

ABSTRACT

Nationalism and Cuba in the interstate system: 1868-Present

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This dissertation traces the evolution of Cuban nationalism and its interaction with Cuba's interstate relations from 1868 to the present. It argues that both endogenous and exogenous forces have impacted on Cuban nationalism throughout the island's long struggle for independence. It also contends that anti-imperialism and the drive for social equity are significant dimensions of Cuban nationalism

Moreover, this work affirms that Cuban nationalism have mutated over time, particularly during the Cuban Revolution when anti-imperialism and the drive for social equity converged in a powerful synthesis to appropriate Cuban socialism. We argue that this was necessary to accommodate the most potent expression of nationalism ever experienced Cuba.

By examining Cuban-U.S. relations in the nineties, an analysis of the dynamics of the post-Cold War era is also included in this study. We attempt to show that nationalism is still a critical variable in Cuba's interstate relations despite the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of the United States as the single political global hegemon.

An effort is made to utilize World-System theory, particularly the ideas of

Immanuel Wallerstein. This theory was chosen because it accommodates the anti-imperialist dimension of Cuban nationalism particularly when Cuba is contextualized as a peripheral state struggling against rival core imperialists.

Because of state bureaucracy and the volatility of the topic under discussion, it was difficult to undertake extensive field research in Cuba. Thus, the thesis reflects a heavy reliance on secondary sources. Nonetheless, informal interviews with academics, researchers and ordinary Cuban citizens were conducted and original literature was reviewed during a visit to Cuba in 1997.

Keywords: Indira Rampersad, Cuban nationalism, interstate relations, anti-imperialism, social equity, rival imperialists, socialism, World-System and Immanuel Wallerstein.