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The 1983 Invasion of Grenada

Grenada is an island nation that was a British colony until 1974. In 1979, the island's prime minister was overthrown by a movement headed by Maurice Bishop. Bishop was a self-proclaimed socialist. The Reagan administration, which held grudges against socialists (a perspective that originated from the McCarthy era), was very unsure about Grenada's new regime. The United States was concerned because Bishop was collaborating with nearby Cuba as well as the Soviet Union, so they decided to withdraw all aid. Bishop visited Washington in order to persuade the administration that he was not scheming against them, but Reagan and his followers remained skeptical. Meanwhile, Cuba and the Soviet Union were facilitating the construction of an airstrip in Grenada, which was supposed to increase tourism in the country. The administration, however, was convinced that Grenada was preparing to become a base for the Soviets and a communist country. The situation was only made worse when Bishop was shot in 1983 and replaced by a Marxist leader, Gen. Hudson Austin. The United States immediately started planning an invasion to prevent Grenada from falling to communism. On October 25, U.S. troops invaded Grenada. The administration explained that the troops were sent to rescue American medical students who were training there. During their stay, the army destroyed what was built of the airstrip and discovered a number of communists from Cuba and Korea.

The invasion was not received well by the rest of the world, but the United States did not care. In their minds, the administration had quelled a resistance that had threatened the whole country. American citizens, although they were surprised by the invasion at first, quickly forgot about the incident.

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