How significant was the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 to the relations between Cuba and America?

Abidur Rahman
Jus/Indiv/Struggle: AFR-123-FY 05, Dr. Teresa A. Booker

Introduction

This investigation evaluates how the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion affected the relationship between Cuba and America. It will explore the social and economic policies passed by both governments. By examining the relationships between these two countries, the social injustice done domestically and foreign is exposed.

Fidel Castro rose to power in Cuba on January 1st 1959

- Kangaroo courts initiated mass executions of Batistianos. Thus many Cubans sought political asylum in the United States of America. Others fled due to a loss of property and investments when the Cuban regime took control.
- Agrarian reform laws were passed that broke up American land and redistributed it to peasants.

In 1961, Kennedy approved the Bay of Pigs invasion

The CIA used archaic World War II bombers for the invasion; thus, the bombers missed many of their targets and left the Cuban air force unharmed. As news broke out about American involvement in the invasion, President Kennedy cancelled a second air strike. Due to a lack of air support and bad weather disrupting communication equipment, the Brigade 2506 soon fell. There were almost 100 casualties for Brigade 2506 and 1,200 had surrendered.

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion affected America significantly economically and socially

- Castro released the prisoners in exchange for $53 million worth of baby food and medicine. The failed invasion led to a reassessment of Cuban policy by the Kennedy administration and further presidencies.
- The Kennedy administration initiated Operation Mongoose. It was a plan to damage and threaten the Cuban government and economy. Years later, relations between Castro and the United States of America would remain tense.

Conclusion

In determining the significance of the Bay of Pigs invasion to the relationship between America and Cuba, it is apparent that the relations became more hostile. Castro committed social injustice against Cubans who supported America. The American government committed foreign injustice against Cuba in an attempt to forcibly put down a rising communist government. In addition to the invasion strengthening Castro’s rule, it served as motivation for Cuban Imperialism, which threatened American security. These factors escalated the conflict to the brink of nuclear warfare.

Citations