

Cuba is Witnessing the True Face of Imperialist and Capitalist Policies

Cuba is an island state in the Caribbean Sea near the United States. This small country is torn, standing in the arms of imperialism. The American imperialists have devised several vulgar strategies to further their interests while keeping the countries around America in its shadows. The Organization of American States (OAS) maintains control of its dominance through this structure. Cuba was also a member country in the OAS.



Cuba was torn in the World wars and with splits in the world communist movement. It stood against harsh imperialism and capitalism with the aims of achieving socialism and communism led by Fidel Castro Ruz with the strength of Marxist-Leninist ideology. The party's ingenuity in applying it to the Cuban situation is great and remarkable.

To this day, the United States has not given up the evil desire to keep Cuba as its vassal country. It decided to continue its policy of imposing sanctions in dealing with Cuba. Even though it withstand all the vicious plans of imperialism, it is facing an unprecedented economic turmoil in the post covid-19 period. The anti-imperialists, progressive forces and the communists all over the world have been eagerly watching with keen interest what the future holds for Cuba.

Cuba Background

From the 15th century, Cuba was a colony of Spain until the Spanish-American war of 1898 when US occupied it. It was under US military rule from 1898 to 1902 and gained nominal independence as a defacto US protectorate, though it became the Republic of

Cuba on May 20, 1902, subject to US intervention in Cuban affairs and US oversight of Cuban economy and foreign relations. At a time when the Cuban tourism sector is booming, many hotels and restaurants were built by the American Capitalists in 1924. This has led to an increase in gambling and prostitution in Cuba.

Returning from Florida, by organising a second military coup. in 1952 Fulgencio Batista became president of Cuba, As an army officer he participated in a military rebellion in 1933, became self declared chief of army and dictated the administration of the country. He was the elected president of Cuba during 1940-44. After losing the elections in 1944 he took luxurious exile in Florida. Batista abolished the Cuban Constitution of 1940 and called off the workers' rights and civil liberties. He stood with the wealthy landlords who had sugar farmlands in Cuba and are open to an economy that widened the gap between the rich and the poor. With unemployment, political violence, open corruption, workers' dissatisfaction and oppression in the country, a rebellion was started in 1953 against Batista's Government under the leadership of Fidel Castro Ruz. The revolution lasted until the communist party came to power in Cuba on January 1st, 1959.

Communist Party and Government

The United States responded positively to the Cuban Revolution considering it as part of a movement to bring democracy to Latin America. Castro, strengthening the Communist Party in Cuba and establishing a government has become an embarrassment to the US. Moreover, the Castro government punished the Batista's agents and soldiers, and under the new agriculture laws thousands of acres of farm lands seized from wealthy landlords caused the deterioration of relations between these two nations. During this time Castro began a trade relationship with Soviet Russia.

The Cuban government, founded by Castro on the foundations of Marxism-Leninism, took over the land, industry, education, and medical sectors during 1960. In response to this US President Dwight D.Eisen Hower authorized the US intelligence firm CIA to provide weapons and training to Cuban refugees against the Castro government. On April 14, 1961, Cuba was invaded by Cuban refugees during John F. Kennedy's presidency. This invasion was tackled by the Castro government. This attack was known as "Bay of Pigs Invasion". Then Cuba was expelled from the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1962 and at the same time OAS began imposing sanctions on Cuba.

Help to Neighbouring Countries

Cuba played a very active and valuable role in the time of the cold war. In 1963, Cuba sent his military troops to support Algeria against Morocco. In 1967, Che Guevara a friend of Castro and Cubans, was killed in Bolivia during that time he was waging guerrilla war against Bolivian government. In 1970, Castro sent his military troops to support Soviet Russia backed wars in Africa. During 1976 to 1981, Cuba sent his military troops to help Angola's left-wing MPLA (People's Movement for Liberation of Angola) to withstand a joint onslaught by South Africa. To defeat the Eritreans and Somalis, Cuba helped Ethiopia. After the agreement with South Africa in 1988 Cuba withdrew its military troops from Angola. This policy resulted in the downfall of apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Soviet Union provided significant concessions, political and military support until its collapse in 1991. Soviet subsidies averaged \$ 4.3 billion a year for the period of 1986 to 1990 and constituted 21.2% of the Cuban Gross National Product (GNP). Under Castro's leadership, Cuba faced a deep crisis as economic ties with the Soviet Union were severed. Up to 1993 Cuba hadn't accepted any food, medicine and cash donations from other countries. At that time food was supplied to the people in the ration system introduced during the First World War. In 1993 US imposed sanctions on Cuba, barring assistance from other countries, without docking at US ports, prohibits foreign subsidiaries of US business firms from trading with Cuba, and awaiting its benefits. Cuba's GDP fell by 35% during this crisis, it took five years to get back to the previous level.

Economic Reforms

Economic reforms have been made to get out of this crisis, to boost the domestic manufacturing sector, and to keep Cuba on the international market. The constitution was amended to allow private and corporate assets, regulate foreign investment, and transform public enterprises into non-profit organizations. Government renovated the old hotels to develop tourism and attract international tourists. In this process Cuba worked with private and corporate sectors.

In 2000, Cuba entered new trade relations with Venezuela under President Yugo Chavez. On a concessional basis oil was shipped from Venezuela to Cuba as in return for sending doctors, teachers, and technicians to Venezuela in the fields of education, health, and technology. Castro's anti-American policy attracted Chavez as well as China. China was Cuba's largest trading partner after Venezuela. Both countries are committed to scientific and techno-logical exchange in the fields of agriculture, industry, health, and education. Cuba has found some relief from the crisis in the form of assistance from these two countries.

In July 2006, Fidel Castro resigned from the presidency of Cuba due to serious health problems and announced his brother Raul Castro as the new president. In 2009 the OAS lifted the 47-year-old embargo on Cuba and suggested that it had to act in accordance with OAS interests. However, Raul Castro denied that he had any plans to return to OAS.

In 2011, Cuba undertook economic reforms to reduce government participation in various sectors and opened the economy for small businesses in private to promote self-employment goals. In 2014, the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (CELAC) held a conference in Cuba for the first time, describing the conference as an alternative to the US-dominated OAS. Following Chavez's death, Cuba needed a new trading partner as the Venezuelan economy collapsed and oil trade between the two countries slowed. In 2014, during the period of Barack Obama, Cuba and the United States reached an agreement that paved the way for Cuba to enter the international market in 2015 and the name of Cuba was removed from the list of terrorists nations, enlisted in 1982. Fifty years later, in 2016, commercial and civil aviation flights between the United States and Cuba started flying.

After Demise of Fidel Castro

The death of Fidel Castro, Father of Cuban Revolution and Founder of New Cuba, on April 19, 2018, was a source of pain for the Cuban people; but under capitalist influence, expatriate Cubans perceived Fidel Castro as a dictator. Following Fidel Castro's death, US President Barack Obama said in a statement that "Cubans" (expatriate Cubans) are allies and participants in the US's (exploitative) policies. In 2016 Donald Trump came to power in US, relations between the two countries strained again, he declared that the sanctions will continue, United States re-imposed sanctions on Cuba and released political prisoners.

Miguel Diaz-Canel was elected to the National Congress as Cuba's first Vice President on April 19, 2018, while Raul Castro was elected as the Communist Party's head. With the covid-19 pandemic hitting Cuba in 2020, the tourism in Cuba slowly came down, whose economy is more dependent and dominated by the tourism sector. Cuba plunged into crisis again. After the 1959 revolution in Cuba, Fidel Castro placed public health on the Cuban budget in the highest priority sector, especially rural health care. In 1961, Cuba created a new health care system, eliminating private hospitals and providing free public health services. To this day they operate the health sector under the control of the government. The health system in Cuba operates in a three-tier, primary, secondary and tertiary. Physicians and nurses in regional polyclinics monitor public health at the primary level. From there they send patients, if necessary, to secondary level hospitals for better treatment, about 15% of cases reach to this level. Finally, the patient is sent to tertiary hospitals for further health care. These are nationally run specialized hospitals where about 5% of cases reach. According to 2014 statistics, Cuba ranks 5th in the world with nine doctors per every thousand citizens.

Also, Cuba has a commitment to international health care. Cuba sent its first medical team to Chile after the devastating earthquake in 1960. Cuba continued this policy of sending medical teams throughout its history and it recently sent its medical teams to Italy during covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Cuba has sent its medical teams to several developing nations in times of medical emergencies.

Covid and Crisis

Under the names Abdala and Soberana, Cuban scientists have developed two indigenous Covid-19 vaccines. It has been proved that in 2nd and 3rd clinical trials, they can function at a rate with more than 90% efficiency. Abdala has been already listed on the emergency medication list. The Cuban government has only vaccinated 18% of the Cuban population so far. The Cuban economy shrank by 11% after the Covid-19, plunged into a deep crisis. This is due to the collapse of the tourism sector. Lack of fuel, medicines, food and the lack of sufficient funds in government exchequer for imports, pushed the country deep into crisis.

In January 2021, US President Trump re-added Cuba in the list of the terrorist nations with the pretext that the Colombian rebels have been sheltered in Cuba and was supporting the Venezuelan regime. US, showing these reasons imposed more sanctions instead of easing. On April 19, 2021, Raul Castro resigned as Communist Party head and

appointed Miguel Diaz-Canel as General Secretary of the Communist Party. In response to Raul Castro's resignation, US declared sanctions on Cuba will continue as before. The new US President Joe Biden announced that changing US policies towards Cuba is not in the list of his top priorities.

In the midst of this crisis, on July 11, 2021 Cubans under the influence of the capitalists, took to the streets and protested against the communist government's policy of confronting Covid-19 and demanding regime change in Cuba. During this time, US President Joe Biden expressed his support for the protests without lifting sanctions on Cuba, revealing his mind once again. No matter how many American presidents have been changed in America for generations, their intimidation and superiority have not been given up, as evidenced by their attitude today. They did not change their mind about destroying the communist parties and communist governments committed to Marxism. Today's Cuba is proving to be a witness that they did not abandon their imperialist repressive policy of creating strife and weakening, and destroying by their agents and subordinates in those parties and governments. Cuba is proving to be a testament to how far the imperialist and capitalist system can go for regime change by creating strife in those countries or interfering in them.

The solidarity groups in the US are extending support to Cuban government, protesting against the policy sanctions on Cuba and demanding of their lifting. Along with Cuban Americans the people of America organised protest marches across the country from Los Angeles to Washington DC, demanding the unity of two countries. They organised a protest before White House at Lafayette Square. To send a helping hand they started collecting contributions across the country and announced \$5 lakhs are received. They also announced that 60 lakh syringes are sent to Cuba and 17 lakh syringes have already reached Mariel Port. This is the time for all the progressive people of the globe to stand with Cuba in these days of turmoil and denounce imperialist conspiracies to destabilise Cuba.