Encyclopedia
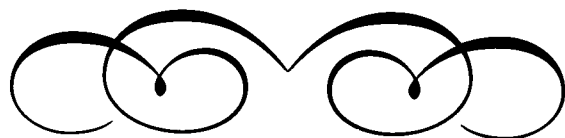## of
NORTH
AMERICAN
HISTORY

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Abolitionist Movement—Black Codes and Slave Codes

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Editor's note: Many systems of dating have been used by different cultures
throughout history. The *Encyclopedia of North American History* uses B.C.E.
(Before Common Era) and C.E. (Common Era) instead of B.C. (Before Christ) and
A.D. (Anno Domini, "In the Year of Our Lord") out of respect for the diversity of the
world's peoples.

Bay of Pigs Invasion

Cuban soldiers pose with corpses left behind after the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion force.

Three months before the invasion, the newly elected president, John F. Kennedy, rejected the Trinidad plan as "too spectacular." He changed the landing site to the isolated swampy beaches of the Bay of Pigs, and reduced the initial air strike from sixteen to six planes. The invasion force, trained by the CIA in Guatemala, departed on five freighters from Nicaragua on April 15, 1961. Five U.S. destroyers, the carrier *Essex*, and 1,500 Marines escorted them to Cuba. That day, Brigade 2506 sorties destroyed half the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force. Castro immediately detained over 200,000 political opponents. At zero hour, Kennedy canceled the remaining sorties, the critical air cover, and all supply efforts. He did so after a flurry of protest at the United Nations. He later told Brigade leaders that a Russian threat to Berlin influenced his decision.

The Brigade fought until they ran out of ammunition. Castro's air supremacy led to victory after sixty-seven hours of combat. He lost 7 tanks and had 1,800 casualties. The Brigade lost 114 men; 1,189 were captured. In December 1962, after Kennedy promised never again to invade Cuba, the prisoners returned to the U.S. in return for $53 million in food and medicine.

Antonio Rafael de la Cova

By the summer of 1960, the Cuban Revolution of Fidel Castro had taken a totalitarian, pro-Soviet, and anti-American path. The Dwight D. Eisenhower administration responded with a covert $45 million plan, drawn by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was similar to the one used in 1954 to overthrow the leftist government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán in Guatemala. An invading force of 1,453 Cuban exiles, the Brigade 2506, would capture the town of Trinidad. Three Brigade air raids would destroy Castro's air force on the ground. Thousands of clandestinely organized dissidents would stage an uprising coinciding with the landing. After seventy-two hours, the leadership of the exiled Cuban Revolutionary Council would be flown to Trinidad to declare a provisional government and, if necessary, request U.S. armed intervention.

After seizing power in Cuba in 1959, rebel leader Fidel Castro reneged on his promises of democratic elections, imprisoned or executed political opponents, made the island a Soviet satellite, fomented revolution in various Caribbean nations, and expropriated $1.8 billion in American property on the island. Thousands of exiles began fleeing to the United States.

The Bay of Pigs was the first major U.S. foreign-policy defeat of the Cold War. After the invasion, Castro established Soviet military bases in Cuba, violating the Monroe Doctrine. The Soviet military presence prompted the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.