



GOODBYE EL COMANDANTE

Fidel Castro (1926-2016)

AGENCIES

The son of a wealthy landowner, Fidel Castro turned his back on a life of privilege to lead a left-wing revolution in Cuba that endured for decades and was shaped by his political cunning, keen sense of destiny and boundless ego.

A towering figure of the second half of the 20th Century, he stuck to his ideology beyond the collapse of Soviet communism and remained widely respected in parts of the world that had struggled against colonial rule.

At once idealistic and pragmatic, sharply intelligent and reckless, he was seen by critics as a stubborn bully who banned opposition parties.

But admirers saw a visionary who stood up to US domination of Latin America, brought healthcare and education to the poor, and inspired socialist movements across the world.

The historic revolutionary leader died Friday aged 90, after defying the
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