

Contents

List of Entries vii

Introduction xxiii

1. National Symbols 1

2. Geography, the Environment, and Urbanization 5

3. History: The Colonial Period (Pre-Columbian Era to 1901) 55

4. History: The Republican Period (1902–1958) 132

5. History and Government: The Revolutionary Period (1959–) 199

6. Contemporary Economy and Society 264

7. Literature and the Social Sciences 313

8. Performing Arts 377

9. The Plastic Arts 458

10. Popular Culture and Religion 503

11. Sports 532

12. Cuban Diaspora 567

Appendices

1. Political Chronology 605

by Louis A. Pérez, Jr.

2. Columbus's Log 616

3. The Conquest of Cuba 619

4. Colonial Governors (1511–1898) 621

5. Royal Decree Granting Absolute Powers to the Captain-General of Cuba (1825)
624

6. The Slave Code of 1842 625

7. The Constitution of Guáimaro (1869) 630

8. “La rosa blanca” (1891) 632
9. Letter from General Calixto García to General William Shafter, July 17, 1898 633
10. The Platt Amendment (1901) 635
11. “History Will Absolve Me” (Excerpts) (1953) 636
12. Agrarian Reform Law of the Republic of Cuba (Excerpts) (1959) 640
13. Helms-Burton Law (Excerpts) (1996) 644
14. The Homeland Belongs to Us All (*La Patria es de todos*) (Excerpts) (1997) 652
15. Presidents from 1868 to the Present 654
- Bibliography (A Selective Listing of Works in English) 657
- Index 661
- Contributors 683