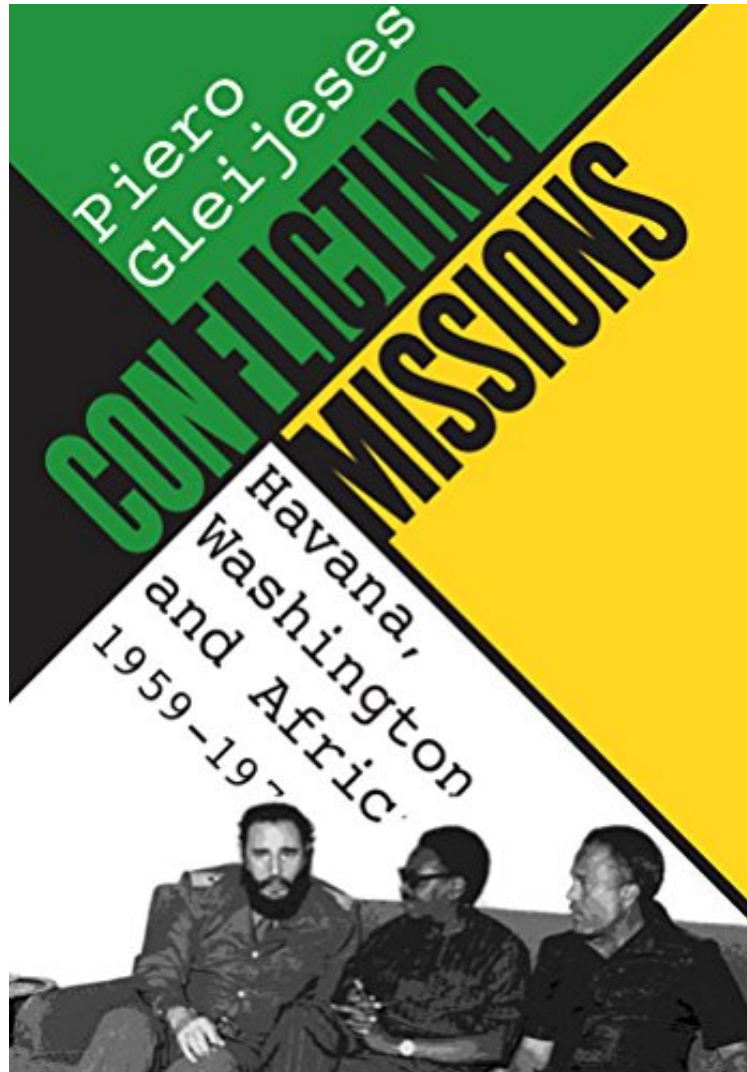


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Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976

Piero Gleijeses

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This is a compelling and dramatic account of Cuban policy in Africa from 1959 to 1976 and of its escalating clash with U.S. policy toward the continent. Piero Gleijeses's fast-paced narrative takes the reader from Cuba's first steps to assist Algerian rebels fighting France in 1961, to the secret war between Havana and Washington in Zaire in 1964-65--where 100 Cubans led by Che Guevara clashed with 1,000 mercenaries controlled by the CIA--and, finally, to the dramatic dispatch of 30,000 Cubans to Angola in 1975-76, which stopped the South African advance on Luanda and doomed Henry Kissinger's major covert operation there. Based on unprecedented archival research and firsthand interviews in virtually all of the countries involved--Glejeses was even able to gain extensive access to closed Cuban archives--this comprehensive and balanced work sheds new light on U.S. foreign policy and CIA covert operations. It revolutionizes our view of Cuba's international role, challenges conventional U.S. beliefs about the influence of the Soviet Union in directing Cuba's actions in Africa, and provides, for the first time ever, a look from the inside at Cuba's foreign policy during the Cold War."Fascinating . . . and often downright entertaining. . . . Glejeses recounts the Cuban story with considerable flair, taking good advantage of rich material.--Washington Post Book World"Glejeses's research . . . bluntly contradicts the Congressional testimony of the era and the memoirs of Henry A. Kissinger. . . . After reviewing Dr. Glejeses's work, several former senior United States diplomats who were involved in making policy toward Angola broadly endorsed its conclusions.--New York Times"With the publication of *Conflicting Missions*, Piero Glejeses establishes his reputation as the most impressive historian of the Cold War in the Third World. Drawing on previously unavailable Cuban and African as well as American sources, he tells a story that's full of fresh and surprising information. And best of all, he does this with a remarkable sensitivity to the perspectives of the protagonists. This book will become an instant classic.--John Lewis Gaddis, author of *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*Based on unprecedented research in Cuban, American, and European archives, this is the compelling story of Cuban policy in Africa from 1959 to 1976 and of its escalating clash with U.S. policy toward the continent. Piero Glejeses sheds new light on U.S. foreign policy and CIA covert operations, revolutionizes our view of Cuba's international role, and provides the first look from the inside at Cuba's foreign policy during the Cold War.-->

From Library JournalGlejeses (Sch. of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins Univ.; *Shattered Hope: The Guatemalan Revolution and the United States, 1944-1954*) offers a Cold War study not of two superpowers but of Third World policy in Third World countries. This book looks at U.S. and Cuban foreign policies in Africa, a continent generally ignored by American foreign policymakers but highly important to Castro's Cuba. In examining small engagements in Algeria and Guinea-Bissau, as well as larger engagements in Zaire and Angola, Glejeses argues that, contrary to American belief, Cuba did not merely act as a Soviet pawn in Africa but pursued its own interests. Castro viewed Africa as an important battleground to combat "capitalist imperialism," usually contrary to Soviet policies. Glejeses conducted extensive research in writing this book, including gaining unprecedented access to Cuban archival material and oral histories. There is little material available on Cuban-African relations, and nothing this comprehensive. Recommended for academic libraries. Mike Miller, Dallas P.L. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. Probably the most comprehensive, well researched work on the role of Cubans in the liberation wars in South Africa.--Dissident Voice Glejeses's research . . . bluntly contradicts the Congressional testimony of the era and the memoirs of Henry A. Kissinger. . . . [This] book strongly challenges common perceptions of Cuban behavior in Africa. . . . After reviewing Dr. Glejeses's work, several former senior United States diplomats who were involved in making policy toward Angola broadly endorsed its conclusions.--New York TimesUsing a combination of interviews with the key US and Cuban actors and CIA, State Department, Soviet, and, uniquely, Cuban archives, Glejeses has produced a tour de force that lifts the veil of secrecy over the detail, if not the general outlines, of Cuba's engagement in Africa. . . . Beautifully written.--African AffairsWith the publication of *Conflicting Missions*, Piero Glejeses establishes his reputation as the most impressive historian of the Cold War in the Third World. Drawing on previously unavailable Cuban and African as well as American sources, he tells a story that's full of fresh and surprising information. And best of all, he does this with a remarkable sensitivity to the perspectives of the protagonists. This book will become an instant classic.--John Lewis Gaddis, Yale University Glejeses brilliantly describes those deceptions and disguises, with all their accompanying blood and guts and glory. Over the 10 years it took him to research this book, Glejeses seemingly tracked down every lead, every participant, every document on all sides of the conflicts. His book is a necessary corrective to past misinterpretations of how and why the Cubans intervened in Africa. . . . A fascinating account of Cuban involvement in Africa.--Los Angeles TimesThe best study available of Cuban operations in Africa during the Cold War. . . . A valuable, highly informative book that sheds light on events

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