

La Revolucion Across Generations

As a travel photographer, I have spent many years in all parts of Cuba and have gotten to know many Cubans well. My selection of these five images represents my sampling of Cubans across generations who have experienced La Revolucion. Given their ages, all of them have lived their lives during one or more phases of this epic experiment in what may be called communism or socialism depending on your leanings and the times.

In 1959, La Revolucion under the leadership of Fidel Castro established its control in Cuba and led to a decades long set of societal, political and economic changes impacting all segments of Cuban society. The evolution of those changes has passed through generations of Cubans who have experienced and viewed them in different ways.

Differences in generational viewpoints are not unique to Cuba by any means. However, the Cuban experience does have some uniqueness. As it slowly evolved, La Revolucion has enforced strictly its ideology, politics and social norms while the personal economics of Cubans have remained a challenge for them despite many low-cost or cost-free governmental policies.

As a result, most Cubans have learned to value highly their multigenerational families, peer groups and neighbors. Their friendliness and openness to others flow naturally, and their resourcefulness is amazingly well honed. Most of all, they seem to find something to feel good about even if they are struggling.