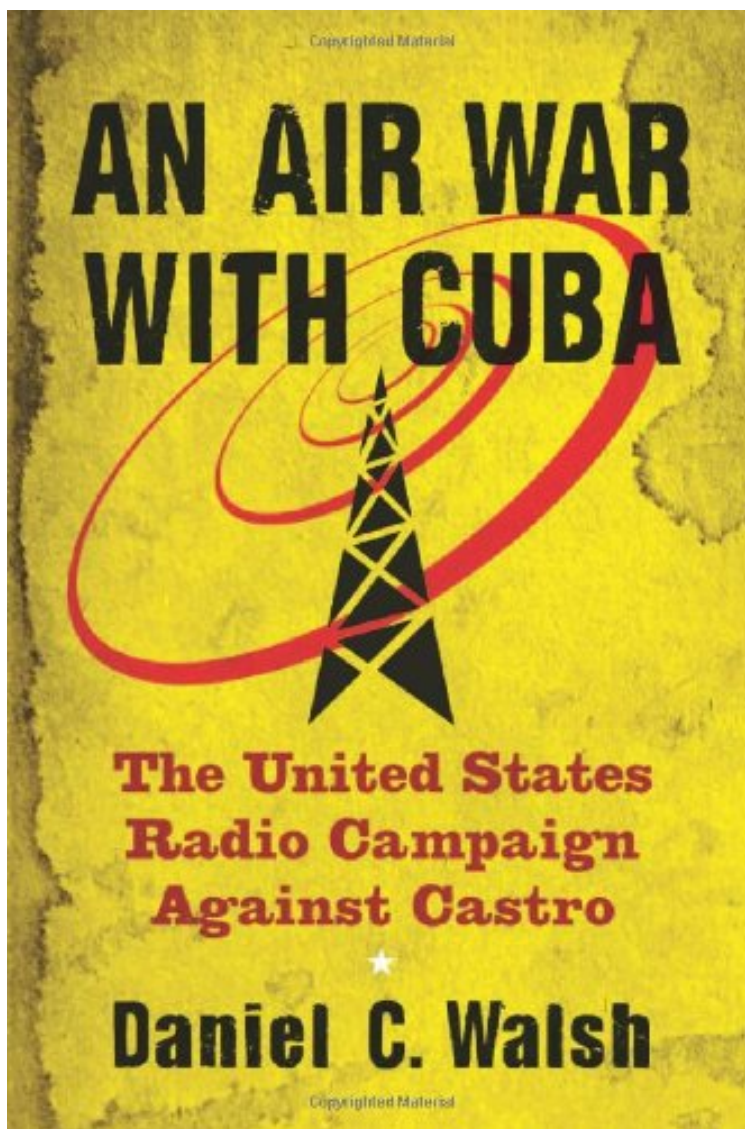


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An Air War with Cuba: The United States Radio Campaign Against Castro

Daniel C. Walsh

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Daniel C. Walsh : An Air War with Cuba: The United States Radio Campaign Against Castro before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Air War with Cuba: The United States Radio Campaign Against Castro:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fills in the Blanks By Avie A. Grunspan This is an excellent addition to any library dealing with the United States' affairs against Cuba. For a background of our interests there's Havana

Nocturne, a book about the "mob" and its holdings in Havana before the revolution. Then, Cuba Confidential explores the relationship among the U.S., Cuba, and the Cuban ex-pats in the United States. Now, An Air War with Cuba fills in many of the blanks not covered by Barbach in Cuba Confidential. The hysteria to Castro's rise to power and the United States' reaction to it over the years is the main topic of this book. It goes way beyond its title when discussing all the different ways our government has tried to overtly and subversively undermine the Castro brothers dictatorship on the closest "enemy" to our shores. The main focus is on both Radio Marti and, later TV Marti. Both were modeled on Radio Free Europe with their signal directed at Cuba. The author goes into great detail -- sometimes a little too much, becoming less interesting and, at times, more like a listing of minutia. But there are many parts which I found extremely interesting, so I stuck with it all the way through. Even if you're not interested in our policies regarding Cuba, this book is an interesting read, revealing how influential the Cuban lobby has been in helping determine U.S. policies toward that island. It also follows the history of how that policy ebbed and flowed from administration to administration. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An All-Encompassing Recollection of Relations Between the U.S. and Cuba By Laura3989 "An Air War With Cuba" provides an in-depth look at the influence of radio and the media on Cuban-American relations. It not only describes the air war between the two nations, but provides a collaborative background of all the historic and political events that led up to the conflict. Author Daniel C. Walsh recounts Castro's rise to power and how he used radio to gain the support of the rebels. America's introduction of Radio and TV Marti, pro-America propaganda stations transmitted to Cuba, was intended to improve relations between the two countries by gaining support from Cuban citizens unhappy with Castro's leadership. Although the station was originally intended to be unbiased and controlled, anti-Castro Cuban exiles slowly gained control and began transmitting their own agenda. Although the book's title suggests a narrow subject, Walsh appeals to a broad audience by recounting not only the air war itself, but also the surrounding significant figures and events. It is not just a history of Radio and TV Marti. This book is a great read for anyone interested in history, politics, or international relations. Walsh cycles through the events and policies of each U.S. President involved in the air war, including not only the decisions they made regarding Radio and TV Marti, but also their stances regarding Cuban exiles and public policy overall. The tumultuous relations between the U.S. and Fidel Castro and how each President's decisions affected this relationship are described in detail. Political events from all around the world are shown in this book, and Walsh shows how each event affected relations between the U.S. and Cuba. I have never been much of a history buff, and I tend to veer away from politics, but I found myself captivated by "An Air War With Cuba." I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Cold War, Cuban-American relations, the Castro regime or radio and the media; however, my firm belief is that anyone will enjoy this book if they give it a chance.

Since 1985, Radio Marti, a Radio Free Europe-type station, has broadcast American news and propaganda in Cuba. Its sister station, TV Marti, debuted in 1990. A respected operation at the start, Radio and TV Marti fell under the influence of the Cuban American National Foundation--a group of hard-line Cuban exiles--who intensified the anti-Castro rhetoric the station sent to the island and promoted its leaders as the heirs to a post-Castro Cuba. Though the initial goal of the two stations was to increase pro-American sentiment among the island-nation's citizens, the stations have only succeeded in driving the two nations further apart. This history of American propaganda broadcasting in Cuba describes how Castro used radio to obtain power; explores the impact of Radio and TV Marti on U.S.-Cuba relations, including the phenomenon of Cuban rafters; and chronicles the domestic political struggles to keep the stations on the air.

"Walsh presents a history of the propaganda war waged over radio and television-waves between the United States and Castro's Cuba"--Reference Research Book News. About the Author Daniel C. Walsh holds a Ph.D. in mass communications from the University of South Carolina and is building an archive of international radio broadcasts. He is an assistant professor at Appalachian State University in the Department of Communication.