



Australia-Cuba Friendship Society
Melbourne NEWSLETTER
December 2019

Next Meeting
Monday 2nd
December
7.30pm
Unitarian Church
110 Grey St,
East Melbourne

Melbourne	Sydney	Perth	Brisbane	Canberra	Hobart	Adelaide	Central Coast	NSW/Vic Sthn Border	New Zealand
PO Box 1051 Collingwood Vic. 3066	PO Box k364 Haymarket NSW 1240	PO Box 1455 South Perth WA 6951	PO Box 5683 West End Qld 4101	PO Box 6139 Kingston ACT 2604	GPO Box 323 Hobart Tas. 7001	Box 381 N. Adelaide SA 5006	PO Box 1082 Gosford NSW 2250	PO Box 854 Albury NSW 2640	220a Adelaide Rd Newtown Wellington New Zealand

Dear Comrades

26 November, 2019

Here we are again, surrounded by Christmas crap and messages of good will, but not for those at the bottom of the heap. Infuriating when you see what the top CEO mobsters are getting as they cream off the system. The average full-time wage-earner earns about \$1,695 per week and pays exorbitant rent (can't afford a house), the occasional meal out, rates that keep going up and up, and a heap of other things if she/he has children. Unemployment and under-employment are wickedly high - like wage theft - while worker's pay checks remain stagnant. Australia's top ten corporate thieves make 270 times the amount the average full-time Aussie worker earns and as for those Australians on Newstart and the pension...

Leading the pack is Qantas chief Alan Joyce who pocketed a staggering \$23,876,351 million last year. A half-head behind him is Macquarie Group CEO Nicholas Moore with \$23.86 million in his kick. Some near the bottom of the 'ten' only managed to garner a mere \$13,246,088 million. And then there's the 'bonuses'. For what? Sacking workers to increase the bottom line? To describe them as having 'a sense of entitlement' doesn't even come close. Never have we needed a stronger, more vigorous trade union movement than we do now. Instead they're about to be belted over the head with more appalling fascist-style legislation. The same huge divide exists between 'public' and 'private' schools, where inequality begins. A survey found that in four years, four private schools spent \$100 million each on capital works, while in the same period 1300 state schools had been waiting for up to 15 years for urgent repairs to their buildings.

Back in 1935, one of the most influential Marxist playwrights of the 20th century, Bertolt Brecht, described fascism as an integral part of capitalism. ***'Those who are against fascism without being against capitalism are like people who want to eat veal without slaughtering the calf,'*** he said. ***'They're happy to eat the calf but can't stand the sight of blood.'*** Fascism and war are not natural disasters but are launched by the ruling class to control everyone else. His plays were banned in the early 1930s, so he moved to California, attracting the attention of the House Un-American Activities Committee, and then on to Switzerland, and on to East Berlin in 1949 where he ran a theatre company, the Berliner Ensemble.

The media here infuriate me. The whole bloody lot of them, and that includes 'our' ABC, a pale shadow of its former self. And yes, I'm sorry to hear that the ABC's budget's been cut yet again, so why allow so many coalition bastards on to their programmes. And if they must, demand answers to their questions, when some interviewers don't seem to know what questions to ask. The ABC reported that Sweden had dropped its rape allegation against Julian Assange, because of the 'time factor', when Sweden's always been a stalking horse for the US government, and on three

occasions was forced to shelve its investigation for lack of evidence, confirming that claims of 'rape' are a politically motivated fraud. Now that the US and Britain have Julian where they want him, on the cusp of being extradited to the US, they can say thank-you Sweden for smearing him and undermining support for his freedom, just bugger off because we no longer need you. Sweden has a nasty history of rendering people into the hands of the CIA, while in the 'Land of the Free', Trump has just pardoned three US soldiers convicted of serious war crimes...

The corruption multiplies. The presiding judge in the extradition proceedings, Lady Emma Arbuthnot, is embroiled in a massive conflict of interest and will be turning over certain courtroom proceedings to another judge, while her husband, Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom - you couldn't invent the name - is a former British Defence Minister with financial links to the British military establishment, including institutions and individuals named by WikiLeaks. And son. Alexander, is the vice-president (vice is the right word) of a firm heavily invested in a company founded by GCHQ (Britain's secret electronic spy agency) and MI5 (equivalent to our ASIO) which is diametrically opposed to everything WikiLeaks stands for. To call this a conflict of interest is like calling Adolf Hitler a small-time crook. And our media haven't reported one word of this shocking situation.

In Bolivia, like nearly all of Latin America, is in turmoil after Evo Morales was forced into exile after a CIA-run coup. Politicians and journalists have been swiftly rounded up while the security services were given exoneration in advance for any crimes they might commit. The new self-declared president, Jeanine Anez, whose party only received 4% of the vote in last month's election, has already expelled hundreds of Cuban doctors, broken ties with Venezuela, pulled Bolivia out of multiple international organisations and treaties and described the indigenous majority as 'satanic'. And now we have a Chinese spy ring, a re-run of the Petrov Affair, the name of a married Russian couple who worked in the Soviet Embassy in Canberra in 1954. Vladimir, a nasty drunk, made a deal with ASIO without telling his wife, that he was part of a Russian Communist spy network and wanted protection to become an Australian citizen. A few days later, PM Menzies announced Petrov's defection in parliament and won an unwinnable election. The Petrov Affair took place after the High Court's rejection of the Communist Party Dissolution Act of 1950 and the people's rejection of the 1951 proposal to ban the Communist Party. In 1954-55, the Petrov Commission failed to unearth one spy or traitor. If you substitute China for Russia it's a case of here we go again! But it's the end of the year and I reckon we all need a break, so spend time with your friends, share a bottle, read a book and take care on our crazy roads. Next year will be an important one and we need you, every single one of you. Viva!

Joan Coxsedge, Commentator-in-Chief, ACFS Melbourne (03) 9857 9249

December Meeting Film - *Cuba: Defending Socialism, Resisting Imperialism*
See page 3 for details

Díaz-Canel: Socialist state enterprise must assume its rightful place

"We have been taking steps to replace administrative mechanisms with economic-financial methods, but are not yet taking full advantage of our potential and are behind in developing productive chains between tourism, foreign investment, the non-state sector," the President stated



The people will judge those who deny them health

Among those who watched Cuban doctors leave Bolivia, from Santa Cruz airport - despite the police, military officers, and "new authorities" on hand - there were those whose conscience ached, aware that hope was departing

Sports for few becomes a right for all

This reality in Cuba today was emphasized many times by Fidel, and the development of Cuban sports, as an essential part of the Revolution, was evident during celebrations of Physical Culture and Sport Day



Varadero aspires to be the world's best beach resort

Varadero is an internationally established destination and a favourite of many travellers

Second group of Cuban health professionals working in Bolivia welcomed home

To the joy of the Cuban people, this group of 207 internationalists included four who were arbitrarily detained in Bolivia

Havana: Beautiful, sensitive, tenacious

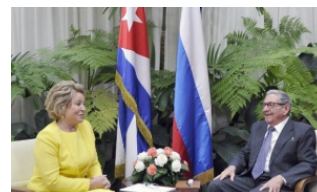
Havana Provincial Assembly of People's Power holds special session to celebrate the city's 500 years, in the city's Alicia Alonso Gran Teatro, with Raúl, Díaz-Canel, and other dignitaries on hand

No one can erase Cuba's loving contribution in Bolivia and Ecuador

"We return victorious. We do not feel defeated. We come with our heads held high, with our mission accomplished, because no coup, no regime that may take charge of Bolivia's fate, can erase our impact"

Raúl meets President of Russian Federation Council

The first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, Raúl Castro Ruz, received , Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko, who led her country's delegation to Havana for the city's 500th anniversary celebrations



Foreign investment in Cuba: Obstacles cleared, incentives in place

Last year, important sectors such as tourism, construction, logistics, mining, renewable energy, and agro-forestry led the way in attracting foreign capital to support investment projects

Truth and justice triumph: 187 countries against the U.S. blockade of Cuba

"Voting against Cuba is voting for the continuity of genocide. #SomosCuba, a victory for Cuba," wrote President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, on his Twitter account

Cuba returns to the international maritime repair market

As of October 27, the country has a modern floating dock to repair Panamax ships, saving the country expenses in hard currency, since bulk cargo vessels can now be serviced here

Ready to struggle for regional peace

José Ramón Machado Ventura and Miguel Díaz-Canel participate in Sao Paulo Forum meeting

Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Conference, for Democracy and against Neoliberalism opens in Havana

The gathering opened with the presence of more than 1200 delegates from around the world

Tobacco continues to be Cuba's main agricultural export

Some 16,300 growers will participate in this year's campaign, with more than 30,000 hectares to again be planted

There should be no barriers to scientific cooperation between Cuba and the United States

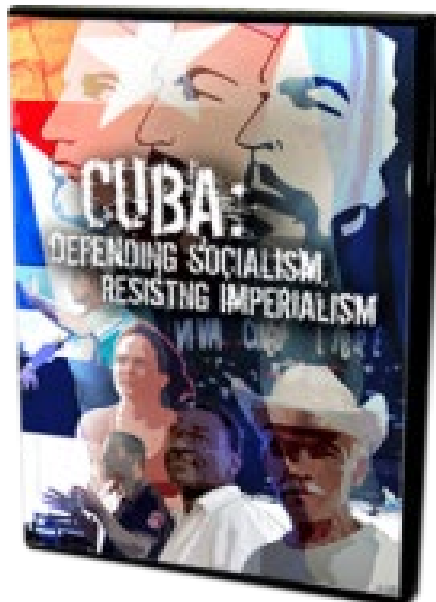
Scientists from several countries participate in International Cardiology Congress, Cardiovilla 2019, held in Villa Clara

Havana, the capital of anti-imperialism and solidarity

Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Conference, for Democracy and against Neoliberalism set to take place November 1-3 in the Cuban capital

The Australia-Cuba Friendship Society invites you to an End of Year film night and supper:

Cuba: Defending Socialism, Resisting Imperialism



Come and help us celebrate the end of 2019 and view a fascinating documentary about Cuba's achievements.

British activists travelled to Cuba in 2009, in the wake of the global capitalist crisis, to learn about Cuba's socialist alternative. This is their film.

The film features Cuban workers – including a lawyer, economist, teacher and farmer – explaining how the Cuban people have developed their economy, constitution and social provision. . Today Cuba is a nation well-known for its world-class healthcare and education, which also sends medical assistance to every corner of the globe.

Film: *Cuba: Defending Socialism, Resisting Imperialism* (47 minutes)

Date: Monday 2 December 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Unitarian Church

110 Grey St

East Melbourne 3002

A delicious supper will be provided and there'll be a tempting raffle

For further information: Maree 0448 121 397



Bruno Rodríguez: Cuba has been the victim of the most unjust, severe, prolonged system of sanctions that has even been imposed on any country



Photo: Cubaminrex

Full text of speech by Cuban Foreign Minister during debate on United Nations resolution condemning U.S. blockade

Author: [Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla](#) | internet@granma.cu - november 8, 2019 12:11:19

Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, during the presentation of the UN resolution “The necessity of ending the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,” in New York, November 7, 2019, Year 61 of the Revolution
(Transcript from Presidency of the Republic)

Mr. President;

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, permanent representatives; Ladies and gentlemen delegates:

In recent months, the government of President Donald Trump has initiated an escalation in its aggression against Cuba, with the adoption of unconventional measures to prevent the supply of fuel to our country from various markets through sanctions and threats to vessels, shippers, and insurance companies. Its objective, in addition to affecting the economy, is to damage the living standard of Cuban families. The United States government is responsible.

In April of this year, the filing of lawsuits in U.S. courts against Cuban, U.S., and third-country entities was authorized, under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

The persecution of our banking-financial relations with the rest of the world has intensified.

Remittances to Cuban citizens were restricted; the granting of visas was reduced and consular services limited; an agreement between baseball federations was canceled; individual trips by U.S. citizens were canceled, along with cruise ship stops and direct flights to Cuban airports, except for Havana; the leasing of airplanes with more than 10% U.S. components and the acquisition of technologies and equipment with the same was prohibited; commercial promotional activities and cultural and educational exchanges ceased. The United States Government is responsible.

It has aggressively intensified the extraterritorial impact of the blockade of Cuba on third states, their companies, and citizens.

The goal of economically asphyxiating Cuba and increasing damage, shortages, and our people's sufferings is not hidden.

The U.S. government has also proposed to sabotage the international cooperation that Cuba provides in the area of health. With a slander campaign, U.S. politicians and officials directly attack a program based on genuine conceptions of South-South cooperation, which has been recognized by the international community.

Mr. President:

The United States Ambassador grossly manipulates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 3: Right to life.

The blockade causes incalculable humanitarian damage, constitutes a flagrant, massive, and systematic violation of human rights and qualifies as an act of genocide under subsections b) and c), of Article 2 of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948. There is no Cuban family that does not suffer its consequences.

A Cuban child with severe heart failure cannot receive the most advanced system of circulatory assistance for pediatric use because it is of U.S. origin, and although its purchase has been requested repeatedly, no response has been forthcoming from the U.S. companies that sell it.

As a result of prohibitions imposed on Cuba, a person suffering from severe heart failure has no access to ventricular support equipment, which maintains the life of a patient in critical condition until it is possible to perform a transplant or, in other cases, until cardiovascular function is recovered.

As a result of the blockade, Bryan Gómez Santiesteban, 16, and Leydis Posada Cañizares, 19, of growth age, cannot receive expandable internal prostheses, but

only fixed, and must therefore undergo frequent surgeries for replacement. Expandable prostheses are produced by the U.S. company Stryker. Yes, your government is responsible

The blockade also makes it impossible to access novel drugs for cancer treatment, only produced by U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

Mayra Lazus Roque, 57, is a renal cancer patient who could not be treated with the optimal drug, Sunitinib, only produced by the U.S. company Pfizer. Thanks to the treatment she has received with products from Cuba's biotechnology industry, she is in good general health.

Eduardo Hernández Hernández, 49, suffers from metastatic melanoma. The optimal treatment for this type of cancer is Nivolumab, a drug only produced by the U.S. company Bristol Myers Squibb, which we cannot access. He is being treated with other alternatives. Your government is responsible.

Year after year, the United States delegation at this headquarters, as the Ambassador just did, has expressed, with a good dose of cynicism, that her government supports the Cuban people. Can anyone believe such a statement?

The government of the United States lies and falsifies data on alleged licenses for sales of medicines and food to Cuba, which are very difficult to obtain.

The United States delegation in those seats should explain to this Assembly the conditions it imposes on Cuban purchases: there is no access to credit, official or private; payment in cash is required when goods reach the port; banks that process our transactions are persecuted; Cuban vessels can-

not be used for transport. Yes, it is responsible. Who in the world conducts trade under such conditions?

The successful, effective Cuban model has ensured and assures Cuban men and women equal opportunities, equity and social justice, despite hostility and coercion.

Mr. President:

The United States government does not have the least moral authority to criticize Cuba or anyone else in the area of human rights. We reject the repeated manipulation of this issue for political purposes and the double standards that characterize its use.

The Ambassador said that her goal is to reveal the truth, but her guilty conscience betrayed her words, and she says that she has not come to confess.

Article 3: Right to Life, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The deaths of civilians caused by U.S. troops in various latitudes, and the use of torture merit condemnation; as well as the murder of African Americans by police and migrants by border patrols; the deaths of unaccompanied minors in immigration detention, and the abusive and racially disproportionate use of the death penalty, applicable to minors and the mentally handicapped.

Article 5: Freedom from torture.

The impunity of the gun lobby is responsible for the increase in homicides, including among teenagers. In the first eight months of 2019, there have been some 250 mass attacks with firearms, with almost 1,000 victims, of which about a quarter were fatal. In 2018, 100 U.S. residents died daily and 274 were injured by guns.

In the United States, there are 2.3 million individuals incarcerated, a quarter of the planet's prison population, and in one year 10.5 million arrests are made. Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest.

Opioid overdoses kill 137 U.S. residents every day and, for lack of proper treatment, 251 die of heart disease and 231, prematurely, of cancer. 170 preventable daily amputations are performed, associated with diabetes.

Article 25: Right to health.

Repression and police surveillance of immigrants, the separation of families, the separation of parents and indefinite detention of more than 2,500 children, and the deportation of 21,000, and brutal measures

that threaten the children of illegal immigrants who were raised and educated in the United States are abhorrent.

Article 1: Right to dignity and freedom.

Article 11: Due process.

This government holds prisoners indefinitely, in legal limbo, without defense, courts, or due process, in the Guantanamo naval base prison, on our territory usurped by the United States.

Article 25: Right to personal well-being.

In the richest country, 40 million U.S. residents live in poverty, 18.5 million of them in extreme poverty. 25.7% of those with disabilities lived in poverty at the end of last year. More than half a million of its citizens sleep on the streets.

Article 23: Right to work.

At the end of 2018, there were 6.6 million unemployed in the United States.

Article 25: Right to health.

There are 28.5 million citizens without medical insurance, and millions with low incomes will be deprived of coverage with the measures announced.

Article 26: Right to education.

Quality education is not accessible to the majority. Half of adults cannot read a book written at an eighth grade level. Equal opportunity in the United States is a chimera. Adolescents and youth rightly protest against their government for stripping them of environmental rights.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

Women earn approximately 85% of average male income in the United States, and must work 39 more days a year to match them. There are widespread complaints of sexual harassment

The average wealth of white families is seven times greater than that of Afro-descendant families. The death rate of children under one year of age and mothers in childbirth is twice that of whites.

There is a disproportionate racial pattern in the U.S. prison population and in the length of prison sentences.

Corruption prevails in the political system and the electoral model violates postulates of Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, referring to the right to participate in conducting public affairs. There is a growing gap between government decisions and the will of the people. Powerful, exclusive minorities, particularly corporate groups, decide the nature and

composition of the government, Congress, and institutions meant to impart justice and enforce the law.

The United States is a country where human rights are systematically violated and often massively and flagrantly. It subscribes to only 30% of international human rights instruments and does not recognize as such the right to life, the right to peace, the right to development, to security, to food, nor does it recognize the rights of girls and boys.

Article 13: Freedom to travel

The blockade also violates the human rights and civil liberties of U.S. citizens, for whom the right to travel to Cuba is unjustly and arbitrarily restricted, the only prohibited destination in the world. The United States government is responsible.

Mr. President:

Over the last year, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control and other U.S. agencies imposed fines on financial groups in third countries, such as the Italian Unicredit Group and the French Société Générale, for violating the sanctions system against Cuba. Dozens of foreign banks were intimidated, and limited or suspended their financial ties with our country.

Natural legal persons, that is, simply people, are also victims of the blockade. A German citizen who offers his services at the Cuban Embassy in Berlin received a notification of the closure of his Amazon account, allegedly on the basis of blockade regulations.

The illegal Helms-Burton Act guides the aggressive conduct of the United States against Cuba. Its essence is the open pretense of violating the right to self-determination and independence of the Cuban nation. It asserts U.S. legal authority over the commercial and financial relations of any country with Cuba, and establishes the supposed primacy of the law and the jurisdiction of the United States over third countries. The blockade, as a whole, is a serious violation of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the postulates of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

Not everyone adheres to the illegal extra-territorial application of restrictions imposed by U.S. law. In June of 2019, a primary level judge of The Hague Court issued a ruling favorable to the company PAM International, based in Curacao, in its lawsuit against the Dutch company EX-ACT Software Delft, now a subsidiary of

the U.S. firm KKR, for its application of provisions of the United States blockade against Cuba. The judge ruled that the latter must continue offering its services to PAM International, for the supply of software to Cuban companies and organizations.

Examples like this show that there are antidote laws, World Trade Organization bodies, and means and ways to confront the extraterritorial application of the blockade of Cuba.

Mr. President:

The accumulated damages caused by the blockade over almost six decades have reached 922 billion dollars, taking into account the depreciation of the dollar as compared to the value of gold. At current prices, quantifiable damages of more than 138 billion dollars have been incurred.

For years, the blockade has constituted an impediment to the aspirations for well-being and prosperity of several generations of Cubans and continues to be the fundamental obstacle to the country's economic development. It serves as a brake on the updating of our Economic and Social Development Model and the implementation of the 2030 National Plan, for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The effects of the blockade, particularly travel restrictions, affect the non-state sector of the economy with particular force.

With unearned revenue from exports of goods and services, and without expenses associated with the geographical relocation of trade, which imposes the need for extensive inventories, Cuba's Gross Domestic Product would have grown, at current prices, some 10% as an annual average rate over the last decade.

The annual damages caused by the blockade far exceed the amount of direct foreign investment needed for national development.

For almost six decades, Cuba has been the victim of the most unjust, severe, prolonged system of sanctions that has been imposed on any country. The United States government is responsible.

Despite all the limitations and difficulties our people experience, Cuba has been able to counteract the manifest intentions of the blockade, its overwhelming effect for six decades, and unquestionable impact on the country's potential.

It is the effectiveness of the Cuban socialist system, the state and the patriotism, revolutionary convictions, solidarity, consensus, and unity of our people that, despite the limitations, has allowed Cuba to overcome the serious challenges imposed.

One might ask whether even some industrialized, technologically advanced countries would be able to withstand such a prolonged and overwhelming attack, while ensuring modest but persistent growth of their economy, preserving development programs, moving toward a service and knowledge economy, and guaranteeing the exercise of all human rights, in conditions of equity, for all of their citizens, as occurs in Cuba.

Mr. President:

This Assembly has repeatedly confirmed its rejection of the application of unilateral coercive measures as contrary to international law and the United Nations Charter.

The United States applies systems of coercive measures against more than twenty countries and specific unilateral measures against dozens of nations, a trend that has been intensified by the current administration.

As the Comandante en jefe of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, expressed on the United Nations 50th anniversary, at this same podium, we should aspire to a world "without cruel blockades that kill men, women, and children, young and old, like silent atomic bombs."

Mr. President:

The United States government presumes to exercise imperialist domination in Our America, again invokes the outdated, aggressive Monroe Doctrine and "gunship diplomacy," deploying the Fourth Fleet and increasing the presence and power of its military bases in the region.

The blockade policy's definition is best expressed in the infamous memorandum written by Undersecretary of State Lester Mallory, in April of 1960, who I quote: "...There is no effective political opposition (...) The only possible way to make the government lose domestic support is by provoking disappointment and discouragement through economic dissatisfaction and hardships (...) Every possible means should be immediately used to weaken the economic life (...) denying Cuba funds and supplies to reduce nominal and real salaries with the objective of provoking hunger,

desperation and the overthrow of the government."

The United States representative offends this Assembly with unacceptable interventionist language, to refer to the heroic Venezuelan people, their civic-military union, and the Bolivarian Chavista government, headed by President Nicolás Maduro Moros, to whom we express unwavering solidarity.

The United States government uses falsehoods and slander as a pretext to intensify its aggression against Cuba. I reiterate that neither threats nor coercion will extract a single political concession. Nor do we renounce our will to achieve a civilized relationship with the country, based on mutual respect and recognition of our profound differences.

As Army General Raúl Castro pointed out on April 10, before the National Assembly of People's Power, "Despite its immense power, imperialism does not have the capacity to break the dignity of a united people, proud of its history and the freedom conquered with so much sacrifice."

Cuba recognizes the ethical and political chasm that exists between the U.S. people and their government, and will do everything possible to develop the Broad and deep ties that unite us with U.S. citizens.

Mr. President;

Distinguished Permanent Representatives; Ladies and gentlemen delegates:

We recognize with deep gratitude all those who have expressed their rejection of the blockade of our country and those who have always accompanied us in our incessant struggle for the end of this policy.

As the President of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, affirmed on October 10, Cubans are awaiting "intense, challenging days, but no one is going to take away our confidence in the future, which we owe our children, in the homeland that our parents won for us by standing firm."

On behalf of the heroic, selfless, solidary people of Cuba, I once again ask that you vote in favor of the proposed resolution contained in document A/74/L.6, the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

Marabana a big hit on a rainy morning

Some 6,000 runners flooded the streets of Havana celebrating the city's 500th anniversary

Author: [Iris de la Cruz Saborit](#) | internet@granma.cu - november 15, 2019 09:11:41

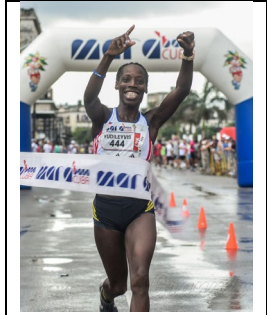
An entire night of rain seemed to mean an uncomfortable race for the 5,858 athletes who gathered in Central Park to celebrate the 33rd edition of Marabana. But according to many runners, the rain made the run really pleasant, especially considering the heat of recent months.

Representatives from 66 countries (1,449 from abroad) flooded the streets of Havana, to run a route of 42, 21, or ten kilometers. The United States topped the list of nations with the most participants (400), followed by Mexico, Colombia, France, and Spain.

The 6:30am start in Central Park began with thousands of whistles sounding in honor of the 115th anniversary of Felix "El Andarín" Carvajal's participation in the Olympic Games of San Luis 1904, the 70th of his death, and Havana's 500th.



Alien Reyes, from Granma, has won a total of one gold medal, a silver, and three bronze. **Photo:** Ariel Cecilio Lemus Alvarez



Santiago's Yudileyvis Castillo prevailed in the 42 kilometers. **Photo:** Ariel Cecilio Lemus Alvarez

In the maximum challenge, 42 km, Alien Reyes, from Granma, was crowned for the first time, with a time of 2:37.22, surpassing by 21 seconds the winning time in 2018. The podium was completed by Alexeis Machado (Granma, 2:42.50) and Yoel Ricardo (Granma, 2:45.00). For the third consecutive year, Santiago's Yudileyvis Castillo dominated the race in the women's category with a time of 2:53.05, 46 seconds better than in the 37th edition. The silver medal went to Mayan Liuris Figueredo (3:05.05) and the bronze to Italy's Gabriele Toffoli (3:09.42).

Commenting on the difficulty of the race Alien Reyes stated, "The wind was very strong, I could hardly run, but I met my goal of being able to represent my country in Madrid in the future."

Yudileyvis Castillo was so excited about winning on the eve of Havana's anniversary, that she could "hardly sleep." She reported feeling great throughout the run, despite the inclement weather, adding that staying calm was key to her success.

Yuleidy La O, from Holguin, won the men's half marathon with a time of 1:09.25, while Dairán Suárez, from Matanzas, (1:10.39), and Mayan Francisco Estevez (1:10.45) took second and third place, respectively. In the women's division, French runner Normand Elodie won the only title that escaped Cuba, with a time of 1:19.08.

The silver went to Guantanamo's Arletis Thureaux (1:20.30) and the bronze to Havana's Yumileydis Mestre (1:21.03).

Cuba reigned in the 10 kilometers, with Maher Salah (33.43 minutes), Víctor Herrera (34.38) and Eddy Santiesteban (35.05) taking a spot on the podium. Among the women, the winners were Daily Cooper (37.25), María Calderón (38.25) and Lisneidy López (40.41).

<http://en.granma.cu/deportes/2019-11-15/marabana-a-big-hit-on-a-rainy-morning>

Evo Morales resigns to preserve peace in the country

The President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, announced his resignation yesterday, given increasing violence by opposition groups challenging results of October 20 elections

Author: [Digital news staff](#) | informacion@granma.cu - november 11, 2019 09:11:18

The president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, announced on Sunday his resignation given increasing violence by opposition groups challenging the results of elections held October 20.

"I decided to resign from office so that Carlos Mesa and Luis Camacho would cease abusing and harming thousands of brothers ... I have the obligation to seek peace and Bolivians fighting amongst ourselves hurts a great deal, for this reason I am submitting my letter of resignation to the Plurinational Assembly of Bolivia," Morales stated. After serious waves of violent against members and leaders of the Movement to Socialism (MAS), intimidation of journalists, burning of residences, and betrayals by political allies and members of the National Police, the country is facing a political crisis. The nation's armed forces (FF.AA.) issued a statement indicating that in order to restore stability, a change in the Presidency was necessary, "We suggest that the President resign from office allowing the pacification and maintenance of stability in Bolivia," stated William Kaiman, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

"We are resigning so that our humble brothers are no longer beaten, poor families humiliated, we do not want confrontations. We have decided to relinquish our victory to allow for elections, all for Bolivia, all for the homeland," Morales said.

"This is not a betrayal of social movements; the struggle continues; we are the people. We have liberated Bolivia, we are leaving a liberated homeland, developing, with generations that very much have a future," Morales concluded. (From teleSUR)



Photo: Twitter

Bolivia, lithium and China's BRI

A motive for the imperialist-backed coup?

Posted in [Asia](#), [Bolivia](#), [China](#), [Latin America & The Caribbean](#)

By Joshua Hanks - November 21, 2019

Details are still emerging about the recent coup in Bolivia, which removed President Evo Morales from power. Under Morales, the first Indigenous president in Bolivia and in South America, the government nationalized key industries and raw materials, directing profits to social programs that benefited the poor, largely Indigenous population. The results were overwhelmingly positive, greatly reducing extreme poverty in one of the world's poorest countries.

One reason for the coup could involve Bolivia's friendly relationship to the People's Republic of China.

Morales visited Beijing in June 2018 and met with President Xi Jinping to discuss further deepening of ties between the two countries. Morales said then, "China's support and aid to Bolivia's economic and social development never attaches any political conditions," adding that Bolivia expected a closer strategic partnership in the future and was joining China's Belt and Road Initiative. (Xinhua, June 19, 2018)

The global trade and infrastructure project covering 68 percent of the world's population, the BRI features investments many times larger than the U.S. Marshall Plan that helped rebuild Western Europe after World War II. It's intended as an outlet for China's excess industrial capacity while stimulating economic growth in poor countries. The BRI would establish a new international economic order based on mutual respect and noninterference, outside the grip of Washington and Brussels.

This summer, "Bolivia made its first-ever shipment of beef to China as China seeks to find sources of agricultural imports other than the U.S. China also has purchase agreements with Bolivia for its quinoa, coffee and soy." (Xinhua, Aug. 30)

The BRI has been a regular focus of attacks by the Trump administration, especially from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the rabid war hawk and recently ousted national security adviser John Bolton.

In an interview last year with right-wing talk radio host Hugh Hewitt, Pompeo called China's infrastructure projects "something that I think would be bad for each of those countries and certainly presents risk to American interests." (Washington Examiner, Oct. 16, 2018)

This same Mike Pompeo said in an April 15 speech at Texas A&M University: "What's the cadet motto at West Point? You will not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do. I was the CIA director. We lied, we cheated, we stole. It's — it was like — we had entire training courses. It reminds you of the glory of the American experiment." (Video on YouTube)

Strategic role of Bolivia's lithium

While China's BRI investments and trade deals with Bolivia are diversified and include many agricultural goods, undoubtedly Bolivia's most important resource is lithium. Lithium,

used to make batteries for everything from smartphones to electric cars, is one of the key elements powering the rise of high-tech, low-carbon economies. Lithium demand is expected to more than double by 2025.

Bolivia has nearly 70 percent of the world's lithium reserves.

China has positioned itself as a key player in the high-tech sector, with the city of Shenzhen taking the lead as China's Silicon Valley. Rapidly transforming from a sleepy fishing village in the 1970s to a futuristic megalopolis that rivals nearby Hong Kong in terms of population and economic output, Shenzhen alone has more electric buses than the entire U.S. and a massive fleet of all-electric taxis.

In addition to becoming a center of the high-tech green economy, Shenzhen aims to be a "socialist model city" that "will be the world's first modern powerhouse not built on the road of capitalism, but by practicing socialism with Chinese characteristics," wrote He Lifeng, minister of China's National Development and Reform Commission, in a Sept. 10 article in People's Daily.

China is investing heavily in Bolivia's lithium sector, using its state-led economic model to do so. Bolivia's lithium reserves are at a high altitude and require industrial processing, but Bolivia lacks the needed capital and technology.

Xinjiang TBEA, a publicly owned Chinese company, recently won a contract to jointly develop lithium sources in Bolivia's Coipasa and Pastos Grandes regions, with Bolivia's nationalized lithium mining company controlling a 51 percent share in the venture.

Morales has stated that the country's development of its lithium reserves must benefit the Bolivian people and that the government is "determined to industrialize Bolivia and has invested huge amounts to ensure that lithium is processed within the country to export it only in value-added form, such as in batteries." (TeleSUR)

By contrast, the imperialist West has traditionally extracted raw materials while suppressing industrialization in colonized countries, keeping them poor and underdeveloped. The imperial core countries maintain a monopoly on the high value-added industries that rely on raw materials extracted from colonized countries, selling back finished products at an inflated price. Bolivia under Morales sought to break this colonial pattern and use its resources to benefit its people, not foreign imperial powers.

Utilizing a state-led economic model, Bolivia worked closer and closer with China, provoking the consternation of Western imperialists who seek to snuff out any alternative to the neoliberal capitalist world order.

U.S. ‘democracy’ for \$ale: Hong Kong protesters in NYC unmasked

Commentary

Posted in [Asia](#), [China](#), [Top](#) - By Sara Flounders - October 24, 2019

I watched as a prefab “rally in a box” about Hong Kong opened up here on Oct. 13.

I don’t know if this rally was funded directly by the notorious U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, a congressionally funded agency that plays the same role as the CIA did in an earlier period. But it featured Sharon Hom of the Human Rights in China organization. Hom actually announces on the group’s website that funding for its projects comes from NED, as well as Soros Open Society and Human Rights Watch. Hom is a law professor at New York University.

Alan Weinstein, founder of NED, explained in a 1991 Washington Post interview: “A lot of what we do today was done covertly by the CIA 25 years ago. We are the sugar daddy of overt operations.”

Recently web commentators have exposed NED’s sinister role in funding the protests, violent riots, fire bombings and assaults in Hong Kong.

So we can certainly ask what might be NED’s role at a Free Hong Kong rally in New York City. Funders with deep pockets were definitely needed to provide all the theatrical props, gear and anti-China propaganda I saw that morning.

The best ‘democracy’ money can buy

The Oct. 13 rally, which drew a couple hundred students, was announced on Facebook sites NY4HK and DC4HK. The location was “The Cube” on Astor Place, near New York University and Cooper Union.

The rally was scheduled to support anti-China bills due for a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on Oct. 15. The bills, HR3289 and HR4270, were designed to set up sanctions on China, using Hong Kong as a lever.

I arrived an hour early to observe the set-up, and what I saw confirmed my suspicions. I watched as 15 to 20 matching boxes were delivered early. It looked like a rollout for a movie set!

In them were stacks of glossy yellow postcards promoting “freedom, human rights and democracy in Hong Kong” and urging support for a “yes” vote on the bills.

As I saw the sophisticated equipment rolling in, I thought how, in my 50 years of participating in and organizing many different kinds of protests in New York City and in the U.S. — from anti-racist, anti-war, community-based small events to major coalition efforts of hundreds of progressive groups cooperating together — I had never seen a political event unfold like this action.

The advance team opened box after box, pulling out crisp new signs and flags, along with black facemasks, everything still plastic-wrapped. There were new gas masks, yellow umbrellas, yellow helmets and yellow security vests. There were boxes of folded, new, black T-shirts with white silk-screened slogans. There was a cornucopia of pricey material.

A small prefab stage was quickly snapped together. Delivery people showed up with musical instruments, including wind, string and percussion, as well as folding chairs and music stands. A sleek generator powered a high-tech sound system that played the new “protest anthem” — “Glory to Hong Kong” — in repeat mode.

As people began to arrive, they were given facemasks, T-shirts and chant sheets to become “instant activists.” Out of plastic wrap came U.S. flags for them to hold and wave on telescoping metal flagpoles and “official volunteer” badges to hang around their necks

I sat and took pictures, trying to be inconspicuous. I admit I felt jealous of this incredible street equipment. The gear looked so high-tech and glossy! And delivered on site!

I thought of how I and other progressive activists spend hours designing signs, then copying and stapling them, first onto placard board and then onto cardboard tubes. I thought of the mismatched sound equipment we rig together, how we transport our gear in shopping carts on subways, hauling it up and down steps, or in dented rental vans or trucks.

And I looked at the telescoping metal flagpoles. Metal poles are explicitly prohibited in New York protests. There is also a well-known ban on facemasks. Migrant-rights activists, Antifa and Occupy forces have often been arrested for even having a bandana on their face.

At least one-third of these Hong Kong protesters were wearing full black fabric facemasks, as if they faced tear gas or any repression in this city, especially from police who conveniently and untypically were not present

I asked a few young people where they were from. They identified themselves as from Hong Kong and studying at New York University. Students at NYU and many universities have their own separate student and alumni organizations and clubs. Although Hong Kong is officially part of China, these clubs reinforce a separatist ideology.

Police repression and Chinese students

In September, one of the Facebook groups announcing the Oct. 13 rally, NY4HK, had attempted a “pro-Hong Kong” rally in Manhattan’s Chinatown. The group was chased out by pro-China community residents.

But pressure from the U.S. federal level now makes a pro-China show of support by Chinese students far more difficult.

No police were visibly present at the Oct. 13 “pro-Hong Kong” rally, but other branches of the police state are hard at work promoting an anti-China message by attempting to intimidate thousands of students from China.

According to a June 28 NPR report, FBI agents are now busy visiting many of the 360,000 Chinese students in the U.S., reminding them that they are being monitored and should stay out of politics.

Universities are being pressured to monitor students, graduate students and visiting research professors of Chinese nationality.

This March, U.S. intelligence officials briefed about 70 college administrators in the American Council on Education, according to university participants. The officials said the presidents should increase oversight of Chinese researchers and avoid research funding from Chinese firms like Huawei.



The presidents were “skeptical of many of the claims, but many of them receive U.S. government research money.” (ti-nyurl.com/yytfm2s4)

U.S. intelligence agencies are encouraging U.S. research universities to develop actual protocols for monitoring students and visiting scholars from Chinese state-affiliated research institutions.

This clear double standard confirms that students from China are being monitored and surveilled, while students from Hong Kong are being funded and promoted.

‘Performance art’ protest

The Oct. 13 rally and its staging were followed by another “pro-Hong Kong” rally on Oct. 18 at the Brooklyn Nets basketball game. Thousands of dollars must have been spent to secure nine rows with more than 100 seats in the prime Section 1 area in the Barclay Center. The people in those seats were wearing matching “Stand with Hong Kong” T-shirts and facemasks. There were also front-row seats reserved for those wearing “Free Tibet” shirts.

This was a direct challenge to Joe Tsai, the Chinese owner of the Nets — and also a challenge aimed directly at Chinese sovereignty.

All these events reaffirm a separatist agenda — by including prominent “Free Tibet” and “Independence for Taiwan” signs, as well as “Stand with Hong Kong.”

These costly “performance art” actions are actually promoting U.S. interference in Chinese sovereignty, as well as far-reaching sanctions on China.

New sanctions

The Oct. 13 pop-up rally promoted Congressional bills: HR3289, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, and

HR4270, the Protect Hong Kong Act. These are sanctions legislation that subject Hong Kong’s special U.S. trading status to annual reviews and authorize sanctions on Hong Kong based on certain charges.

For instance, the annual Congressional review would include “human rights charges” against China as well as trade, customs and claims about any shipments from China to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Iran or any U.S.-sanctioned country.

The review, aimed at China, would determine whether Hong Kong was sufficiently “autonomous” from Beijing to justify its special trading status under U.S. law.

The bills were swiftly passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Oct. 15 by an undisputed voice vote, with forceful assistance from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). The legislation is now on a fast track to the U.S. Senate.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Geng Shuang warned U.S. lawmakers to stop meddling in China’s internal affairs. Geng said the House action “fully exposes the shocking hypocrisy of some in the U.S. on human rights and democracy, and their malicious intention to undermine Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability [in order] to contain China’s development.” (scmp.com, Oct. 16)

The Oct. 13 pop-up rally in New York, along with other costly staged events, are examples of U.S. so-called democracy at its finest. Just pour on \$\$!

All these measures — including the congressional legislation — are designed to undermine China’s continuing efforts to advance on the road to socialism.

Now is the time for social justice and antiwar activists to speak up and demand: Hands off China! End all sanctions!

<https://iacenter.org/2019/10/25/u-s-democracy-for-ale-hong-kong-protesters-in-nyc-unmasked/>

Why U.S. imperialism hates Evo Morales

Posted in [Bolivia](#), [Class struggle](#), [Climate & Environment](#), [Indigenous](#), [Latin America & The Caribbean](#)

November 12, 2019

A look at these excerpts from Bolivian President Evo Morales’s speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 24, shows why the U.S. State Department and the CIA targeted the progressive Latin American leader.

Once again we meet in the most important multilateral organization of humanity to reflect and analyze collectively on the global problems that concern the peoples of the world.

We note with concern the multilateral system’s deterioration, which is the product of unilateral measures promoted by some states that have decided to ignore the commitments, good faith and global structures built for a healthy coexistence between states, within the framework of international law and the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

We meet in this forum to discuss and find solutions to the serious threats facing humanity and life on the planet.

The threat to Mother Earth

Our house, Mother Earth (Pacha Mama), is our only home and is irreplaceable. It increasingly suffers more fires, more floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts and other catastrophes.

Each year is hotter than the previous one, the thaws are greater, the level of the oceans grows. Every day we suffer the disappearance of species, soil erosion, desertification and deforestation.



Sisters and brothers, we are warned that if we follow this course of action, by the year 2100 we will reach an increase of 3° Celsius.

That would imply massive and devastating changes.

The consequences of climate change will condemn, according to data from our organization [the U.N.], millions of people to poverty, hunger, no potable water, losing their homes, forced displacement, more refugee crises and new armed conflicts.

Sisters and brothers, in recent weeks we have been surprised by the forest fires that have been unleashed in different parts of the planet: in the Amazon, in Oceania and Africa, affecting flora, fauna and biodiversity.

In recent weeks, fires have broken out in Bolivia, which we have been fighting against, using our financial, technical and human resources. To date, our country has spent more than \$15 million to mitigate fires.

We thank the International Community for their timely cooperation in our fight against the fires, as well as their commitment to participate in postfire actions.

Military spending and world poverty

The arms race, military spending, technology at the service of death and the unscrupulous arms trade have increased.

The financial system remains undemocratic, inequitable and unstable, which privileges tax havens and the banking secrecy that subjects weak countries to accept conditions that perpetuate their dependence.

We note with sadness that the great social asymmetries continue. According to Oxfam, today 1.3 billion people live in poverty, while 1 percent of the richest kept 82 percent of the world's wealth in 2017.

Inequality, hunger, poverty, the migration crisis, epidemic diseases, unemployment, are not just local problems, they are global problems.

On the other hand, the creative capacity of humanity every day surprises us with new inventions and new technological applications. They have offered great solutions to very complex problems. Technology has meant a qualitative leap for humanity. However, it is necessary that from this multilateral body agreements on the matter be established with the participation of all States.

The root problem: the capitalist system

Sisters and brothers, it is essential to talk about the structural causes of the different crises.

Transnational companies control food, water, nonrenewable resources, weapons, technology and our personal data. They intend to commercialize everything, to accumulate more capital.

The world is being controlled by a global oligarchy, only a handful of billionaires define the political and economic destiny of humanity.

Twenty-six people have the same wealth as 3.8 billion people. That is unfair, that is immoral, that is inadmissible.

The underlying problem lies in the model of production and consumerism, in the ownership of natural resources and in the unequal distribution of wealth. Let's say it very clearly: the root of the problem is in the capitalist system.

That is why the United Nations is more relevant and important than ever. Individual efforts are insufficient and only joint action and unity will give us an opportunity to overcome them.

As we have already said, the responsibility of our generation is to give the next a fairer and more human world.

That will only be achieved if we work together to consolidate a multipolar world, with common rules, defending multilateralism and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.

Bolivia's achievements

Sisters and brothers, in Bolivia we have taken very important steps: We are the country with the highest economic growth in South America, with an average of 4.9 percent in the last six years.

Between 2005 and 2019, the gross domestic product increased from \$9.574 billion to \$40.885 billion.

We have the lowest unemployment in the region. It fell from 8.1 percent in 2005 to 4.2 percent in 2018.

Extreme poverty fell from 38.2 percent to 15.2 percent in 13 years.

Life expectancy increased by nine years.

The minimum wage rose from \$60 to \$310.

The gender gap in land titling for women was reduced; 138,788 women received land in 2005 and 1,011,249 up to 2018.

Bolivia ranks as the third country in the world with the highest participation of women in Parliament. More than 50 percent of Parliament is made up of women.

Bolivia was declared a territory free of illiteracy in 2008.

School dropout rate fell from 4.5 percent to 1.5 percent between 2005 and 2018.

The infant mortality rate was reduced by 56 percent.

We are in the process of implementing the Universal Health System, which will guarantee that 100 percent of Bolivians access free, dignified service, with quality and warmth.

We passed a law to provide free health care for cancer patients.

The above data are part of the achievements of our democratic and cultural revolution, which have given Bolivia political, economic and social stability.

Sisters and brothers:

How did we achieve these achievements in such a short time? How is it that Bolivia has taken the path to defeat poverty and underdevelopment?

Thanks to the conscience of the people, of the social movements, of the Indigenous, peasants, workers, professionals, of men and women of the countryside and of the cities.

We nationalized our natural resources and our strategic companies.

We have taken control of our destiny.

We are building a Community and Productive Social Economic Model, which recognizes basic services (water, electricity, telecommunications) as a human right.

Today we can say with pride and optimism that Bolivia has a future.

Bolivia's right of access to the Pacific Ocean

Sisters and brothers, there is a pending issue in the region, the sea is indispensable for life, for the integration and development of the peoples.

Therefore, Bolivia will not give up its right to sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean.

In 2015 and 2018, the International Court of Justice of the Hague, through its decisions, ruled on this. [Morales here cites rulings that show that Bolivia has the right to a coastline, which was lost to Chile in a late 19th century war, but which can still be resolved by negotiations between the two countries.] Sisters and brothers, this judicial decision has not ended the controversy, on the contrary, it is explicit in recognizing that it continues and emphasizes that it does not close off the possibility of both states finding a solution.

Therefore, the United Nations Organization must monitor and demand full compliance with the decisions of the court, so that both peoples continue negotiating in good faith, to close open wounds. It is possible to promote a good neighborhood spirit, and open a new time in our relationship, to forge mutually acceptable and lasting solutions.

Sisters and brothers, our countries face diverse and conflicting situations, which must be approached in a sovereign manner and solutions must be found through dialogue and negotiation, in favor of the interests of the people.

Bolivia, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations, ratifies its rejection of the economic and financial blockade imposed against Cuba, which violates all human rights.

Finally, sisters and brothers, I take this opportunity to thank all member countries for their support in the various initiatives promoted by Bolivia.

This year: The International Year of Indigenous Languages, The Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and the Declaration of June 21 as International Solstice Day.

To conclude, we ratify our commitment to consolidate a new world order of peace with social justice, in harmony with Mother Earth to Live Well [Vivir Bien], respecting the dignity and identity of the peoples.

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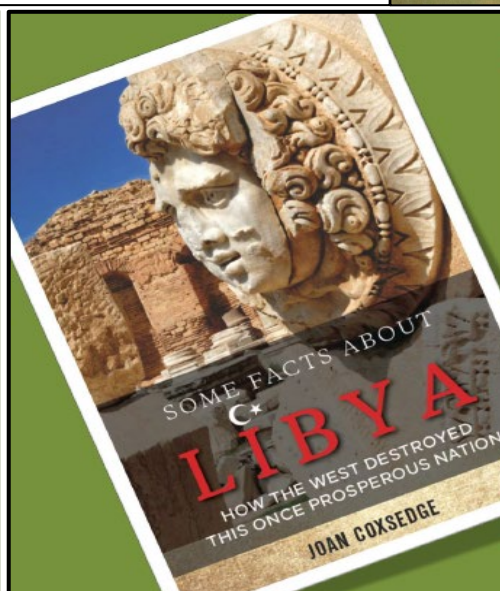
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