

Augustine Villa, Mentor: Dr. Susan Yager

France to Haiti to Spain to Cuba to America: Immigration Across Cultures and History

Background

- Interested in family history and immigration to United States
- Discovered rich history of family immigration through Cuba, Spain, Haiti, and the USA.

Purpose

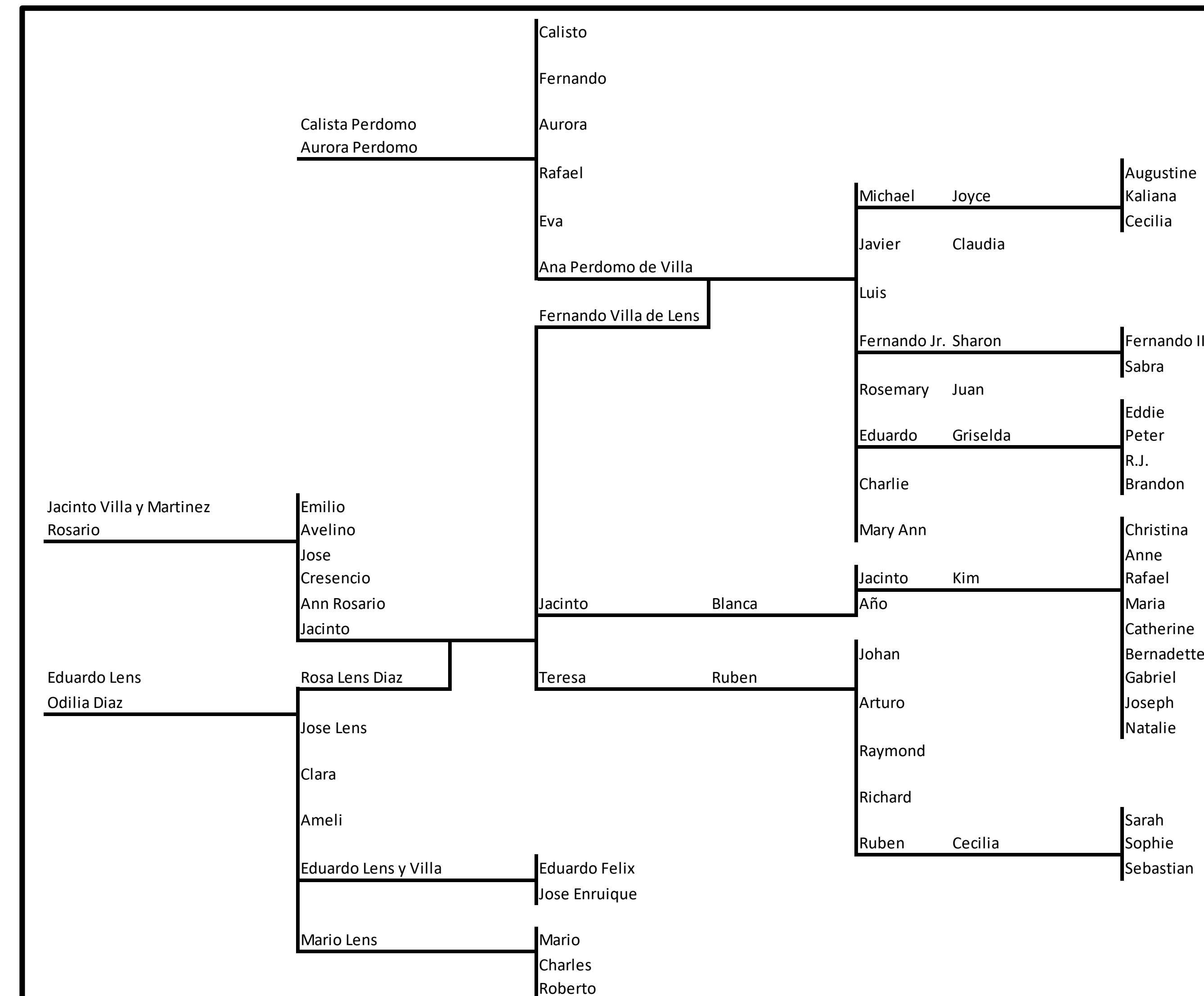
- Exploring Cuban history, culture, and immigration to the USA
- Gaining a deeper understanding of the rippling effects of major world events across generations
- Investigating interactions of ancestors with major world figures and events



“In life you have to work hard and be honest and be sensible to those who don’t have much.” – Fernando Villa

Methodology

- Interviews with Fernando Villa, born in Matanzas Cuba in 1925 & other family members
- Literature research to develop understanding around the circumstances of my family’s history, immigration, and culture
- Construction of a family tree and electronic database to preserve, build, and share the knowledge



“I would like to be remembered as a man who worked very hard for my family and did many free procedures” – Fernando Villa

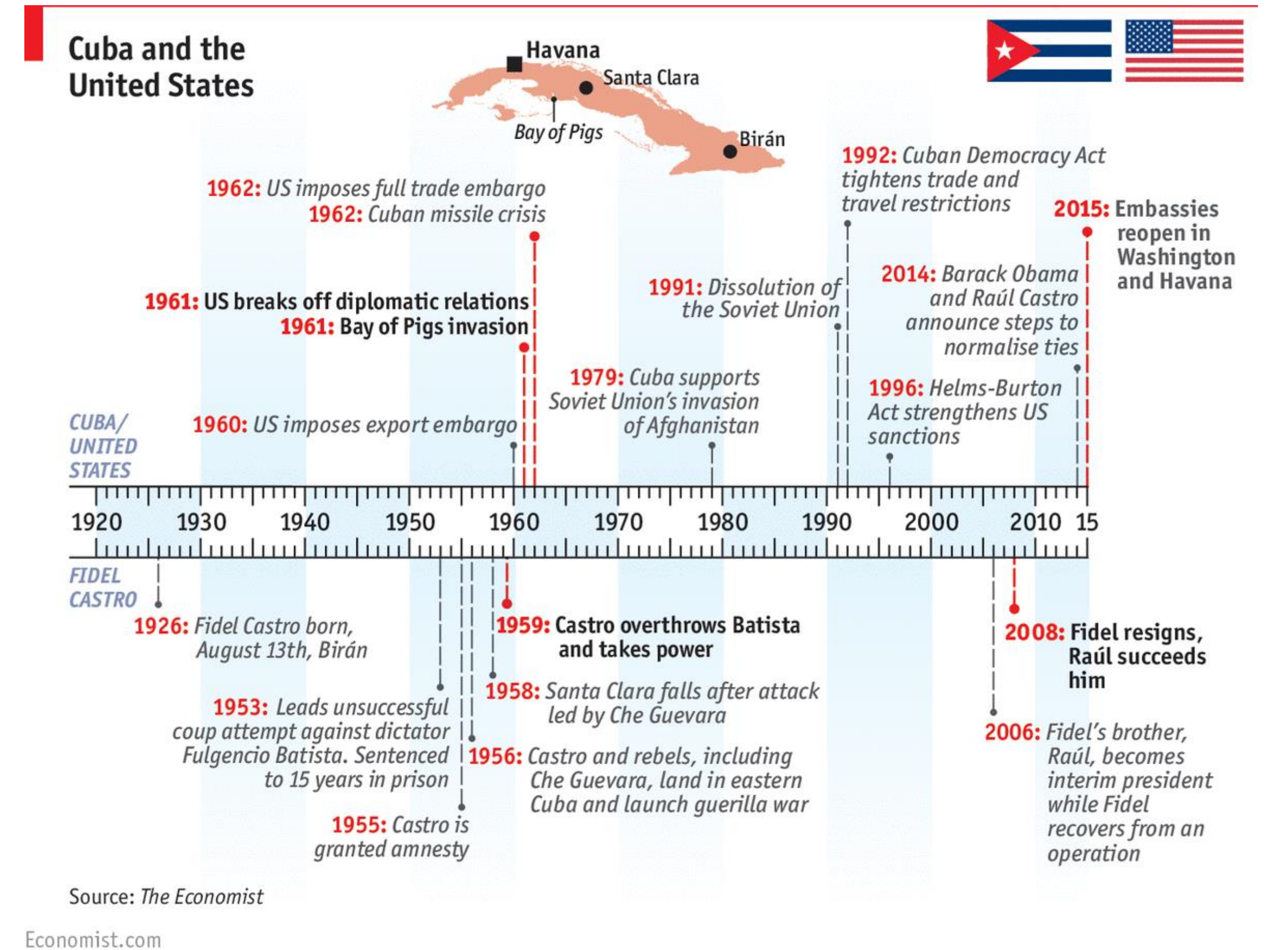


- Duke and Duchess of Lens flee France during Revolution
- Family remains in Haiti until Haitian Revolution, flee to Spain
- Jacinto Villa y Martinez stows away to avoid conscription
- Marries in Cuba and lives in Matanzas
- Jacinto’s son Fernando comes to USA to teach laparoscopy



Regions of Cuba

- Perdomo family in Camagüey
- Owned a plantation employing former slaves
- Lens Diaz family in Matanzas
- Family owned distribution business to grocery stores
- Depression forced movement to Havana in the 1930s



“You should have some religion, be knowledgeable in it, you don’t have to be a priest but take it seriously, it will help you be a better person.” – Fernando Villa

Summary

- Ancestors have participated in major world events & complex circumstances led to their eventual immigration to the USA

Future Directions

- Continued additions to personal and anecdotal database constructed based on family tree.

References

Villa, Fernando. Personal Interviews. February-March 2017.
 Ameringer, Charles. *The Cuban Democratic Experience*. 2000.
 Balfour, Sebastian. *Castro*. 1990