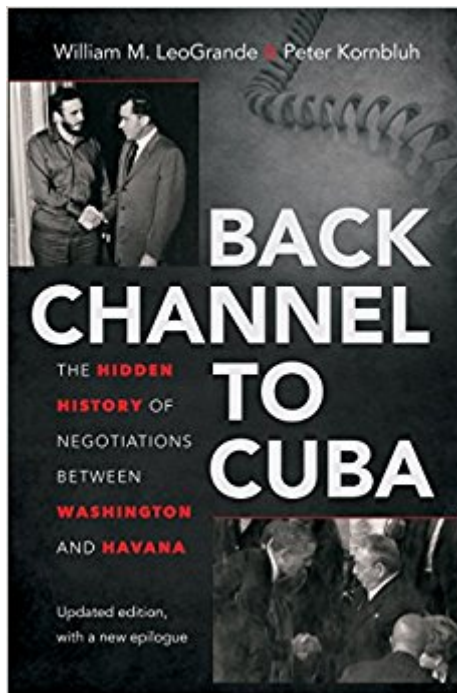




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Back Channel To Cuba: The Hidden History Of Negotiations Between Washington And Havana



Synopsis

History is being made in U.S.-Cuban relations. Now in paperback and updated to tell the real story behind the stunning December 17, 2014, announcement by President Obama and President Castro of their move to restore full diplomatic relations, this powerful book is essential to understanding ongoing efforts toward normalization in a new era of engagement. Challenging the conventional wisdom of perpetual conflict and aggression between the United States and Cuba since 1959, *Back Channel to Cuba* chronicles a surprising, untold history of bilateral efforts toward rapprochement and reconciliation. William M. LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh here present a remarkably new and relevant account, describing how, despite the intense political clamor surrounding efforts to improve relations with Havana, negotiations have been conducted by every presidential administration since Eisenhower's through secret, back-channel diplomacy. From John F. Kennedy's offering of an olive branch to Fidel Castro after the missile crisis, to Henry Kissinger's top secret quest for normalization, to Barack Obama's promise of a new approach, LeoGrande and Kornbluh uncovered hundreds of formerly secret U.S. documents and conducted interviews with dozens of negotiators, intermediaries, and policy makers, including Fidel Castro and Jimmy Carter. They reveal a fifty-year record of dialogue and negotiations, both open and furtive, that provides the historical foundation for the dramatic breakthrough in U.S.-Cuba ties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An exceedingly well-written and well-documented account. . . . Essential for libraries that support research into the political and diplomatic history of America foreign relations with Cuba in the latter half of the 20th century.--Library Journal, starred review
A rich and timely review of the background to the normalization recently achieved.--Studies in Intelligence
LeoGrande and Kornbluh's exhaustive and masterful diplomatic history will stand as the most authoritative account of U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations during the five decades of Cuban President Fidel Castro's rule.--Foreign Affairs
Challenging the prevailing narrative of U.S.-Cuba relations, this book investigates the history of the secret, and often surprising, dialogue between Washington and Havana. . . . Suggest[s] that the past holds lessons for future negotiators.--The New Yorker
A tour de force, Back Channel to Cuba never simplifies the complexity of the post-Revolution relationship between the United States and Cuba. The authors' virtuosity and enthusiastic vigor is reminiscent of John Le Carre as a political moralist while adhering to exacting scholarly standards.--The American Conservative
Told in clear prose, this richly detailed book underscores how diplomacy makes headlines, but many exchanges happen far from official negotiation tables.--Publishers Weekly, starred review
Masterful. . . . A multifaceted contribution to our understanding of why the U.S.-Cuban relationship remained hostile for so long.--Political Science Quarterly

With continual change in Washington, and continuity in Cuban leadership, the authors draw important lessons from the efforts of every administration since Eisenhower to negotiate with Cuba.--President Jimmy Carter

Before I went to Cuba, I read everything I could get my hands on for months. This is by far the most important book I read! These two authors are respected scholars and experts, and everything is documented and the documents are in the back of the book (Freedom of Information Act!) Every American should know the true history of our government's (under every US president of both parties) actions regarding Cuba all the way back to Teddy Roosevelt. "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness of the Citizen," quotation engraved in over the north entrance of our state capitol building. Construction began in 1922 and was completed, fully paid for, in 1932, in the height of the world's worst depression. American democracy depends upon informed, alert, involved citizens. This book serves our democratic system well.

Wonderful book, really interesting. I highly recommend to someone interest in the relation between US and Cuba. I know one of the authors and he did an excellent job

I traveled to Cuba last spring and this was a volume recommended by the professors in the seminar. It is not light reading - very scholarly - and I can only read a few pages at a time. Apparently well researched.

A somewhat heavy read but gave a vast insight to the revolution. Egos played and continue to play a huge role in the relationship. Worthwhile.

Interesting and compelling story contrary to what one expects given the popular theme in the commercial media.

Excellent investigation and a pleasure to read

great information

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