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The alliance began soon after 1959 when Fidel Castro came to power. The cost of the Soviet Union's support of the Cuban revolution upset many Soviet citizens, who were suffering economically. The alliance went through a severe strain as a consequence of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Pavlov believes that the two nations became allies only as a result of the Cold War; when this period passed into history, the Soviet Union no longer needed nor could it afford Cuba's dependent relationship. It became ruinous economically and embarrassing politically. The disintegration of the Soviet Union only accelerated, and finally completed, the process of separation.

Pavlov sheds light on the features of Soviet-Cuban relations that influenced Russian policy toward the United States. He provides the first eyewitness appraisal of the history of this alliance as well as the present confused and contradictory Russian policy toward Cuba. *Soviet-Cuban Alliance* is an essential resource for political scientists, scholars of international relations, and Cuba and Soviet area specialists in search of accurate information on Russian and Soviet thinking about Castro's Cuba.

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