
The Revolution In Raul's Voice: Our Most Beautiful Work

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03/06/2021



On April 19th, 2018 before the deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power, the Army General Raúl Castro Ruz made clear the deepest sense of his life: "Those of us who had the privilege of fighting the tyranny under Fidel's guidance since the Moncada Garrison, Granma, Rebellious Army, the clandestine actions and even today, we feel, next to the heroic town of Cuba, deep satisfaction for the consolidated work of the Revolution, the most beautiful work we've ever made... "

Three years later, and on the eve of his 90th birthday, it was premiered the book "Revolution, the Most Beautiful Work", a compilation in two volumes of 138 interventions of Raúl, since June 14th, 2006 until May 1st, 2019, period in which happened key events for the nation - led by him - as the debate and approval of the Guidelines; the return of the Five Heroes, just as Fidel had promised it; the restoration of diplomatic relationships with the U.S.A., after talks where Cuba didn't make any concession; the departure of the Commander in Chief, his funeral ceremony and the massive and painful farewell of their people; and the wide popular debates that lead to the new Constitution.

Abel Prieto Jiménez said in the moving presentation that took place at the Receptions Saloon at the Palace of the Revolution, place of countless historical moments for Cuba. With brothers of so many years of struggle: The Commandant of the Rebellious Army, José Ramón Machado Ventura, and the Commandants of the Revolution Ramiro Valdés Menéndez and Guillermo García Frías; the First Secretary of the Party and President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, together with the top leaders of the Revolution, attended the premiere of this book.

In a deeply reflexive speech, the President of Casa de las Americas asserted that "Raúl, next to the huge burden of responsibilities he occupied, endured harsh moments in his personal life".

Reviewing those facts together with the national and international context in which these pages were written, Abel said, our appreciation grows, for its value, for its integrity, for its stature as a leader, and human being.

This book, he said, reveals us the uninterrupted thread that unites without gaps Fidel's and Raúl's thoughts: the absolute identification of the two brothers in terms of ideals, moral, principles – the outcome of sharing, together, all

the challenges and risks that it implied to face and conquer the tyranny of Batista and the achievement of making "a socialist Revolution right under the noses of the United States."

Compiled and published with care by the Office of Historical Matters of the Presidency of the Republic, this is the first title of Celia Editorial House. It comprises 118 speeches, two interviews to Raúl, the two central reports on the 6th and 7th Congresses of the Communist Party, besides several statements, addresses, and directives.

"Revolution, the Most Beautiful Work", Prieto Jiménez commented is full with scenes that invite reflection, the analysis, the self-critical assessment of our own behavior that puts us face to face before the errors that the revolutionaries can make.

Other texts are very exciting, like the overwhelming address of Raúl on November 25th, 2016 day in which the Commander in Chief passed away, and his interventions in the homages that followed in Havana, on November 29th, and in Santiago de Cuba on December 3rd. Many of the texts are true lessons on the bases that define the international projection of the Cuban Revolution.

This book allows us to identify the main guidelines in the thought and actions of Raúl, as for the *raison d'être* of our Party, the methods and work styles that should characterize a Cuban leader today and in the future".

There are the results of his permanent and sharp critical assessment of the revolutionary work, his wide, complete, deep, and coherent vision of the challenges we have, "his ironclad optimism and his faith in victory."

In these two volumes - with a beautiful edition - there are an important group of ideas of conceptual depth, moral foundations, and projection in practical terms that offer us a guide of sheer reality for today and for the future, he asserted.

A book, he said, which allows us to approach in a renovated and exciting way to Raúl, his thought, his coherence, his wisdom.

This gift only a few days away from his birthday, doesn't end here and Eugenio Suárez Pérez, director of the Office of Historical Matters of the Presidency asserted: we are already working in his speeches, interviews, statements since year 1951 up to 2006, "hence leaving printed the valuable collection of all his work."

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