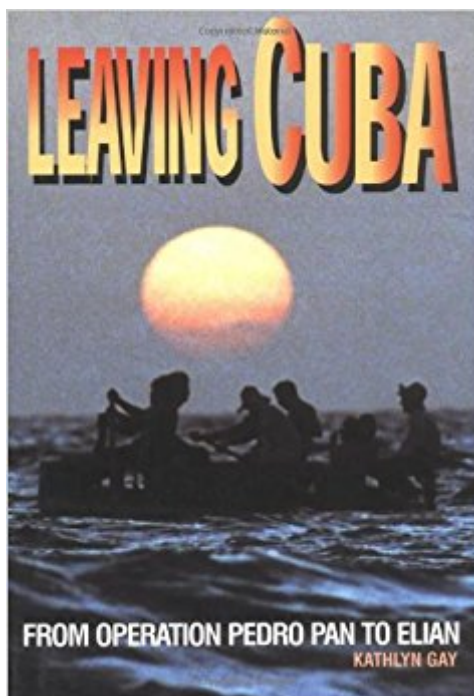


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Leaving Cuba - From Operation Pedro Pan To Elian



Synopsis

Book by Gay, Kathlyn

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-In this well-researched book, Gay cites the efforts of centuries of freedom-loving Cubans to rid their country of foreign rule and oppression. The hoped-for changes that might have occurred as Fidel Castro and his guerillas took over the government in the late 1950s were never achieved and citizens began to seek respite from totalitarianism, especially for their children, according to the author. Large numbers of children were relocated with families in the United States in an airlift program that was dubbed "Operation Pedro Pan." Gay uses biographical sketches to put a human face on the agonies of family separation as well as the readjustment to life in a new country and culture. The book concludes with an unbiased reporting of the Elian Gonzalez case. This is a compellingly written treatment of Cuban refugees, especially as it relates to children. A time line of Cuban-American relations from 1959 to 2000 is appended. The graphic layout of the book is especially pleasing and black-and-white photographs are appropriately captioned and well placed. This title will be of particular interest in schools and libraries with significant Cuban populations and is a useful resource for anyone doing research on Cuban-American relations.-Sylvia V. Meisner, Allen Middle School, Greensboro, NC Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 6-12. Since Castro became dictator of Cuba, Cubans have found myriad ways to escape oppression. Some of those efforts, such as Operation Pedro Pan, have included U.S. intervention.

Some have been brave escapes by refugees seeking an end to unbearable hardship. Through the terms of seven U.S. presidents, relations with Cuba have remained volatile--and always newsworthy. With that in mind, Gay offers an informative look at the struggles in Cuba and attempts by the U.S. to create harmony with the small, politically powerful nation. Descriptions of interventions, heroic escapes, and terrifying struggles, including the torture of political prisoners, make enthralling reading. The inclusion of Elian Gonzalez's situation makes the book all the more timely and interesting. An extensive time line vividly illustrates what a ripe history Cuba has had in the past 40 years. Roger Leslie Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

It should be called Operation Pan Pedro Leaving Cuba describes the conditions leading up to and after Castro takes over Cuba from the perspective of those who left Cuba to come to the United States. It is a fascinating read. I went to a private, boarding high school in the Southeast with five Cuban refugees. The two that I know about now are 1) The Rector of St. Johns' Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., The church of the President, and 2) A Superior Court judge in New Jersey. I'd say that if these two are any indication Cuba's loss was our gain. The book is an interesting read. Just imagine if you had been bundled up and shipped off to a foreign land where you didn't understand the language at age 10, how would you react? Recommended for anyone interested in Cuban/American relations. Gunner March, 2007

Very interesting book. Especially topical right now. My brother's wife came to the US via Pedro Pan, so I was quite interested in the story.

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