

## In view of the current situation: asking the right questions



*"Revolution means never to lie". Mural painting in Pinar del Río (Source: [Commons](#))*

To ask a poor, underdeveloped, stagnant, attacked, isolated, etc. island to solve the great practical and theoretical problems accumulated by historical socialism is not only impossible, it is also absurd.

That will probably be solved by history and the world in a long period of time.

The conditions for socialism in Cuba could not be worse, an underdeveloped country, with hardly any industry, a backward agriculture, etc., and also alone, isolated in the middle of the West, without great international alliances.

Does it mean that socialism must be renounced in Cuba? Obviously not! We must not give up on anything. History has brought us this far, but we must put our feet on the ground, on the realities, and ask ourselves clearly what socialism can be in this country, in these difficult times. And in doing this we must ask ourselves, and answer very well, the necessary questions. The fundamental thing is to maintain the sovereignty of the country and social justice, and to find a way out of the swamp where they have put the economy.

The Cuban economy has lost its capacity for growth and has therefore become a machine that generates poverty and difficulties of all kinds. This must be solved, and we must get rid of theoretical fatuities. Of course we must not only be practical, we must also be theoretical, but we must banish theoretical orthodoxy and "cytology". We need to put the perspective on

the history of this particular country and rethink the country and its evolution, especially from the 19th century until today.

The Soviet manuals, and also a bad and decontextualized reading of the classic thinkers and leaders of historical socialism, did substantial damage. There is still some of that, we see it frequently, often in the mass media. We must understand that today's world is not the world of 60, 50, or 30 years ago.

Socialism yes, but without vain fatuities and without spider webs, and without allowing the progressive world to demand of Cuba that it solve the theoretical and historical problems of socialism. I believe that this is where the Chinese and Vietnamese take-offs began, they asked the right questions. However you categorize them and with all the debates that can and should be made about that, both have tremendously boosted their economies and have lifted millions out the poverty which was typical of their previous years. Of course, they are not blockaded, they have resources, much greater scale, etc., and these are why taking their experiences into account does not mean copying them, obviously.

Now I am going to give you my conclusions of what we have seen in the last days, the reports presented, etc.

With the disarticulation of the sugar sector, the tourism crisis, the demographic crisis, the uncontrolled imbalances, the sum of all the mistakes, the widespread corruption at many levels, the people sent to work from home because of the energy problems, the destroyed infrastructure, the unpaid debt, and the greater effectiveness of the blockade, this economy has lost its capacity for growth. Beyond the speeches this is what is essential, and it is not well appreciated anywhere. It is the reality that must be told with honesty and pain, and then in spite of that we must continue insisting until the last breath that we recover a path of socialist prosperity for this country, but very Cuban!

Many times we have expressed in detail, in order to submit them for debate, our considerations and proposals on the integral reform of the economic model, to: recover macroeconomic balances, to look for ways to lower the debt and open credits, to reform the subsystem of agricultural production, to deeply reform the state enterprises (not so that they ceases to be public, but so that they ceases to be inefficient), to integrate all markets and all economic actors in a single dynamic (socialism is the system, not a type of enterprise), to change the character of bureaucratic planning, to change the priorities of investment policy, to attend to infrastructure, to make social policies more effective, etc. - and all this with the appropriate sequencing, and with the urgency required. And it should not be overlooked that the probability is that we will soon have to deal with an even more aggressive US administration. Improving the economic conditions of the population is essential to face this scenario.

That is once again my brief conclusion of everything I have seen in the last few days about the current situation of the country, based on the information, statistics, and evidence presented. ([Cubaheute](#))

*A commentary by Cuban economist Julio Carranza on the recently concluded [session of the Cuban National Assembly](#). First published on the blog of singer-songwriter Silvio Rodríguez, "[Segunda Cita](#)".*