



THE DANGER OF CASTRO'S PROPAGANDA

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Throughout recent history, we have observed with indignation and amazement the manipulation of entire peoples by way of the massive intoxication of propaganda emanating from totalitarian systems. Many ruthless regimes have been able to program entire peoples to repeat slogans, justify crimes, march to war, pit children against parents, divide families, give up their freedom and rights in exchange for future promises of well-being that never arrive and, above all, worship the personality of a charismatic leader, always able to explain his abuses and outrages.

Generally, the system is also capable of removing Almighty God from the homes of the country in which that system is enthroned. During recent history, we have seen how Stalin turned Russians into robots and swallowed half of Europe. Adolf Hitler led to suicidal delirium a cultured, hardworking and intelligent people. Mussolini did something similar. Mao Tse-Tung, the greatest of the genocidaires, murdered 40 million Chinese, created on earth the prolongation of Dante's

Inferno, with the Cultural Revolution, and died on his bed with the title of agrarian reformer.

All this horror was possible to create by the massive doses of propaganda and lies that penetrated the minds and consciences of entire populations, prepared for their assimilation by the way of terror unleashed by these totalitarian regimes. Goebel, Hitler's propaganda minister, was the teacher of the most recent totalitarian dictators such as Fidel Castro, taught how a lie repeated a thousand times becomes an accepted truth. And when there is an initial rejection of propaganda, the system imposes it by force, creating in the victims an uncontrollable state of panic that amounts, on many occasions, to express gratitude to the perpetrator for not getting to consummate their most horrible threats or the terrible expectations that the victim anticipated.

In the same way, Fidel Castro has repeated with the people of Cuba what Stalin, Hitler and Mao Tse-Tung have already done in their countries. Through lies, Fidel Castro has programmed the people of Cuba to hate and despise the Cuban exiles and their leaders, as well as divide the Cuban family for political reasons, always inconsequential.

Through massive doses of propaganda, Fidel Castro buried Cuban love, forgiveness, faith and solidarity, to create an aggressive and vociferous people against their neighbors to the north. Thirty-five years of massive and incessant campaigns have managed to create among many Cubans misgivings towards their brothers and sisters in exile; to believe, even, many of the lies that are repeated on a daily basis against the Cuban American National Foundation, against the United States or against me.

For all these reasons, the Voice of the Foundation will frequently address this issue, with the aspiration of making a contribution to ideological detoxification and national consciousness. That was one of the reasons why the Cuban American National Foundation created Radio Martí; that was our first major effort at the national level in the United States. We wanted to demonstrate the importance that the people of Cuba had and continue to have for us and the need for them to receive objective information, which contributes to the formation of a balanced and serene state of consciousness that is consistent with the national interest and respect for the dignity and intelligence of Cubans.

As exiles, we observe with sorrow the conduct and expressions of excellent compatriots, men and women, full of good faith, turned into victims of that

perverse propaganda that has come to permeate at times, unconsciously, the thinking of many Cubans. It is common to hear among Cubans recently arrived in Miami, that the Voice of the Foundation should transmit with less emphasis things that affect or are important to Cuban exiles, such as their music, priorities, aspirations or dreams, resulting from the creative power, stimulated by the freedom enjoyed in the countries where these exiled Cubans reside. It seems as if the communist aspiration to divide us prevails in the minds of these poor compatriots, victims of so much propaganda and intoxication.

We have to recognize that all Cubans form a single nation, divided by a man named Fidel Castro. We can be two countries, with two different external realities, but we are one people in our roots, customs, traditions, sufferings, aspirations and ideals. That exiled community that Fidel Castro wants you to criticize are the same exiles that instead of using their political influence in Washington for their own advantage or to bring money to the city of Miami, where the vast majority of us Cuban exiles live, those exiles dedicated millions of dollars, of resources accumulated with many sacrifices and many years of efforts, to create for our brothers and sisters on the Island a radio station that would break the monopoly on news that prevented Cubans on the Island from accessing free information, as we enjoy it in Miami.

This is how Radio Martí was born and later TV Martí and it is important that we stop for a minute so that Cubans know the magnitude of the work and the great efforts that are made to keep Radio Martí on the air. First, it was necessary to convince 100 senators and 435 representatives in Washington about the need for the project and its merits, emphasizing the need of the poor Cuban people, saturated with propaganda and lies. Radio Martí required five years of struggle in Washington, at the cost of great personal renunciations and sacrifices by those of us who make up the Cuban American National Foundation.

Since then, year after year, we have spent substantial resources, time and personal efforts to secure from the United States Congress the annual funds necessary for the operations of Radio Martí Our only satisfaction is knowing that we fulfill our consciences and serve the people of Cuba, who without the Cuban exiles would never have been able to listen to Radio Martí.

That same exiles, sometimes criticized and which Castro wants our brothers and sisters on the Island to hate deeply, are the same exiles who managed, after many years of efforts and resources, to get Cubans to return from Angola to Cuba. The same exiles that have brought in freedom to the United States more than 10,000

Cubans whom Castro, after exploiting their relatives abroad, charging them everything they possess to let them emigrate, sends them to third countries, where they live an uncertain future, if it were not for the hope provided by the Cuban American National Foundation.

These exiles that they accuse of starving the people of Cuba, for having created the Torricelli Law, a law directed against Castro, not against Cubans, are the same exiles that annually send more than \$ 400 million in humanitarian aid that are received directly by Cubans on the Island, in the form of packages and shipments of food, medicines, clothing and resources essential for the survival of our brothers and sisters on the Island. This humanitarian aid is the largest known in recent history. Help from people to people.

Entire families in Miami work overtime in factories and production centers to send aid to their family, relatives and friends in Cuba, regardless of the differences that may exist for reasons of ideology or links to the communist revolution. That aid is sent, which is what was supposed to be provided by a government that promised everything and has ended up robbing Cubans of all their rights and all their goods.

These exiles are the ones who send dollars to Cuba, after having been described with the worst epithets for living in a capitalist country, where that currency so desired now by Fidel Castro is printed.

These are the same exiles that believe we have the same rights that Cubans have on the Island, to fully enjoy our homeland, live in it, work in it, make a family in it, be educated in it, aspire to serve it and to make it greater.

We are the same exiles that recognizes that Castro is a murderer and a thief.

They are the same exiles that get deeply shocked when it is said that a Cuban or a former political prisoner or a recent victim of the government, expresses gratitude to the communist henchmen because they did not end up murdering him, torturing him or because in the end they released him. Absurd and abject mental genuflection, comparable to that achieved by Stalin and Hitler. It is somewhat similar to the disgusting Helsinki syndrome, whereby hostages come to feel a certain gratitude and identification with the feelings of their kidnappers.

Something similar happens with some Cubans who think, unwittingly, that Cuba is the property of Fidel Castro and his gang and that, therefore, we should feel gratitude towards them if they are allowed to leave the country, emigrate, or

leave Villa Marista or leave one of the prisons of the brutal repressive system of the Cuban government. Even to this state of mental degradation has Fidel Castro tried to drag many Cubans.

These are the same exiles that is deeply shocked when we hear from the lips of our newly arrived compatriots that they will never return to live in Cuba. How is it possible to surrender that just aspiration and right of all Cubans; how is it possible not to desire a dignified return with freedom. What has happened to our compatriots on the Island who are only obsessed with leaving the country and, once they do, do not wish to return to Cuba.

Fatalism, fear, frustration, or a combination of the three. Perhaps this is a subject for psychologists. Is it the frantic search for a peace that cannot be found in Cuba and attempts are made to escape, to flee in search of it? Possibly. But the truth is that peace is only found when that peace is internal, when it is within ourselves. The external, objective peace offered by a free country, with a free rule of law, is temporary and transitory. For peace to be integral and happiness to be fully achieved, one must enjoy the homeland that belongs to no one in particular. One's own homeland. The homeland that belongs to all of us equally. A Homeland that is not the exclusive patrimony of Fidel Castro. Therefore, the one who must leave Cuba is Castro, the one who must never return to Cuba is Fidel Castro. Cuba is for all Cubans, to enjoy it in peace and harmony, with family and neighbors.

These are the same exiles who, together with a civilized international community, hears with amazement and anger of communist Cuba's alleged achievements in the fields of free health and education and zero unemployment. We are amazed because there is nothing free of charge, nothing free exists in the world, someone has to pay, either for a service, for a product or for any good, and the people of Cuba, in exchange for services of poor quality that they receive, have had to pay by enduring a bestial dictatorship for 35 years, to suffer the largest and longest exile in the history of all America, to create the most inhuman and cruel of all political prisons, to witness their purchasing power fall to the ground, their subsistence threatened, their rights destroyed, their freedom annihilated, their hope destroyed, their economy ruined, and as a country, to live among the pariah and marginal nations of humanity.

Costa Rica enjoys a health and education system superior to Cuba's and Costa Ricans did not have to place their nation at the service of Russia or send their children to die in Angola, Mozambique, Syria, Vietnam or Central America. The citizens of Costa Rica enjoy an exemplary democracy and in a few weeks they are

preparing to elect a new president who by the country's constitution cannot be re-elected.

Chile is a country without unemployment and does not have to see its democratic institutions destroyed, nor does the government have to direct or regulate or own any of the companies that create wealth and jobs. Public health and education, the government of Cuba proclaims as important achievements, but never comments that better services can still be offered in the private sector, in any serious country without having to condemn the population to poverty wages and organize the enslavement of the population under the slogans of voluntary work, red Sundays, campaigns in agriculture, etc., in whose tasks Fidel Castro plucks from the backs of Cubans the crumbs of bread and services that he proclaims as benefits of the Revolution.

Was it worth shedding so much blood, division, human degradation, abuses, slavery, imprisonment and exile, for the construction of a few schools and hospitals next to the graduation of doctors and teachers, many of whom do not serve Cuba, but whose services have been sold in dollars to foreigners in distant countries who pay Fidel Castro directly? who at the same time pays those poor doctors and teachers in worthless currency and at a tiny fraction of what he collects?

Is it worth it to continue to feel inferior in your own homeland? Is it worth working for a salary of \$400 pesos a month in Cuba, when an exiled relative can cover that amount with half an hour; yes, half an hour of work done in Miami?

The answer must come from every Cuban. Every Cuban has to reconcile with their own soul, not renouncing to their own identity, not abandoning what belongs to them in their own right. Every Cuban is born with duties, but also with rights, and the right to be free is natural, it is born of God, it is inalienable. The Homeland belongs to everyone. No one, no matter how powerful, can expel millions from their homeland and deny everyone the right to their own image, to self-honor, to progress and to peace, aspirations that Cubans rightly and justifiably seek, but that we will have to win them by way of great renunciations and not by fleeing the country, but achieving justice and reconciliation within ourselves and not handing over to Castro what belongs to us all.

Only national character, rooted in the firmest traditions and strength of spirit, can save us. Let us bury fantasy, face the truth with determination, unite in sacrifice

and work, and Cuba and the Cuban people will find the path of redemption and the path of peace.

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