“Free Speech” and “Half-Truths” at the United Nations General Assembly



Where does the international fight to defeat the US economic and political war on Cuba stand after the UNGA vote and the US elections?

by Ike Nahem

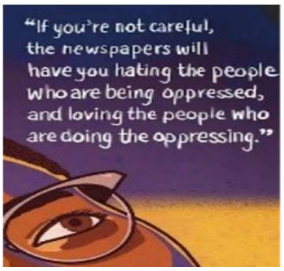
“I am speaking for the Cuban people…The blockade does not exist.”

- Michael Waltz, Trump-Rubio-Washington Ambassador to the UN (longtime US Army Special Forces combatant and intelligence operative in the endless US wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, across the Middle East, and – on the hush-hush -- Africa; elected Florida Republican Party politician; longtime “national-security” bureaucrat; extracted millions and millions in the “private sector” war industries he “founded”… that would be the one deliberately lying and shamelessly employing “half-truths”)

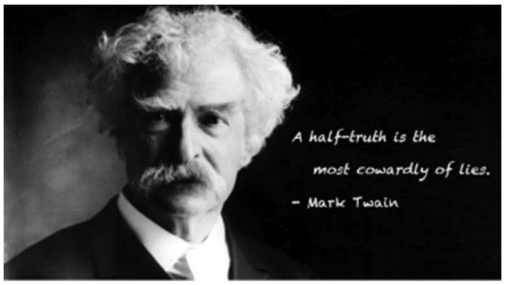
“Mr. President:

A major power is waging economic war against a member state of this Organization — a small, independent, and peaceful nation committed to solidarity. It does so with the aim of domination and "regime change." This aggression includes a fuel blockade—tantamount to a naval blockade—which constitutes an act of war, an act of collective punishment, and an act of genocide, all of which are prohibited under international law. Its severe consequences fall upon the people, restricting their fundamental rights, affecting third-party nations, and transforming the essential needs of the population into instruments of political coercion. Its effects are felt at the tables of Cuban families, at the bedside of the sick, during childbirth or in the operating room, in the food provided to children or in their classrooms; they manifest as a lack of electricity, potable water, and medicine, and as the high cost of essential goods required for life.”

- Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs (officer and combatant in Cuba's internationalist mission fighting in the military and political coalition that defeated apartheid South Africa in Angola and won the independence of Namibia, leading to the dismantling of the apartheid state; president, Federation of High School Students; central leader of Federation of University Students; Law Professor, University of Havana; journalist and newspaper editor; former UN Cuban Ambassador– that would be the lifetime revolutionary who spoke truth to power.)



Malcolm X (we can add broadcast, cable, and social media to the newspapers nowadays)



PREFACE

The analysis below was largely written before the November 3, 2026, Congressional, state, and local elections in the United States with its political humiliation of Donald Trump's Republican Party and the concurrent elevation of the Democratic Party into large majorities in the US House of Representative and Senate and nationwide. I am including a brief "Afterward "to this essay with some initial thoughts on how this new terrain in US electoral politics impacts on the multi-front and overall united-front efforts of our growing Cuba solidarity and anti-blockade movement to defeat the US economic and political war – and continual military threats – against our Caribbean neighbor of Cuba and achieve genuine US-Cuba normalization.

Behind the Numbers

How do we analyze -- and infer the likely consequences and dynamics from -- the recent 130-17-25 vote in the Cuban-sponsored United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/81/L.5 on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba."? This remains clearly an overwhelming majority of UN member states for the 35th time since 1994.[1]

But it is also true that Trump-Rubio-Washington – one week before Trump' s November 3, 2026, electoral debacle -- went on a full-throttle political pressure campaign that did make some gains which I will look at in detail below. Such overt (and who knows how many covert?) threats and bullying

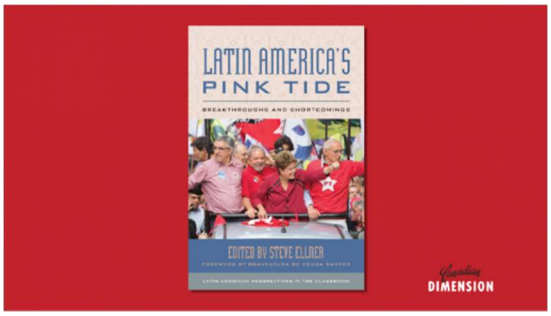
played out in the inimitable Trumpian style of bombast and bluster in the weeks leading up to the UNGA vote.

The UNGA vote included a wave of feckless “abstentions” across the Caribbean, Central America, and the South American continent; public splits in the European Union; and selective other “defections” in West Asia-Middle East and elsewhere. All these votes on the floor of the UNGA were certainly subject to the power of US and “multinational” capital on their economic and financial circumstances and conditions. Of course, the “No” votes of some US allies, e.g. Milei’s Argentina, de la Estrella’s, Colombia, the King of Morocco and others needed no particular pressure in voting with Washington as they are united in their class and ideological hatred of revolutionary, socialist Cuba (and in the case of the Moroccan monarchy-state, Cuba’s steadfast support of the oppressed Sahrawi people’s right to self-determination and independence).

“Spin” in the US capitalist media emphasizes the relative rise of alignment with US anti-Cuba policy in the 2026 UN vote. The pro-blockade *Miami Herald* headlined “After standoff with the U.S., Cuba wins embargo vote but loses support at UN” and the UN’s own media outlet (*UN News*) put it like this: “Backing for UN call to end Cuba embargo falls to 20-year low.” The implication is that acquiescence to US anti-Cuba policy was - - at least across the Americas -- on an apparently unstoppable ascendancy after a string of some seven conservative, “libertarian,” or rightist (all posing as “populist”) electoral victories in recent years. This certainly has put into executive power political forces from the neocolonial and neoliberal national

oligarchies and bourgeoisies in the hemisphere that naturally include the most bellicose anti-Cuba forces.

This also was intertwined with the political exhaustion and, in some case self-immolation, of the elected "Pink Tide" governments – socially progressive, in conflict with bipartisan US government foreign policy, allied with revolutionary, socialist Cuba and hostile to the blockade -- that swept across the Americas ushered in by the December 1998 election of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. Drawing the lessons – objectively and honestly – from this not-so-past history for "what-is-to-be-done" in the concrete realities of today is now facing all progressive and revolutionary forces in "Our America " of Cuban revolutionary José Martí.



I will argue in this essay that this seeming rightward trajectory and pattern has been shaken -- if not broken -- since its peak in the aftermath of the apparent success (which will not end well for Trump and bipartisan Washington) of its naked aggression on January 3, 2026 against Venezuela; the kidnapping, incarceration, and frame-up of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife-and-comrade Celia Flores; the vicious policy of assassination on the Caribbean seas and eastern Pacific ocean against alleged drug traffickers; the enforcement of the oil-energy quarantine against Cuba; and the impact of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

The US pressures to force compliance on sovereign oil-producing hemispheric countries such as Mexico and Brazil have so far been submitted to. Meanwhile, Cuba carries on under great stress, dislocation, and human suffering while making some hopeful advances with new refining techniques; and the mass installation of solar power systems, including for both private, family households and massive photovoltaic parks, donated primarily by China.

The Evolution of US Humiliation

For most of these 35 years of UNGA votes, Washington was forced to endure a ritual of humiliating political isolation and generally chose minimum engagement in the process. This was particularly the case when the Democratic Party held the White House and State Department under Clinton (1992-2000) Obama (2008-2016 – with Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State), and Biden (2020-2024).

In most of these past decades, some flunky US "Assistant to the Assistant" – to steal a line from the great Groucho Marx – would get the assignment to sedately read an absurd set of assertions and "half-truths" after the vote from their seat on the Assembly floor. Waltz chose to intervene directly on the dais on Day 1 which became a cloying, begging for votes, a new form of Washington humiliation.

In turn, the US media oligopolies suppressed news of the vote altogether, or in the practice of the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* , and *Washington Post* relegated the near-unanimous votes year-after-year, decade-after

decade to – at best -- a short paragraph on the bottom, deep in the inner pages or way down the scroll online.[2]

Trump 1-Biden-Trump 2

Under the first Trump Administration there was a steadily and aggressive dismantling of the initial, limited -- but important -- steps under the Obama Administration to reposition and reframe US policy. The notorious Helms-Burton legislation, signed by Clinton in 1996 required an act of Congress to end the US blockade as a whole. This shift under Obama, was also a retreat from the longstanding US policy that was welcomed in public opinion surveys and accepted broadly in Congress and liberal and conservative editorial pages at the time.

What the Barack Obama Administration ultimately advanced, towards the end of his second term, seems relatively remarkable in retrospect after the Trump-era horrors: freeing the Cuban 5 undercover intelligence operatives who peacefully monitored and countered the terrorist plots and acts of Cuban American exiled counter-revolutionaries[3]; establishing formal US-Cuba diplomatic relations; loosening travel restrictions considerably (without changing US law); opening up genuine "people-to-people" exchanges; and, crucially, removing Cuba from the State Department terrorism list, a major cover for the implementation for extraterritorial US sanctions.

In the first Trump White House the more aggressive and bellicose US Ambassador Nikki Haley tried various stunts and diplomatic maneuvers in a

change of tactics by Washington in the UNGA votes. All to no avail with only Israel going along with the show.

Trump 1 (2016-20) was followed by the Democratic Biden-Harris Administration, with soft-spoken but deadly, cold-blooded enabler of genocide in Gaza, Anthony Blinken as Secretary of State. Blinken and his UN representatives (often visibly embarrassed African American diplomats) returned to the defensive, pre-Obama US posture and media suppression...even as they continued and deepened Trump 1's anti-Cuba policies despite the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic!

Biden had campaigned with language indicating he would take some steps to reverse Trump's anti-Cuba depredations and revive Obama's measures. There were great and small expectations that this would happen among not a few solidarity and anti-blockade activists when the Democrats under Biden took Executive Power in the White House and State Department. This experience is worth noting as the Democrats have gained large Congressional majorities amid great popular expectations in a much different world than the 2020-2024 forgettable Biden-Harris blip in time.

The Scene at the UN

The UN Visitors' Gallery was well-attended with over 50 Cuba solidarity and anti-blockade folks – stalwart activists and leaders, multinational, multigender, elder and younger, politically conscious (that is thinking, reading, and studying). It was a beautiful representation of a genuine internationalist vanguard in the NY-NJ area and other US cities united for a beautiful cause!

This unity – despite political differences that are inevitably sharp and principled within any genuine united front –must be deepened insofar as we are reaching a tipping punt and turning point where the next weeks and months may very well be decisive in reversing the exceeding harsh current conditions in Cuba and forcing a counter-dynamic in US-Cuba relations.

Our sizable solidarity delegation made the decision -- as we gathered by the UN visitors entrance in Turtle Bay, Manhattan, NYC to get our formal credentials -- that *as a group* we would observe all UN rules and protocols. Still, we were prepared to counter any disruption by pro-blockade forces inside the Visitors' Gallery, of which there were a handful. This was in addition to the notorious terrorist organizer and accused mass swindler Orlando Gutiérrez Boronat and other US clients and "dissidents" who advocate a US military invasion of Cuba, which were seated on the floor with the Waltz-led US delegation. (For full documentation of US-based terrorist attacks see the Cuba Si New York-New Jersey Coalition pamphlet Cuba Under Siege! Terrorist Attack on Cuba! Stand with Cuba.)

Our delegation further decided that we would, as a group, applaud and briefly chant our "signature" central slogan "Cuba Si, Bloqueo No!" after the YES vote was recorded. Which we did!

Prior to getting on the line to enter the Visitors' Gallery and going through the airport-like security we organized a photo shot for social media.



Since we had no intention of repeating the action inside the Visitors' Gallery those with white T-shirts turned them inside out or took them off before entering the security area. Nevertheless, overzealous UN security personnel hassled and threatened to expel (and temporarily did for a few of our folks!) with a T-shirt. People were forced to lift up their top shirts (on a brisk NYC morning) and reveal any non-political T-Shirt underneath and some were ordered to remove even obviously non-political ones! Eventually after higher intervention we all got in.

Tuesday, October 27: Day 1

The debate on Day 1 was kicked off by various UN blocs and formations that supported as a whole the Cuban-sponsored Resolution with the individual nationally based diplomat presenting the group position then speaking also in favor in their "national capacity." This set the tone and made it very clear early on that Cuba would retain the very large majority of UN member-states.

Singapore spoke for the *Asian Group*; Uganda for the *Non-Aligned Movement* (of which Cuba was a founding member even as bipartisan Washington called it a "Soviet puppet" back in the "Cold War" era); Uruguay (whose Frente Amplio government has remained firmly against the US blockade on the continent) spoke for the *Group of 77 plus China*; Namibia for the *Africa Group* minus formal member Morocco*)*; and Eritrea for the *Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations*. Those chosen to speak for their bloc or group then spoke in their "national capacity." While some statements and presentations were tepid and full of anodyne diplomatic jargon and unrequited appeals to "international law" more than a few were full of passion and polemic. *All presented the damning facts burying the lies of Waltz and the Trump-Rubio-Washington line.*

The blocs and groups then were succeeded by individual ambassadors and representatives one after another "aligning" themselves with some or all of the opening groups and blocs and then presenting their nation-states position. On Day 1 this included: South Africa, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Angola, Timor East, Malaysia, Belarus, Zimbabwe, Laos, Gabon, Iran, Brazil, Algeria, Brazil, Ethiopia, Gambia, China, Kenya, Cape Verde, Vietnam, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Egypt, Belize, Mozambique, Mexico, and India who all spoke in favor of the Cuban-sponsored Resolution, stressing common themes of illegality; collective punishment; opposition to universal coercive sanctions unilateral military aggression.

Here are some outstanding quotes: Namibia: "For Africa this question is settled…We demand an immediate and unconditional end to US war on

Cuba." Eritrea: "We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the people and government of Cuba." Belarus: "There is no cynical 'human rights' rhetoric that can be based on the death of innocent people. No nation's greatness can be achieved through cruelty. [US human rights rhetoric] is even more cynical in the context of the consequences of collective punishment and the use of hunger against an entire people as a pressure measure."

Numerous African nations cited Cuba's decisive political and military solidarity in the national liberation struggles in southern Africa in the 1970s and 1980's.

Iran

Iran -- itself the recipient of an ongoing murderous war of US-Israeli aggression and still-unfolding military and political debacle for Washington and its divided contentious allies in Europe, West Asia, and especially the Persian Gulf family dictatorships – gave particularly pointed remarks. It's representative distinctly not only condemned US policy but demanded " Cuba must have full reparations. US officials must be held legally accountable." The Iranian Ambassador, referring to the demagogic outbursts of Waltz before he spoke, recalled US officials' bombast that "help is on the way" as they launched their war with ally Israel resulting on the first-day slaughter of 170+ schoolgirls on February 28, 2026 and that "sanctions are a form of international terrorism." The Brazilian Ambassador quoted re-elected President Lula da Silva[4] strongly condemning the blockade and labeling it "collective punishment."

China and Vietnam

China and Vietnam both gave outstanding, heartfelt statements of fact and solidarity, registering a central pillar both nation-states are taking on in the defense of revolutionary Cuba. China: “What is staring us in the face is 64 years of blockade, 34 years of Resolutions that remain unimplemented…[This is] an attempt at bullying the overwhelming majority!…We must act now and pool efforts to end this unacceptable use of illegal means…China remains steadfast with Cuba.” Vietnam: “Vietnam affirms the traditional and steadfast solidarity between Vietnam and Cuba. We will never forget and always cherishes the valuable support Cuba has extended during trying times in history. Vietnam appeals to UN member states to stand alongside Cuba and promote practical cooperation, particularly in ensuring food security through support for rice and maize production and aquaculture.”



Deputy Head of Vietnam’s UN Mission Nguyen Hai Luu takes the UN dais in solidarity with Cuba

Canada and Chile

Noteworthy also was the reluctance of those aligning openly with Trump-Rubio-Washington and who voted for the US economic and political war on Cuba to speak publicly in defense of their posture and line from the dais. Only Canada and Chile took the floor on Day 1.

The Canadian representative, who abstained on a vote earlier in 2026 from a US initiative to not have the annual UNGA Cuba vote at all did receive some sharp domestic criticism at the time and ended up voting for the Cuban-sponsored Resolution with a perfunctory few sentences referencing opposition to the extraterritoriality of the blockade. However, the large bulk of his remarks were spent on repeating standard anti-Cuba boilerplate about "human rights. The method here is the classic employment of "half-truths" about Cuban "repression" without even much phony lip-service on the US economic siege let alone Cuba's right to defend itself from unremitting assault from bipartisan Washington and its clients. It would be like "condemning" the "repression" of the Abraham Lincoln "Radical Republican" Administration against Confederate organizers and media without the decisive context of what by 1863-64 had become a revolutionary war to abolish slavery.

The remarks of Chile's right-wing government of Jose Antonio Kast[5] took a similar line as Canada, the representative of the EU and others in the next day's seated after-the-vote comments: 10% criticism of the US blockade and 90% bogus anti-Cuba in-your-face hypocrisy. Still the Chilean speaker was less strident than I expected, and Chile ended up abstaining in perhaps a slight political recognition of the very strong solidarity and mass support for Cuba in the highly class-polarized Chilean society.

Central and South America

Washington made the most gains in Central America and on the South American Continent registering the conservative electoral advances referred

to above. Voting No with Trump-Rubio-Waltz were Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Paraguay (as this essay is being finalized, the president of the right-wing Paraguayan government resigned and was arrested in a massive banking fraud scandal.) Abstaining and thus cowardly aligning with Washington: Chile, Honduras, and Peru. Not voting or deemed ineligible for alleged non-payment of dues were Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Venezuela, (the Trump-US collaborating Delcy Rodriguez government issued no public statement.

The Caribbean and CARICOM

In the end for all of Rubio and Waltz's bullying and pressure they were only able to get the ignominious Trinidad and Tobago quislings to vote with them openly and three others – Jamaica; the racist anti-Haitian Dominican Republic government of right-wing multimillionaire Luis Abinader; the puppet dependency "government" of Haiti (it was touching to see the racist anti-Haitian Dominican government united in abstention with those they torment!) and Guyana. Not voting were Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Lucia.

Guyana's vote comes from a government led by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali of the People's Progressive Party/Civic under evident US pressure in a sharp break from that party's previous solidarity with Cuba. The Guyanese growing alignment with Washington was signaled by a previous ignominious Guyana government's termination of Cuba's internationalist medical brigades in the country under US pressure and has led to sharp domestic

criticism. Guyana has been in a relatively hot territorial dispute over oil-rich lands with Venezuela's government prior to the January 3, 2026 US assault.

It must be further asked: WTF is the "government" of Haiti anyway? Can anyone in their wildest imagination think what the oppressed and super-exploited Haitian masses – for which Cuban medical solidarity has been exemplary for decades -- think about the vote of whatever real gang of Haitian elites propped up to abstain in the UNGA vote.

All of these neocolonial embarrassments are already facing immediate blowback and political chickens coming home at home for the indignity of their collaboration with Trump and Rubio's Washington. None of them took the floor to defend their positions.

JAMAICA | THE ABOMINABLE BETRAYAL WHICH HISTORY WILL NEVER FORGET

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ96KHvY4Rk

The EU Splits

The continuing bloodbath in the Russia-Ukraine-NATO war is increasingly roiling western, central, and eastern Europe economies and political stability. This has been greatly exacerbated since the February 28, 2026 US-Israeli war on Iran and the consequent major disruptions in oil, gas, fertilizer, urea, and helium (critical for computer chip-making – who knew?) markets and trade.

The Russia-Ukraine-NATO war became a lever and a cover by which Washington was able to peel away the previously united EU front in support

of the Cuban-sponsored Resolution even as the US economic war and public lynching of Cuba has deepened.

Mostly cynical posturing for sure, but it had an impact is securing the six central and eastern European no votes and no less than 13 abstentions, across and 14 votes in favor of the Cuban-sponsored Resolution (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Within the overall unity of the major regional and political UN blocs to oppose and to actually defeat the US blockade, the EU as a whole is now in open political rupture over the US blockade of Cuba, adding to many other divisions and polarizing pressures, from mounting class and political polarization. These include class-political struggles over austerity, immigrant rights, affordability, living standards, and unemployment roiling the EU political-monetary construct.

The EU, for now dominated by conservative and reactionary governments, is emerging as a prime US ally and collaborator in these crimes against humanity in Cuba. Nevertheless, as mounting student revolts and mass working-class solidarity protests and strikes and for worker's rights in France multiply and are emulated across Europe, it is a fool's errand to assume, any more than across the Americas, that right-wing electoral trends are permanent or unstoppable.

Ukraine and Cuba maintain formal diplomatic relations even as Ukraine closed its Embassy in Cuba in 2022. Cuba never endorsed the Russian Federation's (RF) "Special Military Action" military intervention onto what

had been Ukrainian territory and abstained on the initial UN votes against the RF action, organized by the US and EU allies, on the grounds that there were no references or contextual language regarding NATO expansion directed at Russia.

Cuba has vociferously denied supporting or "turning a blind eye" to the apparent recruitment of individual mercenaries of Cuban origin or citizenship to fight under RF direction. But such slanders and lies persist and were used in the UN debate and vote as a cover and pretext for a number of No and Abstaining European votes.

Of course, it is a bit rich to expect Cuba to adopt US and EU formulations and half-truths to diplomatically and politically excoriate a friendly country that has opposed Washington's criminal war of asphyxiation with diplomatic support and limited but important humanitarian and other assistance.

Washington gained the votes of EU member-states Czechia, Lithuania, Slovenia, plus Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Ukraine and a further 13 abstentions: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Moldova, Montenegro, and Romania.

The European and other attacks on Cuba's political structures and institutions accompanies Cuba's rejection of the criterion and "standards" of capitalist parliamentary "democracy" for its own quite laudable and participatory electoral system, criminal justice system, and civil liberties which are endlessly caricatured.

See my essay "the Case of Cuba: Human Rights as a Club."

https://www.us-cubanormalization.org/the-case-of-cuba-human-rights-as-a-club/

Any admonitions of Cuban "repression" that does not – first and foremost – start with US aggression and blockade is a disingenuous "half-truth" – a serious revolutionary process that does not defend itself and counter foreign-back bloody counter-revolution is irresponsible and doomed.

Germany and Italy Abstain

For many decades a Christian Democratic and Social Democratic alliance collaborated in governing a now-united German capitalist state. Both these parties are now deeply unpopular and being "outflanked" by political forces that are (not without merit) presented as far-right and "populist." Certainly, the electorally rapidly ascending Alternative for German (AfD) party has its ideological roots in the post-Nazi surreptitious rightist and conservative forces that struggled to raise their heads above the parapet given the enormous toxic legacy of National Socialist-Nazi legacy.

AfD was founded in 2013 as an "Eurosceptic "electoral force focused on issues like opposition to the EU and the euro currency, and was particularly hostile to Greece then under the whip of IMF-EU debt slavery and austerity under the failed left-wing Syriza party of Alexis Tsipris and Yanis Varoufkis which subsequently capitulated, split, and collapsed. "It's conservative replacement abstained on the UNGA Cuba vote."

Quickly the AfD focused on immigration and attracting a mélange of ultraright, anti-immigrant racists. They also postured as anti-war and took a

“non-aligned” stance that is labeled by the CDU/CSU, SPD, and the Green Party as “pro-Russian” because it opposes economic sanctions, particularly around energy, from the RF; supports RF calls for an immediate cease fire and direct negotiations; opposes Ukraine’s membership in NATO and the EU; and most pointedly no military support to Ukraine. The AfD is explicitly anti-communist in its ideological orientation.

A similar, but not of course exact, parallel is the case of Giorgia Meloni’s Italy. She is the longest serving Prime Minister in the Italian post-Mussolini, post-WW2 period from 2022 until now (There have been nearly 70 rotating capitalist governments with 31 different Prime Ministers in Italy from 1946 to now.) Meloni’s roots are also in the Mussolini-era fascist legacy which always managed to organize themselves a small but legal space for “ neofascism” and the defense of Mussolini, who was and is presented as being “tainted” unfairly by his association with Hitler. As a youth activist Meloni had no compunction joining the youth organization of the fascist Italian Social Movement which dissolved in 1995. Meloni developed an alliance with the dissolute billionaire and Prime Minister Silvio Bertolucci which helped grease her way into more “mainstream” conservative bourgeois politics with a “populist” veneer. Her trajectory has been similar to France’s Marine Le Pen as she distanced herself from her father’s Vichy-fascist, ardently pro-French Empire National Front.

Today in Italy there have been rising mass protests by students, truckers and other workers that have added to other erosions of support and parliamentary glitches for Meloni’s right-wing coalition as national elections

loom in 2027. Meloni and her allies have stepped up “Law-and-Order” and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Certainly the shifts from Yes to Abstain by the exceedingly unpopular Friedrich Merz government in Germany and the increasingly unpopular Italian Meloni governments in the UNGA vote are a sap thrown to their perceived anti-communist political bases but the overall political impact will be minimal and conditioned on how the class and political struggles unfold across the European continent in what, by all measures, seems to be an extended period of both industrial, financial, and economic downturn, fuel and energy crises, and consequent social and political polarization.

As an interesting aside, Hungary, and its new “anti-corruption” conservative capitalist government that ousted the old “crony capitalist” conservative regime of Victor Orban maintained continuity aligning with Washington against Cuba.

Whither the Security Council?

The primary contradiction at work in this annual vote-ritual inside the UNGA is that while the Cuban-introduced Resolutions are non-binding, that is, they have no legally enforceable mechanisms or material weight *per se*, they also act as a relative *political* shield that does indeed carry a relative material weight.

The vote unfolded under the antiquated “Security Council” system set up in the aftermath of World War 2 and registered the correlation of forces that

emerged from that slaughterhouse – 100 million dead civilians and soldiers -- with veto rights given to 5 nation-states (in alphabetical order):

1. China (The great Chinese Revolution triumphed in 1949, shook the world and accelerated the so-called Cold War era. Tens of millions of Chinese civilians and soldiers died in the World War 2 era beginning with the Japanese imperialist wars of aggression from 1931-45 on Chinese lands. US veto power and pressure kept the overthrown, rump regime in Taiwan –protected by massive combined military forces -- of ousted "Generalissimo" Chiang Kai-shek seated in UNSC until the US finally acquiesced in 1971 -- as the Vietnamese revolutionary war against US aggression raged and US president Richard Nixon sought Soviet and Chinese collaboration in his futile effort to halt the revolutionary triumph and reunification of Vietnam-- and the People's Republic of China was seated in the General Assembly and Security Council with veto power.
2. France (had a powerful colonial Empire, at least on a map, but the weak French capitalist state as a whole capitulated in 1940 to the Nazis and, with much subsequent collaboration afterward under the Vichy regime, and some, heroic popular domestic anti-Nazi resistance and hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths, that mounted as the Nazi downfall approached from other fronts. Nevertheless, France got a permanent seat on the UNSC with veto power.)
3. United Kingdom (The UK had nearly 400,000 combat and some 60,000+ civilian deaths in World War 2 plus many tens of thousands

of colonial troops) by the time of the final defeat of German-Nazi and Japanese imperialism by Winston Churchill's "Grand Alliance" of the UK, USA, and USSR. By wars end, Great Britain was a greatly weakened and battered capitalist state with a radicalizing working-class, particularly from demobilized soldiers, who were demanding radical social changes from a Labour Party government that had unceremoniously ousted Churchill's Tories after the end of the wartime Conservative-Labour National Unity government and new parliamentary elections. The British Empire had to face the " unintended consequences" of the inter-imperialist slaughterhouse that was fought largely over *gaining* (in the case of Germany, Italy, and Japan) *or retaining* (UK, France, and more minor European colonial lands the colonial spoils they already had." Instead the *dialectic* of history was unleashed was creating the space and conditions for a massive revolt and the revolutionary struggle of the colonial peoples and mass independence movements on a *generalized world scale*. Indian independence was won in 1948 and then, fairly rapidly, over the next decades, the British Empire, which the sun supposedly never set on was a shadow (pun intended) of its former self. The UK was left with "Commonwealth" pretensions, a frail capitalist economy, weakened but still-important military capacity, including nuclear weapons, allied with Washington-NATO...and the UNSC veto.

4. United States (The USA was the only major combatant in World War 2 (over 300,000 US combat deaths) where direct military combat – by land, sea, or air – did not take place at all on what was then the "

continental 48 states" and where the Great Depression-recovering, vast capitalist industrial prowess of the US was transferred into massive military production and armament under a military draft, implemented by law nearly 15 months before the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) attacked the US "territory" in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii[6]. This meant that mighty – hegemonic in today's geopolitical lingo – US industrial and finance capital (which was vastly overproduced and needing markets to expand and conquer) became dominant in the production and distribution of commodities in the utterly devastated post-World War 2 world which created the United Nations Security Council in its current seemingly unsustainable form. The 1949 Chinese Revolution and the path to the Korean and Vietnamese revolutionary wars greatly accelerated what became decades of "Cold War" polarization and contention even as the colonial independence struggles were advancing by any and all means as the non-aligned movement grew as a world force.

5. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (The USSR was overwhelmingly the major military force defeating German-Nazi imperialism on the ground and in blood (some 9 million Soviet combat deaths within 27 million overall deaths) within the "geopolitical" alliance. Up to 90% of German military deaths (some 5 million) were on the "Eastern Front" through to the conquest of Berlin. When the USSR and its allied nation-states in eastern Europe collapsed in the 1989-91 period, the newly created, minus 14 seceded states from the former Soviet Union, became recognized as UN member-states, and the Russian

Federation retained its UNSC status and veto power.) The former USSR republics that declared sovereignty and independence and became member-states of the United Nation were Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Estonia; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Moldova; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; and Uzbekistan.

Spanish-American War and the Origins of Contemporary US Imperialism

Washington's direct colonial pretensions were always pointed towards the Caribbean and Asia. This "geographical" dimension was shaped historically by the victorious -- for the US -- outcome of the so-called Spanish-American War. The once-mighty Spanish Empire in its extreme decrepitude and under mass, anti-colonial revolutionary upsurge in Cuba was displaced by US power.

This was the origin of the period of open glorification and promotion of empire and imperialism (with all the necessarily and proudly racist terminology that Trump and Rubio identify so strongly with.)

There were direct colonial takeovers, e.g. the Philippines or indirect neocolonial subjugation and political domination, punctuated by direct military occupations, e.g. Cuba, Haiti, Central America.



THE BIG STICK IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Confrontation

The stunning lying demagogy of the US ambassador Waltz during the floor debate and his pathetic attempt to exploit with unbounded cant the very harsh Cuban realities flowing directly – and obviously to the overwhelming UNGA majority — from US policies led to a rare disruption (in the generally formally staid diplomatic language and decorum protocols in the UNGA. The vulgar provocations and lying insults of Waltz was not endured in silence by the revolutionary Cuban diplomats on the UN floor. Instead it resulted in dramatic, demonstrative action by the Cuban delegation led by Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, Deputy Foreign Minister Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, and Cuban UN Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán.

For a vivid description of the US-Cuba confrontation see the excellent article by Cuba Si NY/NJ leading activists Barbara Mutnick and Mark Satinoff in the online publication World-Outlook. https://world-outlook.com/2026/11/02/un-vote-on-us-blockade-cuba-prevails-but-washington-makes-gains/

This was widely picked up in world and US media and put at the center of what was generally much more widespread coverage, alongside increasingly ubiquitous pro-blockade, pro-US intervention outlets such as cubaheadlines.com

No serious, objective, fact-friendly decent human being can deny the conscious intentionality of US murderous sanctions on Cuba even if you have (or think you have) valid criticisms of Cuban government policies.

Of course thousands upon thousands of international visitors and solidarity activists (or “useful idiots” (as the Washington Post editorial board called solidarity activists who delivered solidarity aid to Cuba in an organized and widely covered “Convoy”) and including growing numbers of Cuban American youth who are against the blockade and inevitably, as they travel, read, and study, become not only hostile to the blockade but develop empathy and sympathy for the living legacy of the Cuban Revolution with all its contradictions and even it’s mistakes and past warts. Of course, what is remarkable in the history of people’s and socialist revolutions, is how few of these there actually have been in the course of the Cuban Revolution...and

how honest and objective Cuban leaders have generally been on mistakes and errors, starting with Fidel Castro.



https://cubanamericansforcuba.org/

It should also be said that an honest, egalitarian revolutionary leadership in a small Caribbean island of currently 10 million people (down from nearly 12 million due to blockade-induced mass migration), 750 miles long and a maximum 119 miles wide from a US 330 million populatin, around 3000 miles long and and 1600-1900 miles wide under siege and permanent threat is generally forced to react to immediate pressures and crises where choices are not between good and not-so-good policy choices (always learned in retrospect) but between bad and worse policy choices.

Cuban tourism was battered by the COVID-19 pandemic as was the society, but these were made worse by the deepening of the blockade under Trump 1 and Biden. Much resources were thrown into the tourism industry which collapsed and we now have empty hotel rooms all over Havana and the country.

Tamping down on one urgent problem may exacerbate another, all in the context of the unending pressure of contracts cancelled under US pressure,

pressuring otherwise willing state and private investors and capital to withhold or cancel investment. But of course Cuba is fighting back with great political and diplomatic skill by any means necessary.

Michael Waltz: Arrogant Warrior for the Decadent US Empire in Decline

Waltz's intervention and tone was deliberately full of vulgar lies, half-truths, and conscious sophistry. Such methods and "means" necessarily flow Washington's policy "ends" of overthrowing the socialist Cuban government and achieving "regime change" by any means possible. Since US policies are widely opposed and even despised internationally, including among broad layers in the United States, reality must be flipped upside down and propaganda must elevate crude rationalization and in-your-face hypocrisy. In an individual, psychologists call this *projection*. As a method and technique the "art" of the half-truth emerges.

The US population as a whole of course has uneven degrees of awareness about the actual history of US-Cuban relations within a growing, more generalized anti-war and anti-intervention popular consciousness. This is registered in consistent public-opinion polls and surveys as well as the hundreds of large-and-small US cities, states, trade-union bodies, religious and many other institutions that have officially passed Resolutions against US sanctions and hostility against Cuba and for US-Cuba normalization over many years. This runs counter to the bipartisan – if fractious over tactics– support for US sanctions and "regime change" policies over these same many years in the White House and on Capitol Hill. So, while

increasingly opposed everywhere the US blockade is still being implemented as US government policy.

https://nnoc.org/resolutions/

Waltz tried to paint a picture of Cuban communist "elites" that are living it up in luxury mansions, yachts, and private islands (and he wasn't talking about Epstein's Island!) while the Cuban working people starve and suffer! This from the representative of Donald Trump and his corrupt gang of billionaires and cronys. If the revolutionary socialists in leadership positions in the Cuban Communist Party. the Cuban government, the elected National People's Assembly (not to speak of the leaders of mass organizations of trade unionists (the Federation of Cuban workers, CTC); women in the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC); private and co-operative farmers, and youth were "elites" anywhere near as separated from the Cuban masses as a privileged, bureaucratic, parasitic force as portrayed by the multimillionaire Waltz (himself a piker compared to his bosses!) Then of course the US ruling classes and their bipartisan federal government would be allied with them as they were with the military dictatorship of Batista and their US mafia allies – and their kindred souls and decadent ruling classes elsewhere. It doesn't take much "investigation" to see that the US rulers and their spokespeople love dissolute and corrupt bourgeois parasites from their client states. The partial disclosures of the Jeffrey Epstein scandal under tremendous public pressures, starting with the courageous women directly impacted and honest journalist could not make this clearer.

This is not to say that combatting corruption and bureaucracy have not been central issue in the Cuban Revolution since its triumph. That fight on every level has been led by the PCC, government, and mass organizations. It is actually an extremely rich history that is a consistent thread in Fidel Castro's speeches and government policies and investigations often led by Raul Castro, but also in Cuban art, literature and film. It is expressed as well in the language and self-sacrificing examples of heroes and fighters like Che Guevara, Celia Sanchez, Haydee Santamaria, Victor Dreke, the Cuban Five and countless other personal examples of exemplary ethics and integrity. Nevertheless, as Marxists, the Cuban leadership grasps that corrupt and bureaucratic practices cannot be reduced to "human nature" or individual proclivities but exist in a social and economic context which in the case of contemporary Cuba is overwhelmingly marked by the US economic and political war and especially in the last decade culminating in the extreme shortages and stresses that feed corruption and bureaucracy. But it is the impact of the US economic and political war on Cuba that is the main impediment to policies that can counter and defeat manifestations of individual networked corrupt and bureaucratic methods in administration.



This is where Waltz's sophistry is most stunning. If US policies result in empty medicine shelves, the whatever and wherever medications can be found some will get and most will not. So-called "black markets" emerge that are corrupt by definition but fill a certain need that was previously a universal right in theory and practice.

The cruel blockade that it is Waltz's job to defend are precisely driving the shortages and breakdown of social services that facilitate the increasing social inequalities that allow corruption and bureaucratic privilege to fester and grow. Any recent visitor to Cuba can see the growth of a small Cuban "middle class" alongside working-class immiseration and pauperization. Another especially terrible consequence is the mass emigration of numerous professionals, including doctors and academics, who are demoralized by the harsh decline in their living standards and unable to see a way out for them and their families. Again the idea that Waltz and Co. are aghast at social inequalities and privileges when US domestic and international policies of austerity, cutbacks in social services, cutting taxes for billionaires, etc. is the essence of what they do!

Waltz got all self-righteous and aghast as he covered himself in the flag of "free speech" when Cuban Foreign Minister and the entire Cuban delegation answered his deliberate falsehoods and confronted him directly. Again, it is precisely the free speech for the overwhelming majority unleashed by the Cuban Revolution that has inspired millions of conscious fighters across the Americas and the entire globe that imperialist bullies like Waltz fear. "This is America. We have free speech" Waltz bleated from the *UN* dais. In a land where a handful of media oligopolies owned by billionaire

families have the freedom to defend their social dictatorship of capital. And where repression and state violence are a constant accompaniment and threat.to mass struggles against imperialist war, racism, police killings and brutality, the horrors of ICE, and labor struggles.

Of course the constitutional rights and democratic freedom extant in the US are primarily a byproduct not of words on a document but mainly of mass labor, Afro-American, immigrant, women's rights, and other popular struggles that give actual content to existing freedoms in documents and expand them, including with legal codification in a changing relationship of forces. What was the actual content of "free speech" in the Jim Crow South before the mass civil rights movement? What was the actual content of worker's rights, including free-speech and free-assembly rights before these were massively expanded by the historic US labor upsurge in the 1930s with its roots in the battles of the Industrial Workers of the World, and militant workers struggles and fights for legality and democratic rights *in practice* in the course of US history. The whole essence and necessity of democratic rights and freedoms for working people, oppressed nationalities is precisely to fight for a better life and a better world.

Currently the US government is issuing threats and with lurid tales of "foreign agents" to intimidate, isolate, and move against opponents of their cruel sadism against Cuba. The fact is that the fight against the US blockade is conquering and expanding democratic rights and freedom of speech. It is disingenuous in the extreme to label Cuba's heroic struggle to defend a people's revolution by any means necessary as "tyranny" or "dictatorship."

It's as if a burglar wrecks your home (while stealing your possessions) and then calls you untidy. The methods employed by Waltz is that of the "half truth" as the great abolitionist and anti-imperialist (Twain was vice-president and leading agitator, writer, and organizer for the American Anti-Imperialist League until his death and a champion of the colonized Congolese peoples against genocidal Belgian colonial rule in his sensational, classic pamphlet *King Leopold's Soliloquy*) was the classic exposure.



Bruno Rodriguez: Voice of Dignity and Resistance

On Day 2, before the actual vote, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez gave a master class in combining calm logic and facts with revolutionary determination. He understood that answering the histrionic, posturing Waltz was an opportunity (a lay-up really) for revolutionary Cuba to speak truth to power, conquer the moral high ground against blatant mendacity, and win the battle of ideas. This was in the revolutionary diplomatic traditions of Cuban foreign policy from Raul Roa ("The Chancellor of Dignity") and Isidoro Malmierca, through to Ricardo Alarcon and since.

Rodriguez defended the UN as the "capital of multilateralism" rejecting the "doctrine" of "'Peace through Force' and 'Might is Right'" through unbounded cynicism and hypocrisy." He noted that the UNGA in regards to Cuba faces a "new situation now." The US government is reacting viciously

to every attempt by Cuba to counter and circumvent every Cuban attempt to “wiggle out of the noose.” Washington is determined that there will be “no escape routes.”

Further that “the mendacious accusations and hackneyed cliches are being level by a corrupt, dysfunctional plutocracy.” He plied on facts on the impact of the US economic war on Cuban medical care: infant mortality rates doubled; survival rates for cancer down from 85% to 65%. As he stated with calm but full force “They have no right!...Cuba cannot be allowed to live in peace!” The seated US delegation were noticeably fidgeting and scrambling.

Here is the full speech which should be widely circulated:

«The blockade silently kills and punishes our population like never before» › CUBA VS BLOCKADE › Granma - Official voice of the PCC

What happened at the UNGA, preceded by the Brazilian and followed by the US midterm elections, are in reality big hits to already diminishing prospects of direct US military strikes, either in the form of replicating the January 3, 2026 attack on Venezuela to “take out” Cuban revolutionary Raul Castro – an imperialist utopian fantasy – or even more preposterously, an invasion of tens of thousands of US troops to occupy Havana and other Cuban landing areas or cities.

Revolutionary Cuba has and is resisting magnificently on every front – from political-diplomatic to preparing armed military defense within their military doctrine of “the war of the entire people.” While this is the decisive

factor and lever, stepped-up hemispheric, international, and US solidarity from the “grass-roots” up will also pivotal in the weeks and months ahead.

Afterward: The Midterm Elections in the United States

The resounding defeat of Trump and his lock-step Republican Party in the November 3, 2026 US Congressional, state, and local elections naturally left many Cuba solidarity and anti-blockade activists and organizations – and clearly, beyond the election statistics, the large majority of the US population – with a sense of immediate relief and even elation. Given Trump’s imperial bombast and bluster, his over-the-top narcissism, vulgarity, meanness, barely veiled racism and misogyny, and overall personification of bourgeois greed and decadence -- alongside his actual policies -- the size and scale of his public humiliation is particularly gratifying. All the more so, perhaps, since the Trump-Republican Party crash is hard to spin as a concurrent endorsement of the unpopular, highly fractious and divided, Democratic Party, who now hold an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives and a large majority in the Senate, amid rising expectations which – first and foremost -- must now be tampered down by the bipartisan ruling capitalist class as a whole.

There will be no let up in the pressing issues of mounting capitalist economic, financial, and trade crises that could easily spiral out of control, greatly accelerated by the continuing debacle of the highly unpopular US-Israeli war against Iran which is unleashing unintended consequences and growing angst and handwringing in ruling-class and policymaking circles.

Nevertheless, our growing Cuba solidarity and anti-blockade movement needs to soberly and objectively analyze how this major shift within *bourgeois* electoral politics and in the relationship of forces between the Democratic and Republican parties, will impact and affect our work to defeat the blockade. While there is no question that the midterm election results do register a different and reconfigured political *terrain* at hand in the legislative arena in Washington DC and in states and cities across the country, it remains to be seen if the Democratic Party leadership "team" will advance any anti-blockade or anti-intervention legislation in 2027.

Nevertheless, this new political terrain (inside the Capitol Hill Lion's Den so to speak) can aid anti-blockade forces in our main work of public visibility, public education, and growing, consistent street actions and mobilizations. This is in a growing context where Cuba coverage and information in "mainstream" media and social media is increasing steadily, including a series of interviews with top Cuban leaders on all major US broadcast and print media, which are widely reproduced and circulated on social media.

Nevertheless, US-Cuba normalization remains far from the center of US politics. It must be noted that even the most outspoken, manifestly heartfelt, anti-embargo and pro-normalization elected officials – such as representatives James McGovern, Pramila Jayapal, and Jonathan Jackson – have not campaigned on the "Cuba Question" inside the Democratic Caucus, on congressional committees, or on the House and Senate floors given the permanent public emergency in Cuba directly caused by the federal US government.

Even some of the most progressive, left-wing, self-identified democratic socialists or social-democrats – e.g. Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez -- have been up until now tepid or silent as the public lynching of Cuba has deepened. At the same time, the shift in power in both the House and Senate could give some folks -- who surely know the facts on the ground and history of US criminality – some spine. We should also note that some newly elected Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) representatives from NYC and in the US hinterland have spoken out with some passion and conviction on the blockade and for US-Cuba normalization, and did run away or adapt, in their election campaigns, under the concerted pressure to adapt to the anti-Cuba narrative. This pressure will no doubt emerge upon their taking office. (The newly electorally deposed—by DSA Member Nythia Raman--Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass sprinted away from her previous youthful support for the Cuban Revolution and participation in the legendary Venceremos Brigade, in a now-familiar pattern. Highly popular New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, also a member of the DSA, who took a courageous stance (and receiving vicious Islamophobic attacks in return) in defense of Palestinian self-determination and condemning the US-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza, but has not publicly touched Cuba with a ten-foot pole since his election.)

We shall see if any of this changes in the new terrain on Capitol Hill. No one should hold their breath, but perhaps the Democratic Party leadership in formal power may be amenable, unlike in the past, to internal and external pressures. to promote any partial or more comprehensive anti-sanctions, anti-intervention legislation out of committees and onto the House and

Senate floor. Our independent, growing, increasingly united, multi-front solidarity and anti-blockade movement will be ready pounce on any federal legislative openings if they actually materialize. This is essential to the overall strategy and tactics necessary to *actually defeat* the blockade insofar as only a formal act of Congress can "legally" end the blockade and extraterritorial US sanctions -- short of an actual social and political revolution in the US.

Until that glorious day arrives our broad forces must and will continue to have a focus on congressional and legislative work on every level of US electoral political contests to promote any emerging anti-blockade (even if partial and limited around, for example, lifting travel restrictions) legislation. The only condition being that the legislation is clean, and not conditional or rendered meaningless by anti-Cuba boilerplate and bullshit.

Many Cuba solidarity activists had expectations (or, more pointedly, illusions) that when the Biden Administration took office in 2020 that at least some alleviation of the embargo, was at hand. Instead for four long years Cuban Advocacy groups were cynically treated with disdain and endless "reviews" of anti-Cuba measures accompanied by the same anti-Cuba boilerplate, talking points, and half-truths about Cuban political and social realities that were repeated on the floor and from their seats in the UNGA Hall by the small minority of US allies and flunkies. It should be noted that at the very end of Biden's term, after Kamala Harris's electoral defeat, the dilatory Biden-Blinken "reviews" finally ended, and Cuba was "removed" from the State Department "terrorism" list (immediately

reinstated when Trump took over) and which remains formally on the record for the Democrats.

Our expanding movement in state and local settings – where there are growing Cuba-centered united-front Coalitions – will continue to pass new, anti-blockade Resolutions in this new terrain that also exists for this in statehouses and City Councils, as well a trade union bodies, that update the horrific conditions that are accumulating and multiplying in Cuba, amid the rising social inequalities also exacerbated by the blockade.

The Cuba Solidarity and anti-blockade movement must unite through formations like the International US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition, the National Network on Cuba, The People's Forum, independent, and socialist, anti-war political organizations and parties, and all other forces despite other, inevitable sharp political divergences. We can and do organize and even march separately but let us strike and mobilize together for the fighting people and working class of Cuba.

Ike Nahem

New York City

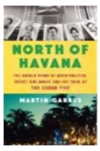
November 12, 2026

FOOTNOTE 1: In 1994 the US delegation was found asleep at the switch while Cuban diplomats skillfully managed to utilize a procedural technicality put it on the UNGA agenda where alternating bipartisan Washington White Houses and State Departments, most recently in summer 2026, have been unable to remove it for all these subsequent decades.

FOOTNOTE 2: Of course, such self-suppression is nothing new for such top US capitalist media. In 1961 the *New York Times,* with "creative" editing, withheld vital information on the "imminence" of the US-directed mercenary invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs/Playa Giron. Information held about the January 3, 2026, US military invasion of Venezuela was suppressed altogether. The *Times* and other top big-business media withheld figures on the extensive damage to US Persian Gulf bases and destroyed military hardware, including anti-drone and ballistic missile "interceptors" for an extended period after the February 28, 2026, launching of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Such accurate and credible facts were widely available widely on international and US podcasts and other media platforms.

FOOTNOTE 3: The Cuban 5 revolutionaries – Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Libation, and René González -- spend up to 16 years each incarcerated after rigged, unfair trials. (See the excellent books *North of Havana* by famed attorney Martin Garbus and *What Lies Across the Water* by acclaimed journalist Stephen Kimber for more information on the political and legal struggles for their eventual freedom.

FOOTNOTE 4: The comeback re-election of Brazil's president Lula da Silva on October 25 –two days before the UNGA debate and vote -- no doubt was a big morale boost to our solidarity delegation (as well as to Cuba). It was a major political and *even psychological blow* to the overblown narrative of unstoppable conservative-rightist





ascendancy, and, yet again, the definitive death of "the left," "Marxism, "communism," 19th,, 20th, and 21st Century socialism as defined by reactionary imperialists and utopian libertarians

FOOTNOTE 5: Kast, whose father was an escaped Nazi Wehrmacht officer who, like so many actual surviving Nazis, ended up in Chile, Argentina, and other South America countries in notorious "ratlines" with the collaboration of various Catholic Church hierarchies. The Kast family, including Kast senior and sons, including the current president, were strong supporters of the 1973 overthrow of the elected government of Salvador Allende by the Pinochet military dictatorship, which they served in, expanding the family fortune.

https://brooklynrail.org/2026/04/field-notes/the-ratline-neoliberalism-and-the-new-right-in-chile/

FOOTNOTE 6: Washington had implemented steady economic sanctions and more pointedly an oil blockade on Japan in the name of opposing the wannabe Japanese Empire's (with the Rising Sun of Empire as their emblem) ferociously brutal and genocidal -- before the word was invented after World War 2 – war against the peoples of China. US public opinion was highly sympathetic to China's intense suffering and even the mounting resistance led by the Chinese Communist Party under Mao Zedong and Zhu De through the best-selling *Red Star Over China* by Edgar Snow



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Ike's main political activity in recent decades has been in organizing against the unending, bipartisan Washington economic and political war on Cuba. He is a founder and leading organizer of the Cuba Si NY/NJ Coalition and the International US-Cuba Normalization Conference.

