

The International “Cuban Problem”

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The ‘Cuban Problem’, as I will refer to it here, is not only an issue concerning the inhabitants or expatriates of the island, but is also a problem of Western democracies just as it was with Eastern Europe during communism. We can say that the ‘Cuban Problem’ is another episode of what strategists call ‘Atlantism’.

In 1961, during the Cold War, Kennedy called out “I am a Berliner” in front of the recently constructed wall by Khrushchev. He was expressing the fact that German destiny was not dissimilar or alien to the US. All those enlightened politicians involved in the September ICDC Summit held in Prague repeated a similar phrase: “I am a Cuban”. Thirty years after Kennedy’s visit, Ronald Reagan, standing in the same place, declared: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall”. All of those who came to Prague delivered a similar sentiment: “Let Cubans have free opinion”.

International support, as demonstrated by the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba, proves false the pernicious image created by the Castro dictatorship that presents the Cuban conflict as an unequal and permanent battle between David and Goliath: the small and heroic island pursued by the imperial giant not wanting to lose his old colony. All this is false — the world understands very well that the Castro dictatorship is the last example of Stalinist despotism remaining in the West and will not accept the false argument that it is an arena only for the US and Cuba. It is a conflict between democrats all over the world and obstinate defenders of a totalitarian concept that has failed and been consigned to the dustbin of history in all countries of the European culture except Cuba, where the solid repression of the regime persists in trying to postpone what is in the long term certain and inevitable.

I do not accept the absurd argument that due to its sovereign attributes the Cuban government can choose the communist model if it wishes so. Sovereignty is only legitimate if it ensures free expression for the whole plurality of nations. The Havana government represents only the will of a dictator who orders and rules and the will of one political party whose total number of members represents only six percent of the inhabitants. It is essential to promote the international perspective of the “Cuban Problem”. Freedom has prevailed in the West despite its most cruel and destructive enemies — Nazi-Fascism and Communism — because a strong alliance was made between various nations able to fight together and with force.

The death of Fidel Castro, which will come in the near future, corresponds with what we can see as the last stages of communism in Cuba. This is characterized by a despondent society without hope, in total disillusionment and governed by an unpopular, immoral and corrupt echelon. However, the governing class will try to preserve their status and will resist internal and external pressure for openness and democracy as long as possible. These Castro ‘successors’, whoever they may be, will act under the influence of the North Korean model of isolation and resistance and will exert police control over the territory in order to avoid an uncontrolled exodus of refugees or drug trafficking to the US. The creation and The message of the West as given by the International Committee in relation to Cuba is very clear. The only acceptable model on the island will be a democratic and pluralistic political model that delegates power to those with the support of the majority whilst simultaneously protecting the rights of minorities. Moreover, when this true transition begins, the important message to communicate to all Cubans is that Europe and America will present a helping hand in providing support for the material and moral reconstruction of a devastated society after decades of outrage and arbitrariness.