

241123 Maj Wechseltmann, Swedish filmmaker  
In front of US embassy Stockholm, SWEDEN  
Looking back at her contact with Cuba dating from 1993

AGAINST THE US BLOCKADE OF CUBA

I stand at Malecon the beautiful beach walk of Havana in 1993. In the vast horizon of the sea I see no ships, no tankers, nothing. Because the government of the USA has forbidden ships that anchor at Cuba to continue to the USA. The most effective war of commerce.

In my luggage was a heavy brick, no no brick a big heavy atlas, the most modern handbook of heart medicine, which I delivered to the hospital Salvador Allende in Havana, no chance that the hospital could have imported it, under the hermetic blockade. This was during the special period. The Soviet Union had just collapsed, no oil no petrol to Cuba. But even when there was a lack of food people could hardly afford to, eat, in the hospital I saw the special department for children from Tjernobyl in that were affected by cancer after the big nuclear disaster 1986. They had been invited to Cuba to get medical treatment and sun.

this is the biggest export of this little country Cuba, so utterly harmed by the politics of its big neighbour, the USA, the doctors educated for free in Cuba who today are working in so many countries in Latin America. 20.000 Cuban doctors in the most remote and poorest districts of Latin America.

Lets go back: Since 1902 The USA dominated Cuba's economy. In the sugar plantations owned by Americans to 60% the illiterate sugar-cane workers were slaving 11 hours a day for a wage on which you could hardly live. Like in the Cuban refineries, mines and factories owned by Americans.

With all its weaknesses the Cuban revolution lit an enormous hope in all Latin America. It became a living example, an example of the possibility of getting rid of the economic exploitation of The US. The US which in most of the post war period has supported each oligarchy, each military dictatorship in Latin America, which has suppressed its citizens – to exploit the natural resources and the cheap manpower of a whole continent. So many priests, teachers, poor farmers, students who fought for social justice have been murdered by the US supported fascist governments.

At last, it seemed as if the American politicians understood that they had to ease the sanctions against Cuba.

In January 1999, U.S. President [Bill Clinton](#) eased travel restrictions to Cuba. He allowed an exchange of baseball teams.

[Barack Obama](#) was the first American president who visited Cuba in 2016, he was easing the restrictions against Cuba.

But with the [election](#) of [Donald Trump](#) as U.S. president, the state of relations between the United States and Cuba quickly deteriorated.

In 2019, the [Trump administration](#) announced new restrictions on American travel to Cuba, the administration's policy aimed to impose new restrictions with regards to travel and funding.

Why should we believe that Trump in another period as president should make things better?

**We strongly oppose the discriminating and criminal methods of yet a new time try to strangle the society of the island in the Caribbean Sea – for a new and better policy for this resilient country: Cuba! And its right to live in its own way.  
May Cuba prosper! Lift the blockade!**