

Raul Castro profile

► **1931: *Raul 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:** Raul goes to Mexico with Fidel to reorganize ***26th of July Movement*** into disciplined guerrilla force

► **Dec 2, 1956:** Fidel, Raul and 80 rebels sail to Cuba from Mexico in yacht ***Granma***. Rebels routed, survivors start waging guerrilla war

► **1958:** Leads column of guerrillas to open second front in northeast



► **1962:** Raul visits Soviet Union, winning promise of missiles – subsequent ***Cuban Missile Crisis*** 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 Raul as his successor

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

► **Jul 31, 2006:** Assumes temporary control after Fidel undergoes emergency surgery

► **Feb 19, 2008:** Fidel Castro announces he will not accept another term as president

► **Feb 24:** National Assembly to elect Raul as Fidel's successor



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

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