

**José Martí**  
**Cuba's**  
**National**  
**Hero**



# *Early Years*

- José Martí was born on January 28, 1853, in Havana, Cuba.
- His family moved to Valencia, Spain for two years, however returned to Cuba where they enrolled Martí at a local public school.
- Martí was a great writer, poet, and journalist, He was also a painter.
- He attended the Instituto de Havana (1866-69).
- His first political writings were underground periodicals, including *El Diablo Cojuelo* and *La Patria Libre*, written in 1869.



# *Imprisonment*

- In March of that year, colonial authorities shut down the school, interrupting Martí's studies.
- He came to resent Spanish rule of his homeland at a young age.
- In October 1869, in result of an accusation of treason from the Spanish government, he was arrested and held in the national Cuban jail.
- He pleaded guilty of the charges and was sentenced to six years in prison.
- Due to injuries caused by imprisonment, he was exiled to Spain.
- In Spain, he studied law and wrote articles on the wrongs of Spanish rule in Cuba, including "El presidio político en Cuba" in 1871.
- Martí completed his studies, graduated with a bachelor of arts, and obtained his license in civil rights.



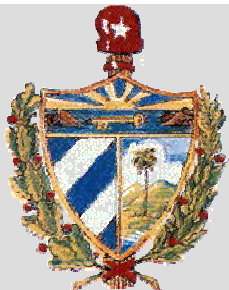


# *Return to Cuba*

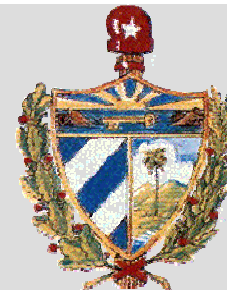
- Martí spent some time in France before secretly returning to Cuba under a false name in 1877.
- Upon his return, he accepted a position in Guatemala City as a professor of history and literature.
- After only a year, Martí returned to Havana where his first son was born.
- However, shortly after, he was arrested again and deported back to Spain, leaving his wife and son in Cuba.

# *Beginnings of Political Involvement*

- In 1880, Martí moved to New York City serving as a joint consul there for Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina.
- He mobilized the Cuban exile community to revolution and independence from Spain.
- He lobbied to oppose U.S. annexation of Cuba, which some American politicians desired.
- In January of 1892 he founded the Cuban Revolutionary Party, with the purpose of gaining independence for Cuba and supporting that of Puerto Rico.
- In 1894, he left with the intent to land in Cuba and fight for revolution, but was stopped in Florida.



# Martí Lands in Cuba



- On March 25, 1895, José Martí published the Manifesto of Montecristi together with Máximo Gómez, proclaiming Cuban independence, an end to all legal distinctions between the races, friendship with Spaniards who did not oppose the independence, and war with all who stood in the way of independence.
- On April 11, 1895, Martí landed in Cuba with a small force of rebel exiles, including the General Máximo Gómez.
- He was the founder of the Cuban Revolutionary Party (1892). H
- He organized "La Guerra Necesaria" to free his motherland from the Spanish colonialism, and facing the imminent expansion of the emerging United States' imperialism.
- His work, *Our America*, was used to summon the peoples to conquer their "second - independence".

# *Martí's Legacy*

- Martí was killed on May 12, 1895, by Spanish troops in the Battle de Dos Ríos, Cuba's war for independence from Spain.
- After regaining his body from the Spanish, he was buried in Cementerio Santa Efigenia in Santiago de Cuba.
- The Spanish-American War ended approximately three years after his death.
- He is recognized as Cuba's National Hero. The people of Cuba refer to him as the Apostle.

José Martí  
International  
Airport in  
Havana, Cuba



Statue of José Martí  
on horseback in  
New York's Central  
Park

A physical map of the Western Hemisphere of Earth, showing the Americas, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. The map uses a color gradient to represent elevation, with green for lowlands and yellow/brown for higher elevations. The title 'Our America' is written in a large, black, serif font across the top of the map.

# *Our America*

## **Martí's Main Points:**

- Encourages the sharing of new ideas.
- Expresses his desire for people in America to be united, and in being united build a sense of strength.
- Resists tyranny and outside ideas – Europeanization.
- Recognizes the power of the North - through metaphors.
- Uses "Our America" to refer to Latin America.

**PHYSICAL EARTH**  
**Western Hemisphere**

# *Sharing New Ideas*

*“Barricades of ideas are worth more than barricades of stones.”*

“There is no prow that can cut through a cloudbank of ideas. A powerful idea, waved before the world at the proper time, can stop a squadron of iron-clad ships like the mystical flag of the Last judgement.” (pg 1)

- The sharing of ideas opens the door to opportunity.
- Learn from each other.
- Ideas – mental strength – can be stronger than physical strength.
- Collaboration strengthens unity. Expression empowers.



# *A United People*

“Nations that do not know one another should quickly become acquainted...Those who shake their fists...should clasp hands of their defeated brother...” (pg 1)

- **The united are the stronger.**
- **If they work together, they can achieve more.**
- **Success comes from working together.**
- **Embrace mestizaje – Create a nation from what it already possesses.**

“He must know the elements that make up his own country, and how to bring them together, using methods and institutions originating within the country...” (pg 2)



“...revolution succeeded because it came from the soul of the nation...” (pg 3)

# Create Your Own Ideas

“In a new nation a government means a creator.” (pg 2)

- Resist tyranny – Fine line between governing and tyranny.

“Knowing is what counts. To know one’s country and govern it with that knowledge is the only way to free it from tyranny.” (pg 3)

- Create our own ideas, ideas costumed to the individual needs of our nation.

“They [youth] realize that there is too much imitation, and that creation holds the key to salvation. ‘Create’ is the password of this generation.” (pg 4)

- Resist outside influence = no imitation.
- Escape Europeanization.

“America began to suffer, and still suffers, from the tiresome task of reconciling the hostile and discordant elements it inherited from the despotic and perverse colonizer, and the imported methods and ideas which have been retarding logical government because they are lacking in local realities.” (pg 3)



# European Influences



Argentine Railroad Station



Paris Railroad Station



Argentine Theater



Argentine Architecture



Paris Architecture



Paris Theater



# Power of the North

“...those giants with seven-league boots who can crush him underfoot...” (pg 1)

- Recognizes the power of the north and the optimism of its future.
- At the same time, recognizes the possible threat the North poses for Latin America.

“...these deserters who take up arms in the army of North America that drowns its Indians in blood and is growing worse!” (pg 1)

“The scorn of our formidable neighbor who does not know us is our America’s greatest danger.” (pg 5)

- Realizes the threat of annexation from the North.

“The trees must form ranks to keep the giant with seven-league boots from passing!” (pg 1)

- Uses his perspective of the North to create another of his works, *Coney Island*.

# *“Our America” = Latin America*

“We can no longer be a people of leaves, living in the air.. It is the time of mobilization, of marching together, and we must go forward in close ranks, like silver in the veins of the Andes.” (pg 1)

- What does Martí mean by “Our America”?
  - The “our” possessed all of the following points that Martí mentioned: “our” ideas, “our” unity, “our” own ideas/rules/means of governing the nation.
- The title of the text emphasizes all of Martí’s “goals.” The possession the “our” aims towards his aspirations – for Latin America to become a nation of its own, a way of life based on their own ideas, working together as one, free of outside influences, created from nothing but what it already possesses.

“Nations should live in an atmosphere of self-criticism because it is healthy, but always with one heart and one mind.” (pg 5)



# *Coney Island*

## **Martí's Main Points:**

- The importance of North America and its possible danger.
- Immigration – the mass of diverse people
- Beginning of commercialism – vestige of two centuries: cities, built on the backs of immigrants, C.I. run by immigrants.

# *North America*

“Now more than ever, it is true never a happier, merrier, more well-equipped, more jovial, and frenetic crowd has lived around such a useful labor in any other region of the land...” (pg 318)

- Recognizes the power of the North – progress and advances.

“But the attraction of the island...it is Cable...two times higher than the tower of our cathedral...” (pg 319)

“The astonishing sight of Coney Island, this famous island, heap of abandoned earth four years ago, and today the spacious area of repose, refuse, and recreation for a hundred thousand New Yorkers who attend joyful beaches daily.” (pg 318)

- Martí conveyed a sense of awe through his description of Coney Island.
- Political threats in the future.

# *Immigration*

The background of the slide is a collage of images related to immigration and the United States. It features a faded, semi-transparent image of the Statue of Liberty in the upper right, an American flag with stars and stripes in the center, and a newspaper with a grid of text in the lower left. The overall tone is historical and patriotic.

“...this daily spillage of extraordinary people onto an extraordinary beach...” (pg 320)

- It was the first time Martí saw such a mass of diverse people.
- The height of immigration in the U.S., many settling in New York.
- Martí witnessed immigrants from all over the world in once place, enjoying the area and activities.

“Some climb on spacious carriages...another lands his boat,,one absorbed group admires an artist...others applaud the skill with which a ball thrower...the bearded and venerable sit...” (pg 321)

# Verge of Two Centuries

- Beginning of commercialism
- Leisure areas, such as Coney Island
- Emergence of electricity, steel, labor – hotels, rides.
- Martí lived through and witnessed this change in New York.

“...this daily spillage of extraordinary people onto an extraordinary beach; this mobility, this talent for advancement, this change of form, this feverish rivalry of wealth, this monumental aspect of this ensemble, which legitimately pits this nation of bathhouses in competition with the majesty of the land that supports it, the sea that caresses it, and the sky that crowns it; this rising tide, this annihilating and incomparable expansiveness, solid and frenetic, and this naturalness in the marvelous; this is what one finds shocking there.”

(pg 320)