has reported from and about Darfur, recently recommended the following advocacy groups:*

- Save Darfur Coalition: [savedarfur.org](http://savedarfur.org)
- Human Rights Watch: [hrw.org](http://hrw.org)
- Human Rights First: [humanrightsfirst.org](http://humanrightsfirst.org)
- Genocide Intervention Network: [genocideintervention.net](http://genocideintervention.net)
- Enough Project: [enoughproject.org](http://enoughproject.org)

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