

“Cuba is the best country its like heaven on Earth. Thats what Jeronimo initially said. So I asked him again 10 years later. He said, ‘me engaño.’ It means I was deceived”.- Dr.Kyung-Suk Chung
The documentary *Jeranimo* shows the progression and evolution of Jeronimo’s perspective on the Cuban Government. His feelings and emotions for the love of humanity masked the reality that a utopia of human equality would be impossible. During his adolescent years he was determined and had a fighting spirit. His determination led him to become the first Korean accepted into Havana Law school, where he would be come a lawyer for Koreans. Later as a young man, he played a significant role in fighting against Batista's corrupt government by leading the Othodox party who would later play a significant role in the nation’s Guerilla movement.

For the next three decades, Jeronimo would serve the new Cuban government. As his patriotism and involvement for the nation of Cuba grew, Jeronimo slowly began to loose touch with this Korean heritage. As time went on the governments “Socialist Revolution” movement slowly transformed to communism. It was during this transitional time, Jeronimo Kim was recorded saying, “For this cause I have given my efforts to join the fate of those who fight for the emancipation of the whole proletariat.” (Jeronimo Lim Kim) He became very passionate for this cause and began working at the Ministry of Industry for Che, where he would later become vice minister. Even after his retirement, Jeronimo was always concerned with the political instability of Cuba, until he was recognized and invited to Korea for his work during the Cuban Revolution. In Korea, Jeronimo felt he had finally found a place where he belonged, his status in Cuba seemed trivial. When he came back to Cuba, Jeronimo would become the leader of Cuba’s Korean community and would create a Korean language school with the help of Korean-American missionaries. His ideology became greatly affected after his travels to America and South Korea. Through the missionaries’ model of volunteering and selflessly serving others, Jeronimo would begin to struggle between his communist ideals and Christianity. As he grew older his worldview expanded, he would realize that his perception of Cuba was a lie.

Jeranomino’s story is very inspiring. It shows that people can adapt to what is around them quickly and can easily forget their heritage and roots in order to survive in a different environment. His story also shows his passion and love for humanity. Jeronimo’s example of helping others shows us how we can thrive as a community together. It is surprising how such a small diaspora of people can multiply and have an even greater impact on a country’s foundation and history. We especially see this phenomenon in America, where many immigrants have forgotten the true history of their heritage and origins. This documentary was a great reminder for those who have forgotten who they are and where they come from.