

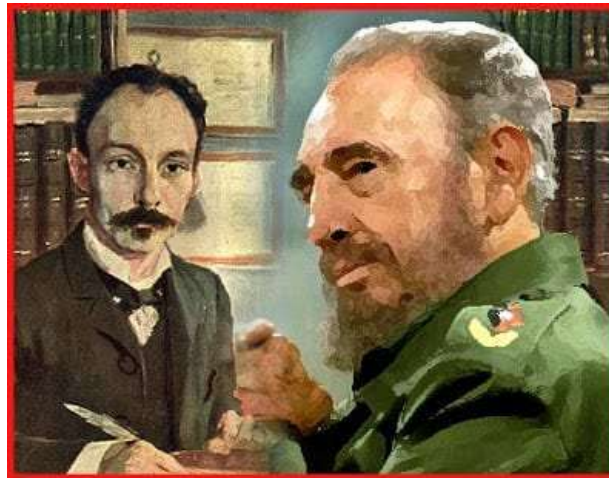
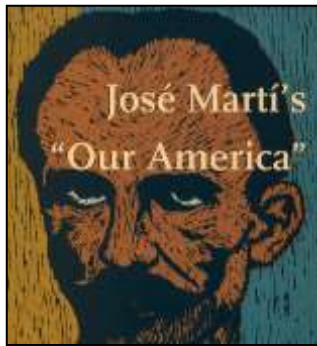
Key elements of Cuban internationalism



Presentation at ACFS National Consultation, April 2024
Dr Tim Anderson

The Cuban Revolution and José Martí: humanist “mastermind” of the 1953 Moncada uprising

Fidel Castro on his own contribution: “[It] consists in having brought about a synthesis of the ideas of Martí and of Marxist-Leninism, and having applied them consistently to our struggle”.



Martí: “a lot of heroism [is needed] to clean up a lot of crime”

Many of the ideas of Martí can be seen in the Cuban revolution’s emphasis on mass education, solidarity and internationalism.

Centro de Fidel Castro Ruz:
a legacy documented

The Fidel Castro Centre (also online: <https://www.centrofidel.cu>) has multimedia displays on Fidel and Cuban internationalism.



Fidel se identificó con la doctrina moral, la lógica del pensar y la plena entrega de Martí al cumplimiento de sus objetivos revolucionarios. No deificó al Maestro, por mucho que este le guiara a menudo, sino que a lo largo de su vida sostuvo un diálogo permanente con él.

Fidel identified with Martí's moral doctrine, logic of thinking and full dedication to the fulfillment of his revolutionary objectives. He did not deify the Master, no matter how much he often guided him, but throughout his life he maintained a permanent dialogue with him.

Cuban internationalism, main themes

Themes:

Latin Americanism and Regional Integration –Venezuela, ELAM, ALBA, CELAC – first emergency aid to Chile in 1960 earthquake

Decolonisation – Algeria, Zaire, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Syria, Palestine and East Timor (after 2002)

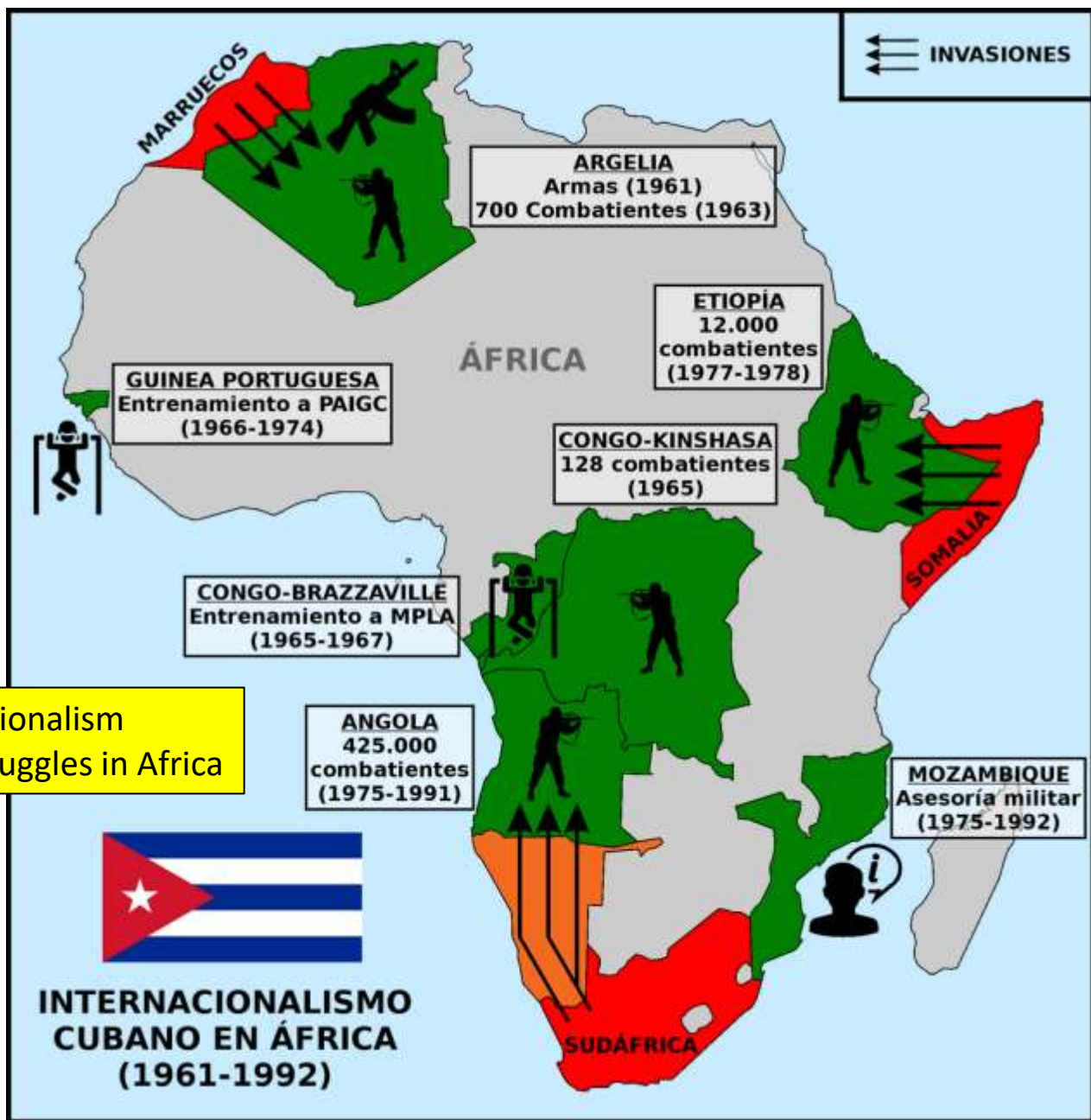
Linked to 'Debt to Africa' – Angola, Namibia, South Africa

Humanism: Emergency Relief – the Henry Reeves Brigade – Pakistan earthquake 2005, New Orleans 'Katrina' 2005#, Italy, COVID

Humanism in relations with the USA - millennium scholarships

New Strategic / Multipolar Partnerships – Russia, China, Iran

Compensated Medical Cooperation – Brazil, Europe

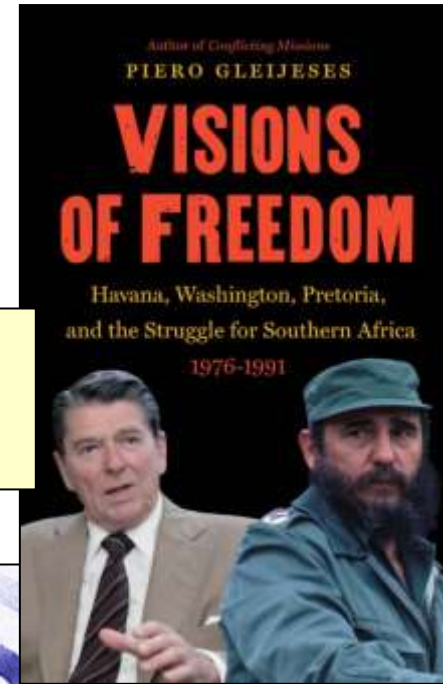


Cuban military internationalism helped anti-colonial struggles in Africa



Piero Gleijeses: Cuba in Africa

These two books by brilliant US historian Piero Gleijeses tell the story of Cuban support for decolonisation in Africa, 1960s-1980s.



Guinea Bissau:
Amilcar Cabral with Fidel



Decisive Cuban-led victory against the South Africa apartheid army in Angola

Algeria 1963-1964, 686 Cuban troops and Cuba's first medical mission of 56 doctors (when Cuba had a shortage of doctors) led by Dr José Ramón Machado Ventura



Cuba celebrates anniversary of first medical mission to Algeria

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210525-cuba-celebrates-anniversary-of-first-medical-mission-to-algeria/>

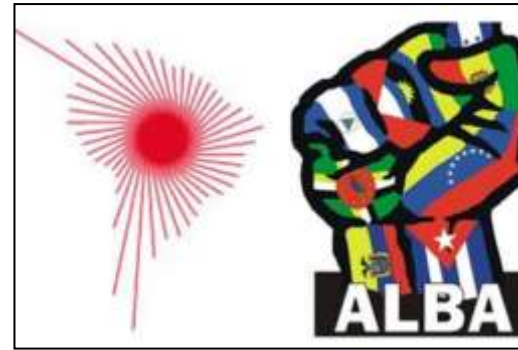
Latin Americanism – ALBA and CELAC created, with Chavez and Venezuela

ALBA, Part One: Cuba and Venezuela, or when Chavez met Fidel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i9oRppSp6g>



Eusebio Leal, former Historian of Havana, narrates the first meeting between Chavez and Fidel in 1994



The social programs of ALBA (2004) lifted millions out of poverty, illiteracy and homelessness. CELAC (2011) created a regional forum where the problems of Latin American and the Caribbean could be resolved without US intervention.



The Washington controlled Organization of American States (OAS/OEA) has long been a source of destabilization in the Americas. CELAC counter-balanced that.

Palestine and Syria: decolonisation and support for independent Arab nations, in face of a vicious, apartheid regime

Before Cuba fought US backed apartheid forces in Angola, they fought them in Palestine and Syria.



Cuba Reiterates Long-Standing Support For Syrian Sovereignty



Syria 1973, 746 Cuban troops, 1 death

“Direct Cuban military support for Syria, with the aim of repelling the advance of Israeli troops and securing their withdrawal from Arab territory.”



News - World
One Year Since the First Medical Delivery, Cuba's Ongoing Solidarity With Syria



Cuba has long standing cooperation with and support for Syria, which has been under attack by the US since the 1950s.



Cuban support for the Palestinian people

1959	Raul Castro and Che Guevara visit the Gaza Strip, at that time controlled by Egypt
1964	Cuba is amongst the first nations to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)
1973	Cuba send 700+ troops to help Syria reclaim occupied Arab land in the October war, but the war fails, betrayed by Egypt.
1973	Cuba breaks all diplomatic relations with Israel
1979	Cuba denounces Egypt for its peace agreement with Israel, and backs Egypt's suspension from the Non Aligned Movement.
ELAM	Over many years, Cuba offers 150 medical (and other) scholarships per year to Palestinian students
2012	Cuba backs the campaign to have Palestine (the PLO) recognised as a UN 'non-member observer state'.
Nov 2023	President Diaz Canel proposes that a Cuban trained Palestinian doctor brigade go to and provide assistance in Gaza
Dec 2023	Cuba and Iran (the major funder of Palestinian resistance groups) call for a global coalition to protect Palestinian rights.

Cuban President Diaz Canel on the Palestinian struggle, 2024

Díaz-Canel:

“We do not accept certain selective indignation that seeks to ignore the seriousness of the genocide that is perpetrated today against the Palestinians, presenting the Israeli side as the victim and ignoring 75 years of attacks, occupation, abuse and exclusion. Nothing can justify what Israel’s army is doing in Gaza.”

Díaz-Canel invited 144 of these young Palestinian students to the Palace of the Revolution for a meeting on 17 November. 53 of the 144 Palestinians in attendance were from the Gaza Strip. Díaz-Canel was presented with a black and white keffiyeh by the students, an important symbol of Palestinian resistance and their struggle for self-determination. **“We are going to take care of you, we are going to give you all of our attention, we are going to accompany you in your careers, because you are the future of Palestine.”**

Brigade to Gaza?

<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/nacionales/339714-cuban-president-meets-with-young-palestinians>



Cuban Medical Cooperation in Timor Leste and the Pacific Islands

- Cuba started a massive doctor training program for Timor Leste in 2003, which achieved 1,000 graduated doctors by about 2015.
- Doctor training in the Pacific Islands began in 2006 and reached most major islands, making Cuba the most important health trainer in the region. That is turn led to better relations between Canberra and Havana.

Video: Not really Europeans / No son realmente europeos / Cuban doctors in the Pacific

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVYWV7Ss780>



Video: Timor's New Doctors / Los Nuevos Médicos de Timor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nzz0v2gtJ38>

Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Iran
new strategic partnerships between independent states

Fidel visited Tehran in 1971, Diaz Canel in 2023
Iranian President Raisi visited Havana, Caracas and Managua in 2023



Iran, long term member of the NAM, is deepening relations with other independent states under blockade. Iran helps industrialise Cuban medicines and helped Venezuela restart its crippled oil refineries in 2022. With Russia and China and as part of BRICS and the SCO, Iran will likely play a central role in dismantling the dollar dictatorship.

Cuba in Australia: recent cooperation, from about 2010

The main Cuban cooperation program in Australia, so far, has been literacy for indigenous communities, which began as a University Research project and is now run by a public-private foundation, Australian style, with Cuban method and advisers. Literacy for Life has regular high levels of graduation and thus broad support. <https://www.lflf.org.au>

Literacy for Life

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GOAL: READ TO MY KIDS

Often our students have a simple aim - reading to their kids. Teaching adults literacy creates a ripple effect.

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