

FIFTH HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: *The Consolidation of Castro's Revolution*

Due electronically by 12:00, in Class #18.

- 1) Although Fidel Castro had not been a member of the Cuban Communist Party before 1959, he chose to affiliate his successful revolutionary movement with the Soviet Union in the early 1960s. Why did he do so? Were his motives primarily ideological, or driven by a pragmatic assessment of Cuba's geopolitical situation?
- 2) Did Cuba under Castro effectively substitute one overwhelmingly interventionist foreign power (the USSR), for another (the US)? Or did Cuba gain more autonomy in its domestic affairs and international relations after 1959 than it had enjoyed as a US satellite from 1898 to 1959?
- 3) Many states in the twentieth century on the left and the right were labeled "totalitarian dictatorships" by political observers, by which they mean that one individual ruled the nation without effective checks on his power, and that the rights of individuals are sacrificed to the survival and strengthening of the state. After reading the excerpts from Castro's 1962 speech and 1965-66 interview with Lee Lockwood, would you argue that Castro in the 1960s was a totalitarian dictator?