Authoritarian States – Castro's Cuba – Maintenance of power

topic 2

Consolidation and maintenance of power	• Use of legal methods; use of force; charismatic leadership; dissemination of propaganda • Nature, extent and treatment of opposition • The impact of the success and/or failure of foreign policy on the maintenance of power

Legal methods

- Fundamental law drafted
- Freedom of Press restricted
- Control of university

Use of force

- Show trials, executions
- Property of elites seized
- Control of labor unions
- One-Party State → Cuban Communist Party 1965 → nationalisation of foreign businesses & banks → pulled American support out → pushed Cuba towards USSR
  (1961 merge of guerilla army with communist party)
- opponents to communism within 26 J.M. arrested

1961 Bay of Pigs (Kennedy) invasion, failed → no air force, no public support

"unity needed" → consolidation → fully communist nation → "USSR are our friends now" (also buying sugar) → Soviet Missiles → Cuban Missile Crisis → Naval Blockade

propaganda

foreign policy

- political support and some aid to revolutionary movements in Latin America
  - Che Guevara in Bolivia – arrested and killed
  - Allende in Chile
  - Nicaraguan gov
  - Hugo Chavez in Venezuela
  - and Africa (Angola)

charismatic leadership

- ability to speak to the crowds
- Che Guevara
- good relation to the public

assassination attemps

- not successful
- CIA & others

opposition

how
- not united/organized
- little support

reasons
- failed economic policies
- growing authoritarianism
- disillusionment

repression
- no freedom of press
- show trials
- local CDR, Comitees for Defense of Revolution

who
- former landowners and industrialists
- pro-Americans
- writers and artists, academics

emigration
- to US
- 350'000
- "Betrayers, we need more control!"
- at first even supported by the regime
- later not so much, sometimes reversed again (Mariel Boatlift)