

US and Cuban Relations

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then, fill in the blanks with the correct letter below.

The United States and Cuba share a long, complex history—first as allies and trade partners, and later as bitter ideological enemies.

For four centuries after the arrival of Christopher Columbus, Spain ruled Cuba as its main colony in the Caribbean, but the U.S. long coveted the island just off its southern coast. America provided major markets for Cuba's sugar, tobacco, rice and coffee exports, while the island played a key role in the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans.

After America helped Cuba break free from Spanish rule in 1898, the U.S. government continued to intervene militarily and American businesses continued to invest economically, while U.S. mobsters made the island their money-laundering playground. But after the Cuban revolution installed the Western hemisphere's most stringent socialist regime in 1959 and nationalized U.S.-owned businesses, relations quickly frayed. Even after the Cold War ended, the clash of capitalist and socialist ideologies continued.

Fill in the blanks with the correct letter

- a. 1959
- b. Spanish
- c. Allies
- d. Christopher Columbus
- e. Cold War
- f. Cuban - Revolution

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