



## Learn more about Cuba

### Some films from the Dev-Zone Library:

#### **The Power of Community : how Cuba survived Peak Oil**

Community Solution, Ohio, US, 2006

Cuba underwent the loss of over half of its oil imports and survived, after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990. This film documents the transition from a highly industrial society to a sustainable one. Cuba is a living example of how a country can successfully traverse the reduction and loss of finite fossil fuel resources.

#### **iSalud!**

Field, Connie (Director). Keck and Reed, 2006.

Looks at Cuba, a cash-strapped country with what the BBC calls 'one of the world's best health systems'. Thousands of Cuban health professionals are serving in 68 countries. By exploring the hearts and minds of international medical students in Cuba - now numbering 30,000, including nearly 100 from the USA, and recounting their stories plus testimony from experts around the world, we bring home the competing agendas that mark the battle for global health.

#### **Cuba and ALBA**

Australia: Tim Anderson, 2006.

1. "Cuba : siege and resistance": - The history and present political, economic and social position of Cuba are presented.
2. "Venezuela and ALBA" - This film discusses at the agreement between Cuba and Venezuela (ALBA) and its effect on Latin America including Columbia and Bolivia is discussed.
3. "Confronting HIV in Cuba" - Looks at why Cuba has a low HIV rate and finds Cuba has a unique treatment of HIV/AIDs.

#### **Montanya de Luz = Mountain of light**

Guillermo Centeno, (Director), Instituto Cubano del Arte e Industria Cinemtograficos (ICAIC), 2005.

This documentary presents the experiences of about a dozen Cuban medical personnel serving in Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Burkina Faso, Mali, Botswana and Namibia. Whatever the politics that viewers bring to this film they're likely to be touched by the sheer humanity of the Cuban practitioners in some of the most remote regions of the world.

#### **Fidel : the untold story : a documentary film by Estela Bravo**

Mongrel Media, 2001.

This is a documentary about one of the most influential and controversial figures of our time. It offers a unique opportunity to view the man through exclusive interviews with Castro himself, historians, public figures, and close friends, with archival footage.

### Some books and articles from the Dev-Zone Library

**People And The Environment On The Edge : Environmental Vulnerability In Latin America And The Caribbean**

Timmons Roberts and Bradley Parks, CIIR, 2004

Five hundred years of exploitation have severely damaged the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, it is poor people who continue to suffer most from the consequences of this environmental damage and degradation.

### **Women and the Cuban Revolution: speeches & documents by Fidel Castro, Vilma Espin & others**

Elizabeth Stone (ed) , Pathfinder Press, 1981

This book recounts women's changing role in Cuba since the revolution: the measures taken, the gains made, and the problems that still remain. As well as speeches on the subject by Fidel Castro and women's federation leader Vilma Espin, also contained are several important Cuban documents such as "On the Full Exercise of Women's Equality, the Maternity Law for Working Women", and major excerpts from the Cuban Family Code. It summarises the historical context of the struggle for women's equality in Cuba and points out its relevance for women in the United States.

### **The New Green Movement in Cuba**

Emily Cohen, *Peace Review*, March 2004

As the New Green Revolution grows around the world it becomes evident that all environmental issues are linked directly to issues of social, political and economic justice. Food development and industries are often run under the neo-liberalism model that is harmful to the environment and people. Many communities have tried to grow their food in sustainable and organic ways but none has done so on as large a scale as Cuba.

### **NACLA: Report on the Americas**

bimonthly magazine

NACLA provides policy makers, analysts, academics, organizers, journalists and religious and community groups with information on major trends in Latin America and its relations with the United States.

### **Cuba's creative response to hard times**

David Werner, *Third World Resurgence*, no 171/172, 2004

Despite the increasingly harsh US embargo, Cuba has managed to sustain a high level of health and infrastructure of public services that provides a model for both rich and poor countries. Fossil fuel shortages have caused to experiment with alternative energy sources. To sustain subsistence levels of nutrition despite import restrictions, Cuba has become much more self-sufficient in food production. In medicinal services, it has carried out research and development of essential drugs.

## **Some Links From The Knowledge Centre:**

### **Cuba: Health without Wealth**

Brendan Sainsbury, *Ecologist*, 1 June 2006

The Cuban government's financial contribution to the healthcare of its citizens is 4 per cent of that of the US contribution. Nevertheless, the health indices in both countries are almost equitable. This article advises that other developing countries learn from Cuba's experience the importance (and cost-effectiveness) of preventative medicine.  
<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=9916>

### **Cuba's Pathbreaking Energy Policies**

Nicolas van Hoffen, *the Nation*, 22 August 2006

This article compares the experiences of North Korea and Cuba, countries which lost their relatively cheap oil when the Soviet Union collapsed, arguing that the rest of the world must learn from the positive experience of Cuba's transition to a less-oil dependent society. As the age of oil ends, a society that clings to the social and economic institutions and practices of the early twenty-first century will go the way of North Korea.  
<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11662>

### **Cuba: Going Against the Grain**

Minor Sinclair and Martha Thompson, *Oxfam America*, June 2001

This report looks at how Cuba has successfully turned a severe food crisis into a sustained recovery in food production. Through a combination of sweeping reforms and innovations in ecological agriculture, Cuba's countryside has changed dramatically.  
<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11656>

### **Sex and Revolution: Women in Socialist Cuba**

Julio Cesar Pino, Journal of Third World Studies, Fall 1997

Fidel Castro has been quoted as saying, "the most radical thing the Cuban Revolution has done are the changes now occurring among women." This is a review of a book which analyses the transformation of the lives of Cuban women from the start of the Revolution in 1959 to its denouement in the 1990s.

<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11658>

### **Amnesty International Report 2006: Cuba**

Amnesty International, 2006

Restrictions on freedom of expression, association and movement continued to cause great concern. Nearly 70 prisoners of conscience remained in prison. The US embargo continued to have a negative effect on the enjoyment of the full range of human rights in Cuba. The economic situation deteriorated and the government attempted to suppress private entrepreneurship. More than 30 prisoners remained on death row; no one was executed.

<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11657>

## **Take Action!**

**Call on the Cuban government to outlaw child soldiers** The Cuban government has signed but not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Write to the Cuban ambassador to urge Cuba follows through. (Amnesty International)

<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11661>

### **Take action to change U.S. policy towards Cuba**

With regard to the recent speculations and news reports about the health status of Fidel Castro, it is critical that U.S. policymakers shift away from the long-standing political war against Cuba. Americans must have the right to travel and trade with Cuba. (Global Exchange)

<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11659>

### **Support Indigenous People In Ecuador**

700 people from a remote cloud forest region of Ecuador are asking citizens around the world to defend their rights against mining companies and help them prevent the relocation of several communities and the destruction of a cloud forest region known for its biological diversity. Please support them at this crucial time by writing to the president of Ecuador today. (Global Response)

[www.dev-zone.org/downloads/ecuador%20indigenous.doc](http://www.dev-zone.org/downloads/ecuador%20indigenous.doc)

### **Protect Mangroves and Shark Habitat / The Bahamas**

Mangrove forests provide the best protection for life and property when hurricanes and tidal waves strike. People in the hurricane-prone Bahamas are stunned by a recent government decision to permit a developer to destroy Bimini Island's protective mangrove ecosystem and replace it with a tourist resort. Write a polite letter to the Prime Minister of the Bahamas to tell him about your concerns for this development. (Global Response)

<http://www.globalresponse.org/gra.php?i=2/05>

**Urge African Governments to Ratify and Enforce Women's Rights Protocol** Help promote desperately needed women's rights in Africa by writing to the governments that ratified the 2005 protocol and calling on them to comply with the protocol by amending their domestic laws and practices. (Human Rights Watch)

<http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=11593>

**Please visit [www.dev-zone.org/knowledge/Take\\_Action](http://www.dev-zone.org/knowledge/Take_Action) for an extensive collection of other Take Action links!**

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