

**Cuba: Antonio Maceo, Tenacious Rebel**

**Lead: Antonio Maceo, one of the most successful and beloved leaders of Cuba's long fight for independence, possessed instinctive military skills and great tenacity. He never gave up.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Maceo was born in 1845 in the huge eastern province of Oriente. He was of mixed blood, a mulatto. Despite his talents and clear leadership ability, Maceo, struggled all his life against the racism inherent in pre- and post-revolutionary Cuban society.**

**Since the early 1500s Spain had settled and exploited the huge island, the largest in the chain separating Atlantic from Caribbean. Even as late as in the middle of the 1900s the power of Spain was heavy-handed and its lash was severe. Slavery continued to flourish and the economy was stripped to benefit the home country and those great landowners that sustained Spain's rule.**

**In 1867 the Spanish government ratcheted up the pain by imposing land and income taxes on already high tariffs and this tossed up a revolution. It lasted ten years and came to an inconclusive end with Spain still in control. Antonio Maceo and his family were among the first recruits in the rebel army and he quickly rose in rank**

**despite his Creole heritage, because of his leadership skill and courage under fire.**

**When, in 1878, Spain offered favorable terms in exchange and a truce broke out, Maceo refused, fled the country, and from various foreign locations helped keep alive the dreams of independence. He returned in 1895 to lead the final push for independence and rebel forces in the brilliant western offensive until his death in battle in December 1896.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## **Resources**

**Foner, Philip Sheldon. *Antonio Maceo: The Bronze Titan of Cuba's Struggle for Independence*. New York, NY: Monthly Review, 1977.**

**Gott, Richard. *Cuba: A New History*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004.**

**Lazo, Rodrigo. *Writing to Filibustering and Cuban and Exiles in the United States*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.**

**Tone, John Lawrence. *War and Genocide in Cuba: 1895-1898*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.**

<http://www.historyofcuba.com/history/havana/maceo.htm>

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