

## Drug Dealers, Crimes, and Terrorism in the United States: A Study of Stephen Coonts' *Under Siege*

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper deals with the perpetration of crimes and drug business in the United States. It shows that the crimes perpetrated in this country until the 1980s are the consequences of racial discrimination between black and white Americans. Tired of the rejection in a country they believe is also theirs; Blacks think that they have to respond to violence with violence by sacrificing the lives of many Americans, starting with the President himself. Thus, this study shows not only the war raging between the United States and Colombia, but also the influence of social movements from the United States on Cuba, with the downfall of Fidel Castro.

**Keywords:** crimes - drug - racial discrimination - Americans - war - the downfall

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The racial system which is perpetrated in all its forms in the United States, and the difficulty to free black people have to integrate the American society where they are still maintained under the white domination, driving them to an endless challenge struggling against this evil system. Noticing that they are still rejected and not considered as full American citizens, Black Americans have orientated their fight in drug addiction and killing as strategies to break the Whiteman's yoke. This aspect of drug and crimes seen as a part of Black Americans' experience is also observed in works of fiction. In this connection, Stephen Coonts' novel, *Under Siege* published in 1991, describes a possible blow-back effect if American forces apprehended a powerful Colombian drug lord in an enemy country and tried him in America. ([www.bookseries.Com](http://www.bookseries.Com)). When going through *Under Siege*, some scholars come to the conclusion that the novel interplays with some historical facts:

Martial law and Grafton and his cronies trying to find the main assassin and destroy the suicide gangs. This is done against a background of war between drug dealers. IMHO things like this are a bit over the top. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

This can be understandable by the fact that this novel deals with a Colombian, Chano Aldana who, known as a reputed drug addicts and guilty of crimes. To organize his criminal expeditions, he recruits professional killers like Henry Charon, also called the hunter of men or the assassin, and appoints him head of all criminals who perpetrate crimes in Washington.

While analyzing the novel, other critics do not hide their feeling and clear-cut that in *Under Siege*,

Coonts paints a violent picture of a missile attack on the President's helicopter, the assassination of several key politicians, Judges and power brokers plus an invasion of suicide gangs intent on killing as many people as possible. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).)

In fact, *Coonts* involves real people in the drama, with George Bush Snr and Dan Quayle taking leading parts in the fiction. He also manufactured a fictitious overthrow of Fidel Castro. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). This is to say that if *Under Siege* reads like the author tried to address many of the trials and tribulations in reference to the history of the United States of America ([www.bookseries.org](http://www.bookseries.org)),

This study purports to evidence the reasons that push criminals whose most participants are Blacks to perpetrate not only crimes but also to declare war against the United States' government after the apprehension of the protagonist Chano Aldana. The question raised in this paper is to know how does Stephen Coonts contextualize the manifestations of Blacks' crimes as a response to racism in *Under Siege*?

In dealing with drug business, the persistence of crimes and the birth of terrorism in the United States, I resort to the New Historicism to show the interplay that exists between the history of America and fiction. Accordingly, Andrew Marwell, one of the exponents of this critical approach argues (one line):

New historicists, like formalists and their critics, acknowledge the importance of the literary text but they also analyze the text with an eye to history. In this respect, the new historicism is not "new;" the majority of critics between 1920 and 1950 formed on a work of historical content and based their interpretation on the interplay between the text and historical contexts.

To analyze the text with "*an eye to history*" means to sort out some historical points contextualized by the author in order to show that the novel is not only fictitious, but also historical because based on some realism of the society that produced it. Referring to the definition of realism, Raymond Williams (1972:181-182) asserts:

The most ordinary definition was in terms of an ordinary, contemporary, everyday reality, as opposed to traditionally heroic, or legendary subjects. In the period since the Renaissance, the advocacy and support of this 'ordinary, everyday, contemporary reality' have been normally associated with the rising middle class, the bourgeoisie. Such material called 'domestic' and 'bourgeois' before it was called 'realistic', and the connections are clear. In literature the domestic drama and, above all, the novel, both developing in early eighteenth century England with the rise of an independent middle class, have been the main vehicles of this new consciousness. Yet, when the 'realist' description arrived, a further development was taking place, both in content and in attitudes to it. A common adjective used with 'realism' was 'startling', and within the mainstream of 'ordinary, contemporary, everyday', a particular current of attention to the unpleasant, the exposed, the sordid could be distinguished. Realism thus appeared as in part a revolt against the ordinary bourgeois view of the world; the realists were making further selection of ordinary material which the majority of bourgeois artists preferred to ignore. Thus 'realism', as watchword, passed over to the progressive and revolutionary movements.

This paper is divided into three points. The first is about the perpetration of crimes and the American government's struggle against it. The second deals with George Bush's challenge in the struggle against drug business and the last tackles racism as the source of violence and crimes in the United States.

### **1.1 The perpetration of crimes and the American government's struggle against drug dealers**

The perpetration of activities that involve breaking the law is manifested by a kind of chains of gangs who recruit killers turn and turnabout. Coonts' *Under Siege* opens with the description of violence and criminal acts. As the reader enters in the novelist universe, he breathes a noxious atmosphere of crimes perpetrated by unknown people called snipers or terrorists. The investigation carried out later by Jack Yocke and others reveal that the purveyor of violence and crimes committed by the drug business man Chano Aldana, who to achieve his sordid goals, hires the service of a 'serial killer', Henry Charon.

Indeed, seeing the extent of the job he is given, Charon also recruits other professional killers like Tasson. In making the list of the people to kill, Tasson starts with the president himself because the character "*Bush was merely the first name on the list. The other five, they would have to be killed after the presidential hit*" (p.69).

This assassination, attempt planned on the character George Bush sr. may make the reader think that the man is not seen as a good president because he is not fighting for peace and liberty in the United States. For, according to the author's words, many American people would be happy if they heard about the character George Bush assassination. This is what one can notice when the author writes: "*if Tasson just wanted George Bush assassinated, that would be a large enough challenge to satisfy anyone*" (p.69). In fact, what Coonts shows in *Under Siege* is part of the American history, because what he says here is not far from Hiroshimoto's view: when he says:

10 Americans would be barred from Japan for their war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violation of human rights, and, top of the list was George Bush for murder of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, including thousands of children, in attacks on Iraq and Panama in 1990 and 1988 (<http://www.fantampouwa.net/flame/bush-war-criminal.htm>)

The enormity of crimes perpetrated by President Bush in Washington as well as in the rest of the world, does not comfort Americans because he is the president on whom they have to account for peace and liberty.

As a matter fact, in developing the theme of crimes, I can say that what Coonts describes in *Under Siege* is very tragic, because the character Chano Aldana who embodies all the evils of the society is portrayed as a menace and a danger for peace and liberty of American citizens. His speech before the court of justice tells evidence:

I am Chano Aldana, he said with a noticeable Spanish accent. I am your worst nightmare come to life. I am the slave you delivered in chains to the merciless altar of the moneylenders. I am the sick you refused to heal. I am the beggar you turned away from the feast, to me has been given the key to the bottomless pit. And I have opened it. (p.85)

The sentence "*I am the slave you delivered in chains to the merciless alter moneylenders*" means that Aldana himself admits that he has been a man condemned to death if only he would be tried in Colombia, and that America has delivered him from Colombians, corrupting the Colombian's authorities with a great sum of money. This corruption shows the complicity of American authorities in this killing. In his instruction, Aldana reveals his identity to the American citizens by saying that he is, the troubles he has already caused, and the danger he represents for America. The Spanish accent which is noticeable in him attests of the "melting pot" of the United States which means that the country does not belong to a race or a particular group of individuals, but to all people regardless of the race or the color of skin.

In fact, the examination of Aldana's key reveals many things on the crimes committed by the later. What is very shocking in all that is he makes his profit in murdering innocent people:

The columnist examined the key and carefully placed it in the ignition switch. He's instance and has armies of hired killers that have murdered hundreds of politicians, and police in Colombia. They've blown up airlines, bombed department stores and newspapers, and assassinated dozens of journalists who refused to be quiet. They don't care who they kill. They truly don't. (p.87)

This passage really highlights the degree of Aldana's criminality. These are acts of terrorism because terrorism is the threat of violence, especially in bombing, kidnapping, and assassination. For, the examination of the "key" by the columnist shows without any doubt that the guilty is the great purveyor of violence in the United States. Indeed, the discovery is through his key that Aldana has not only one army, but a lot of them. This means, his business of killing people is spread all over the country. But what must be confessed in this killing is the fact that the character Aldana works along with politicians, the CIA, and the president Bush himself in order not only for the letter to appear influent before the world and the United States, but also to sacrifice people in the lodge he is supposed to be:

Apparently, a key issue in the trial is whether US agents were aware of preparation for the bombing and did nothing, or worse, as the newspaper noted "they promoted it". Thus the court is to decide whether to call all of the CIA heads from 1960 to the president, including Bush, to testify. According to duppet Master: the political use of terrorism in Italy by Philip William, Bush

is alleged to have a close relationship with Lucio Gelli, the infamous head of the P2 Masonic lodge (Fantampowa.net/plame/Bush-water-criminal.htm)

One can notice that like Lucio Gelli in this passage, Chano Aldana also in the novel has close relationship with President George Bush. This is understandable in the sense that when Chano Aldana is arrested in Colombia for his crimes, the United States' government rejects any proposals made by Colombians for the man's trial. In fact, Colombians wanted Aldana be tried in Colombia, but the United States' government manages with all means necessary to take Aldana back to Washington comforting Colombians that the man would be fairly tried, taking into account his crimes. But, when judging him, reporters are not unfortunately allowed in the court of justice, as they voice bitter complaints about it:

You can't keep us out, we're the press. I don't give a fuck who you are. The only people who get in are people on the list. The sergeant stabbed the sheet of paper on the counter in front of him with a rigid finger. You ain't on it. Now get the hell outta here or we'll find a cell for you. And turn off that fucking spotlight. This is America. Read my lips, asshole! Out! (p.82)

Here, one can notice the absence of true democracy in the United States. For, it shows how even the press which is always allowed everywhere, is rejected in the court of justice where Aldana is being tried. This is due to the fact that the government fears these information be published in every part of the world. The sentence "this is America" is very meaningful, for it shows how America can be seen not only as the first powerful country all over the world, but also as a great purveyor of criminality among the human race. Then words like "asshole" and "out" sounded with disdain and wickedness show oppression of authorities on lower classes of America citizens.

In fact, Aldana has murdered millions of people in the United States, and these murdered push other characters like Jack Yocke to compare him to the German Adolph Hitler who was at the head of the murder of thousands of people in the world when he says: "*by all accounts Aldana was an amazing man, a Latin Capone with several of Hitler's worst traits thrown in for seasoning*" (p.113). We all know that Hitler is a real life person in the history of the world. For, this man provoked the Second World War and killed a great number of people in all over the world. When the author compares Aldana to this man, he wants to show how criminal Aldana is. The repetition of the group of word "*white man, white man the echoes said, over and over white man*" (p.158) shows the crying out of black Americans, and the bitterness of their victimization. For, the expression "*the echoes said*" refers to Blacks who denounce the wrongs of whites. The phrase "*white man*" for three times demonstrates that the challenge is between Blacks and Whites. The degree of Aldana's criminality is viewed as an act of terrorism when the author describes:

Rumours had it he had personally executed over two dozen men and had ordered the murders of hundreds more by name, including candidate for President of Colombia (...) he order airlines and departments shores bombed, judges murdered, and policeman tortured. Referees and star players one his rival teams had been assassinated on his order (p.133)

This passage reveals the hidden nature of Aldana, and brings readers back to his speech delivered in the court of justice when he says: "*I am your worse nightmare come to life*" (supra, 4). It also shows the direct link with what happened in 1976 when Bush was head of CIA:

But by the most serious act of terrorism alleged against the CIA, when Bush was its chief, was the blowing up of a Cuban Airline plane shortly after it took off from Barbados on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976. The attack, which was claimed by then new Cuban exile terrorist group called CORU, killed 73 people including the entire Olympic championship fencing team (Thriverghtnow.com)

The relationship between history and fiction is well established in Stephen Coonts' *Under Siege*, because the bombing of a Cuban airline plane and the killing of star players described in this passage are also contextualized in the novel.

Indeed, what one should understand in this novel is that the author pictures Blacks as the most participants in this violence and crimes. Their inclusion in the affair pushes them along with some white men to perpetrate

not only crimes in the United States, but also to plan an assassination attempt on the president on the order of Aldana. This fact renders the situation very difficult to know for whom this man works. Aware of what Aldana is planning on the United States president, the government decides to struggle against drug business which is according to the authorities, the source of all troubles occurring in the country. Among the initiatives taken by the president, the one of increasing members in the army is voiced out:

The president is going to announce new initiatives to combat drug business. The White House staffs have two proposals that affect the military. They want to increase the number of army teams patrolling the Mexican border, and they want a carrier battle group into the eastern Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. (p.277)

This president's speech to senators justifies the government decision to put an end to all madness occurring in the United States. For, it is a shame for a country which is considered to be democratic one, but at last be compared to a jungle where everybody is supposed to fight for his survival. To struggle against drug, the president goes on saying: "*Gentlemen, American people have had enough. I've had enough. We're going to put a stop to this drug business. We can't allow it to continue.*" (p.279)

As can be seen, the perpetration of crimes considered here as acts of terrorism as shown in Stephen Coonts's *Under Siege*, is encouraged by the business of drug because drug can lead people to inhuman actions. The following section is going to demonstrate the struggle against drug business.

### **1.2 The challenge in the struggle against drug business**

The struggle against drug business that appears as one of strategies to stop criminality in the United States, is considered as a challenge of the character George Bush. As soon as President Bush decides to struggle against this drug business where he has been first involved, he faces many troubles. Aldana, along with other higher officers cannot easily accept stopping with ideas of mixing the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) in this struggle:

We been making to those senators and congress men. I was wondering when you might want to do that. Now is when. Putting the DEA and FBI together is not going to help us businessmen. (p.289)

This debate between T. Jefferson Brody, a congressman and Mc Nally the drug dealer, shows how far the life of the character George Bush is in danger. Few days after, an assassination attempt planned on him results to a crash of the presidential flight as the following passage describes the event and the number of dead persons:

Four people were dead in the wreckage and four were injured, secretary of State and the national security adviser. One of those critically injured was the President, who had been flown to Bethesda naval hospital by another helicopter. (p.351)

What is amazing here is the way Americans consider their President. In fact, the consideration Americans have on their president is quite different from the one that other people of other countries have on theirs in America. When a president is elected, he becomes the President of all Americans and everybody is compelled to love him despite one's religious beliefs or political party. If he is confronted with a difficult situation, everybody must feel sorrow and pray for him:

The president of the United States lay in a hospital close to death, and two hundred and fifty million Americans held their breath. It didn't matter if you had voted for George Bush or against him, whether you liked his politics whether you even knew what his politics were. You sat and listened (on TV, radio) (...) so on this Sunday evening in December, all over America people collected themselves and took stock. Churches were opened so that those so inclined could pray and hear words of comfort. Parent told their children where they were and what they were doing when they heard that John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. (pp. 355-56)

This passage shows the mobilization of the American people to know about the president's conditions. They gather somewhere in order not to applaud after the president's death, but to pray for his recovery. The evocation of President Kennedy's name wants to say that Americans do not only do it to George Bush, but have also done it to the others. Through this passage, Stephen Coonts wants also to show to what extent America is seen as a home of criminality in all over the world. So, the struggle against drug business is now led by a successor because, when President Bush is at Bethesda for his cares, Dan Quayle, the vice-president takes the head and continues with the struggle, as he voices:

That might have worked for George Bush, but it won't work for me, Dan Quayle said. Not over the long haul. People think I'm incompetence, a featherweight. I'm not going to let you de facto president while I sit on my thumb. That won't work. (p.373)

In mentioning historical characters such as George Bush in this passage evidences that with Coonts, the American history is, in effect, woven into fiction. For, we know that George Bush is a real character and was really the President of the United States from 1989 to 1993, with Dan Quayle as his vice-president as Tindall evidences:

The handsome, young of prominent, wealthy, arch-conservative publishing magnate in India, Dan Quayle had served two undistinguished terms in the senate, leading critics to charge that Bush had selected him more as a campaign ornament than as a qualified candidate. (Tindall:1979, 950).

While Quayle rules the country, readers can notice that, in the novel, there is a total revolution and walk of black Americans towards the prison. For, according to the author, racism is the main cause of what is happening in the United States. Seeing the way Blacks are still looked in America, the latter have no alternative but to get involved in criminal bands to kill people as the only way to tell the government about their conditions and position in America.

### **1.3 Racism as the source of violence and crimes in the United States**

To protest against racism, Black people were sometimes using violent actions and crimes as a way to claim not only their identity but also their consideration as true Americans. Stephen Coonts, in *Under Siege*, has succeeded to fictionalize Blacks' actions against the white system. Quayle who is now the head of the country leads a great offensive against Colombia in order to discover what is the main cause of all these assassinations in the country. The way he begins killing Colombians pushes a Colombian politician to spell out his regrets:

We all admire persistence in the face of adversity, but at some points dogged insistence on observing all the arcane niceties of the law becomes food hard atrocities, bombing, assassinations, -how much do we have to endure her in north Colombia? What price in blood and flesh does Dan Quayle thinks we should pay for Aldana's prosecutions? (p.527)

But, when Quayle continues examining the situation, he realizes that terrorists are not outside Washington, but inside it; and that Blacks are most contributors in all these killings. This is due to the fact that they are not well treated and still discriminated:

However, nobody disputed the assertion that the black population's long cherished, deep seated belief that they were victims of intentional racist oppression aggravated the situation and brought it to a boil. (p.561)

It appears quiet clear through this passage that what is now happening in the United States is the result of racist oppression. In fact, the growing of the black population brings frustration on white Americans and pushes the latter to reinforce their hatred against Blacks, for they believe that a free black man in the United States is able to turn guns against his master. Indeed, Blacks' victimization tells the latter the way they are seen and eventually would be treated by their white neighbors. Tired of white promises and praying God for their conditions, Blacks take the oath to fight this evil:

We're all victims, we all lost somebody, a son, a daughter, wife, may be even our own souls. We lost because we expected someone to fight the evil for us and we waited and waited and they never did, or they talked, but... (p.592)

This is an illustration on Black's conditions with the White's promises asserting that the latter would free Blacks from their poor conditions. This is hard to believe because those who discriminate Blacks are the ones that promise them freedom. In this regard, the historian Tindall is not wrong when he says that: "*the only hope for Blacks was to free America and build a Negro republic in Africa*" (Tindall: 1979, 667). This Tindall's proposal clearly illustrates that, Blacks' conditions in the United States were not good, and that they were certainly the most victims of cruel acts and crimes, as Coonts goes on writing:

The column was an epitaph for three young black men, all of whom had died yesterday on the streets and sidewalks of Washington. All three had apparently been engaged in the Crack trade. All three has been shot to death. (p.58)

This passage shows Blacks' victimization and their agreement in the crack business. What one can understand here is that these black men do not enlist in these terrorist groups with the only purpose of killing people, but to show their White counterparts what they are able to do if their rights continue to be restricted. In this passage, the author goes back to what really happen to three black men in the United States in 1989, as the historian, Fayer argues in *voices of freedom*:

Among the best-known incidents were the 1986 attacks on the three black men who found themselves in the predominantly white Howard beach section of queens, New York (one of the victims, Michel Griffith, died), and the 1989 killing of black sixteen-year-old yusuf Hawkins, who went to a white neighborhood in brookly to answer a classified ad for a used car. (Fayer, quoted by Henry Hampton: 1990, 660)

One notices the persistence of racism until 1989, for we know from this passage that these black men are killed for the simple reason that they have stepped where it is only reserved to white men. In fact, in the reference to the Black Americans' history, they were the principle victims in their struggle because they were not allowed to kill the white man. Holding fire arms was forbidden to Blacks as Margaret Walker enlightens this historical aspect when she writes:

But they were literary the some old laws that had restricted the movements of slaves and free Negroes before the war. Negroes were still forbidden to own fire arms and to be seen on city streets at night after nine o'clock or they could be arrested for vagrancy and loitering. (Walker: 1966, 271)

As racism was severe, the white Americans could not allow black people flourish or earn money. As a result, black people were the poorest on the American soil. People even noticed with Moore Howard (1971: 61) that "*Blacks are worse situation (...) than others*" because, as he continues arguing, Blacks had limited job opportunity when he writes:

It could be easily demonstrated that if Blacks graduate students were separated from others of their prospective professional advantages; clearly, racism invidiously limited professional opportunities available to Blacks. (Howard: 1971, 56)

Tired of the White supremacy and willing to live in an egalitarian America, Blacks resort to violence to claim their American citizenship.

It is important to underline that Blacks were encouraged by a revolted civil rights Activist Malcom-X (1963: 29) who told them that "*you can waste somebody if he attacks you.*" By encouraging his Black fellows to respond to violence by violence, Malcom-X goes against the philosophy of non-violence espoused by Martin Luther King which required Blacks to love their enemies. This is to say that the diversity of forms of struggle for freedom in the United States shows contradictions that could occur between Black leaders heading these social movements for freedom.

In developing the theme of racism, the author shows how young black men appear in streets with rocks and bottles to fight against what they use to call the "evil of the society". It means that unlike the nonviolence movement initiated by Martin Luther King in the 1960s, in this period of time, Blacks resort to a violent movement, as the author writes:

Young males in streets gangs-black males, by definition in the inner city-began breaking windows and looting stores, and when soldiers showed up, they threw rocks and bottles and everything else they could readily lay hands on. (p.561)

It is obvious to say that white Americans could change their wrong view over black Americans; all these conflicting problems would automatically cease occurring in America. For, things that Blacks use as weapons to show their anger against White wrong attitude on them, means that they do not have any intention of war. The sentence "they threw rocks and bottles" testifies the claiming of something they are denied; this thing is "their full integration or great recognition" by the American government. But, as in any Black movement, during this protest, the author says that many black Americans are killed: "*inevitably some of the people on the streets were killed by soldiers, most of whom were no older than who were screaming insults at them and hurling rocks.*" (p.561)

This passage shows how little Black children are sacrificed in the cause of freedom. For, when the author says: "*most of whom were no older than...*" he means that those who are dead here are younger than the ones protesting. Indeed, Coonts argues that the presence of fumes in every States of the country does not symbolize violence in all its forms, but what he lets us know is that all these rioting are only concentrated on Blacks' headquarters:

Although one could smell the smoke almost everywhere in the city, the rioting was confined to the inner- city neighborhood, the poor black ghettos, just as it had been during the major urban riots of the Viet Nam war era. This did not occur by accident. (p.562)

The sentence "*this did not occur by accident*" testifies that what is now happening in the United States has been planned before. And the comparison of this war or riot to the one of Viet Nam shows the degree of Blacks' violence in the country. Then, the search for terrorists is abandoned, because Quayle believes that those who have been terrorizing in the country have passed to concrete actions. And what he does now is to arrest all of them. The apprehension of all these Black demonstrators pushes the others to organize a walk towards prisons where their Black fellows are kept:

Colonel there's a bunch of people coming down the street (...) colonel Jonat followed the soldier outside. He walked to the gate and looked down the street. Good lord, the street was filled with people (...) the crowd was mostly black, some white people, but predominantly black men and women. They ranged from young to fairly elderly. Some of the people supporting others. (p.582)

Here, the author describes the dissatisfaction of Blacks and their revolt for the freedom of their black fellow men arrested. The presence of some white men in this group does not mean that white people are also arrested, but they are here to help Blacks to claim their rights as it is shown in the last sentence: "*some of the people were supporting the others.*" Here "*some of people*" refer to white men who are fighting on the side of Blacks, and "*the others*" represents Blacks. What the author describes in his novel is an absolute reality because one should not forget that for long, black men have always been oppressed by Whites in the United States, and when manifesting to claim their rights, some Whites who condemned this wrong whites attitude towards Blacks, joined them in the struggle. Abraham Lincoln is an illustration because he was called the father of liberation and other White students who joined Blacks in the movement of the sixties:

During 1960-1961 a small but significant number of white students joined the sit in movement. They and many others were also inspired by President Kennedy's direct appeals to their youthful idealism. (Tindall: 1979, 894)

It is important to underline that Blacks did not arrive in the United States as human beings. They were considered as sub men or animals and with this identity, they could not expect better treatment; but frustrations and challengers from whites. These frustrations gave them strength to face whatever could happen to them. With the help of some good Whites, Blacks have overcome all sorts of indignations.

Coming back to the novel, one easily infers that for Stephen Coonts, the movement raised in the United States by Blacks claiming true democracy and justice, has also influenced Cuban citizens who, in their turn raises a movement which brings the character Fidel Castro to a downfall. The walk for liberty and the true democracy is well pictured by the author: "*on the west of town the road was jammed with walking people: men, women, children, the elderly, the lame-the western pilgrimage grew dense at every crossroad, every village.*" (p.241)

One must know that about the situation in Cuba that the author describes in this novel is that, Cubans rose against Fidel Castro because they are not free to do whatever they aim to do. The movement they organize in the country is not for something else but for true democracy. Supported by the American government, the Cubans happen to shoot down the Cuban president, as the author writes:

They shot Castro around ten o'clock the next morning. He was shot first. The dictator was led out onto the platform where he had harangued his fellow countrymen for thirty one years. Behind him were arrayed his lieutenants. All had their hands tied in front of them (p.244)

The shooting of President Castro described by Coonts does not mean the death of the dictator, but the changing page of the Cuban history. For we know that Fidel Castro has long ruled Cuba and was not assassinated until he gave the power to his brother Paul Castro in 2008:

Fidel Castro sized power of the country on January 1959 and acted as its prime minister from February 1959 until December of 1996 when he became Cuba's 23<sup>rd</sup> president. Castro remained in power until February 2008 when he was succeeded by his brother Paul Castro" (<http://www.mbn.edc/faculty/gdowent Cuba htm>)

Coming back to the novel, one can understand that what Stephen Coonts develops in *under siege* about the attempted murdered on Fidel Castro is the way to show that the theme of crime requires to be deepened because the way it is developed in the novel intertwines with the history of America, Columbia, and Cuba. At last, it is important to underline that Blacks' violence is the consequences of racism because as they are not considered, they find refuge to violence and crimes.

## 2. CONCLUSION

This article has been an attempt to demonstrate to what extent the none consideration of black people in the American soil has mortgaged their fate and destiny in the sense that the racial system has pushed them to be criminals and to be killed in mass while they would be important to keep on building America the land of their fathers.

What is described in *Under Siege* is really the reconstruction of the American history. For I have sorted out all points of history which have been helpful for the author to write his story. In fact, the problem of crimes, the drug business, the assassination attempt on President Bush as well as on Fidel Castro, are facts grounded in the history of the United States. But, what is important to know about this novel is not only it describes the war raging between the United States and Colombia but also shows that the causes of all this madness derive from racism and discrimination between blacks and whites in the United States. The fact of seeing their rights restricted, they find themselves useful in the band of criminals in order to confront the White with physical violence. But this violence does not stop in the United States since it has some repercussion on Cuba with the downfall of Fidel Castro.

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