

Raúl Castro takes the helm

1931 Raúl Castro Ruz born June 3

1953 Studies social sciences, joins Communist-affiliated **Socialist Youth**

Jul 26, 1953 With older brother **Fidel Castro**, takes part in failed uprising against dictator **Fulgencio Batista** at **Moncada Barracks**. Both brothers taken prisoner, released two years later as part of general amnesty

1955 Raúl goes to Mexico with Fidel to reorganize **26th of July Movement** into disciplined guerrilla force

Dec 2, 1956 Fidel, Raúl and 80 rebels sail to Cuba from Mexico in yacht **Granma**. Rebels routed, survivors take to mountains to wage guerrilla war

1958 Leads column of guerrillas to open second front in northeast



Raúl Castro (left) with "Che" Guevara in June 1958 during Cuban revolution

1959 Defeated Batista flees Cuba. Castro makes triumphant entry into Havana. Raúl appointed First Vice President of **Council of State of Cuba**, and head of Armed Forces – is now world's longest-serving defence minister



Raúl viewed as more hardline but less charismatic than Fidel

1962 Raúl promised missiles during visit to Soviet Union. Move leads to **Cuban Missile Crisis** which brings world to brink of nuclear war

1970s Plays key role in Cuba's military involvement in **Angola** and **Ethiopia**

1990s Involved in efforts to rescue Cuba's economy following collapse of Soviet Union

1997 Fidel officially designates Raúl as his successor

2000 Raúl briefly assumes higher profile during seven-month fight to return Cuban boy **Elían Gonzalez** to his homeland from Florida

2001 Encourages U.S. to make peace with Cuba while Fidel still alive

Jul 31, 2006 Fidel undergoes surgery for intestinal bleeding and temporarily hands power to Raúl