



Charles Bracken Lumsden

Adviser: Louis A. Pérez, Jr.

"A Fratricidal Arm: Cuban Agency and the Abrogation of the Platt Amendment"

This thesis examines the role that Cuban politicians and revolutionaries played in the abrogation of the Platt Amendment (1934). The diplomatic treaty, signed at the end of a four-year American military occupation, established the right of the United States to "intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty." While intended to guarantee American influence over the internal politics of the island, I argue that Cuban political factions used the threat of intervention for their own gain, and that this pattern caused U.S. diplomats to grow disillusioned with the Platt Amendment.