

Fidel warns of coming global recession

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HAVANA --

(AP) -- Fidel Castro warned on Tuesday that the world could be headed for a crisis reminiscent of the Great Depression and accused the United States of exploiting natural resources and countries around the globe.

"The picture is increasingly uncertain as we face the fear of a prolonged recession like that of the 1930s," the 81-year-old leader wrote in an essay published in state newspapers.

Castro said Washington's coffers were depleted during the Vietnam War and that "since then the United States economy is sustained by natural resources and the savings of the rest of the world."

He also lashed out at people he called "super-revolutionaries," apparently referring to foreign Marxists who have recently suggested Cuba needs some political and economic reforms and criticized its increasing reliance on tourism revenue.

He accused them of being swayed by "neo-liberal" free-market ideology and suggested that communist Cuba buy into "pure poison."

Castro has not been seen in public for more than 13 months after undergoing emergency intestinal surgeries and ceding power to his younger brother Raul. During the last six months of his prolonged convalescence he has written a series of essays on international issues.