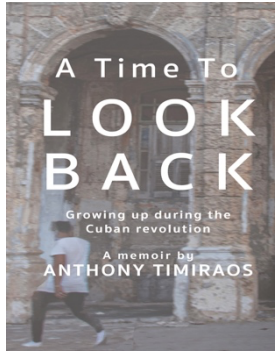


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Print: \$29.99 Digital: \$14.99



A Time To Look Back
Growing up during the Cuban revolution
A memoir by Anthony Timiraos

Book Release Date: 9/30/2021

Hard Cover Book -302 pages

ISBN# 9780578980010

Digital Book – 335 pages

ISBN# 9780578980041

Published in English

In Search of Liberty and Freedom

A child's story of immigration and its effects on his family

Fort Lauderdale, Florida (September 13, 2021) – The current intense immigration debate in our country, our increasing Latino/Hispanic population and the overwhelming worldwide media coverage of individuals risking their lives for liberty and freedom to start a new life in a safe and democratic country makes the story in this new book meaningful, educational, and relevant to today's headlines.

Living in La Habana, Cuba with his family, the author takes you back to New Year's Eve on December 31, 1958, when Cuba's Dictator, Fulgencio Batista fled the country just as a militant group led by the young and charismatic leader, Fidel Castro began to take control. He writes about how his family was forced to accept a new dictator and experience the constant parade of military vehicles, political assassination attempts, bombings, and gunfire in their neighborhood. The effects of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion to return Cuba to a democracy, a military raid of his home and the arrest of his father without cause were the tipping points that convinced his family to begin planning their exodus.

He was sent by his parents at the age of 8 alone with his 10-year-old brother to the U.S. in 1962 as part of Operation Pedro Pan, the largest exodus of children in the western hemisphere, to escape the indoctrination of communism and live in a free country in hopes that the rest of the family could soon follow. They were welcomed here in the U.S. by a network of generous religious organizations, corporations, private citizens, and a country that had empathy for families seeking asylum from repressive and dangerous societies.

He and his brother lived in numerous locations in the U.S. including a regretful stay in an orphanage for troubled young boys from broken families who could not be placed in foster homes. They watched the horrors of a close encounter with nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis while they were still separated from their family.

"I wrote this book because I believe history should have a significant place in our education. Without knowledge of our past, we run the risk of repeating political mistakes and we have no platform from which to leap into a successful future" explained Mr. Timiraos. The author combines what he saw during a cruise to Cuba in 2018 and his experiences during a five-year period beginning on that famous New Year's Eve in 1958. What he learned between the ages of 5 and 10 were lessons that shaped his life. The stories about positions his parents were placed in, the decisions they were forced to make to survive, and how he learned about life from their brave example are remarkable stories of an immigrant family's survival in search of liberty and freedom.

BIOGRAPHY: Anthony Timiraos, Author

Anthony Timiraos was born in Havana, Cuba and currently resides in South Florida with his husband Arthur who has been by his side for 51 years. He began his professional career as a Certified Public Accountant in Hartford, Connecticut. Various career advancement moves for both brought them to Boston, New York City and back to Connecticut. A retirement to South Florida in 2003 was shortened when he accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer for the county's community foundation. After five years, he co-founded, with four other local philanthropists, Our Fund, Inc, a new community foundation serving LGBTQ+ non-profit organizations providing services in South Florida. He became their first Chief Executive Office and President in 2011 and retired in 2016. Our Fund, Inc. is currently one of the largest LGBTQ+ community foundations in the country.