



AN ONLINE DATABASE OF INFORMATION

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**EMIGRATION.** Apart from the loss of much of its early population to the conquests of Mexico, the Spanish Main and Florida, and the departure of occasional wealthy Cubans pursuing business opportunities in the United States, Cuba's first population exodus was the movement of cigar workers to Tampa, Ocala, Jacksonville and Key West in the 1850s. The first large-scale emigration occurred during the Ten Years's War: refuge was sought in a number of other Caribbean and circum-Caribbean lands, in the United States (particularly New York, Boston and Philadelphia) and Europe. By the war's end there were 100,000 Cubans abroad. Some 10,000 of these émigrés were in Florida, over a thousand of them in Key West. Emigration continued in small scale until Cuba became independent, only to revive in the political turbulence of the 1910s and 1920s. In the 1930s those who had fled Machado returned, only to be replaced by those who had too strongly supported him. By 1940 central Miami had a Cuban colony of 1,100, strengthened in the 1950s by those fleeing persecution by Batista, and by businessmen distrustful of the stability of his regime. Fidel Castro's rise to power produced a new cycle. What began as a trickle soon after the Revolution of 1959, became a veritable flood of migrants through the following years until 1962, three quarters of them going to the United States, especially southern Florida. Restrictions were then placed on emigration, briefly lifted to permit the massive airlift negotiated between the Cuban and United States government for 1965. By 1971 post-revolutionary migration to the U.S. alone had amounted to 7% of the 1960 population. Another U.S.-Cuban agreement resulted in the so-called Mariel exodus of 1980. In 1994 the U.S. agreed to accept 20,000 Cubans per year in exchange for Castro restraining any illegal migration out of the island. By 1996 over, 1.5 million Cubans had left the island.

See also: BALSEROS; CUBAN AMERICANS; TRECE DE MARZO.