

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

**Cuba and the United States, Face to Face (+Video)**

**Canadian journalist Arnold August devotes searching analysis to the current status of relations between the two countries, marked by imperial designs and the Cuban people's determination to resist their consequences.**

Nancy Hernández, Vice-President, Instituto Cubano del Libro, and essayist Luis Toledo Sande presented the text in Old Havana by Liset García

"Since my first visit to Cuba in 1991, as a tourist, I've been impressed by the people, their way of thinking, their dignity and patriotism. That's why I've come back so many times," said Canadian journalist and professor Arnold August.

What has changed in the relationship between Cuba and the United States? That is the question August asked himself on this complex and long-standing issue, and the answers – or rather, first approximations to answers – that he found are contained in



his most recent book, **Cuba-US Relations: Obama and Beyond**, Cuban Spanish-language versión. It was launched on September 22 at the "Sábado del Libro" (Book Saturday) event, held on Calle de Madera in Old Havana.

As stated by its presenter, the essayist Luis Toledo Sande, this book sheds light on the essentially permanent nature of imperialism as a system that strives to dominate the world, resorting to trickery and deceit when necessary – and not only in the case of Cuba. Two faces of this approach have recently made

themselves visible: the line taken by Barack Obama, followed by the more crudely aggressive threats served up by Donald Trump.

This book, with a prologue by Keith Ellis, emeritus professor at the University of Toronto, is one of several published both here and abroad by this careful and experienced observer of the Cuban scene, who has spent the last twenty years of his life travelling frequently to the country. Other titles, including *Cuba y sus vecinos: democracia en movimiento* (Editorial Ciencias Sociales, 2014) [English edition: *Cuba and its Neighbours: Democracy in Motion* (Fernwood Publishing, 2013)] and *Democracy in Cuba and the 1997-98 Elections* (Editorial José Martí, La Habana, 1999), have augmented and built upon the many articles that have resulted from his research. The Spanish translation of *Cuba-US Relations*, by the writer Aida Bahr, was published by Editorial Oriente.

Chapters include "Challenges for Cuba in 2017 and Beyond," "Interviews with Five of Cuba's Leading Experts on Cuba-U.S. Relations," "The Blockade: From Obama to Trump," and "Fidel and the U.S.-Led Cultural Blitzkrieg on 'Dictatorship,'" the last of which discusses the risks taken on by Mr. August in opting to challenge the hegemonic view of these harsh realities.

*Cuba-US Relations: Obama and Beyond* (Spanish version) will also be presented Friday, September 26 at 3:00 p.m. at the Museo Memorial de la Denuncia, by Ricardo Alarcón, a noted authority on the subject.

Last July, in recognition of his undying efforts to reveal to the world the hidden realities of Cuba, Arnold August was awarded the Metal of Friendship by the Council of State of the Republic, having been nominated of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

Original in spanish, photos and video  
[www.bohemia.cu/cultura/2018/09/cuba-y-estados-unidos-frente-a-frente-video/](http://www.bohemia.cu/cultura/2018/09/cuba-y-estados-unidos-frente-a-frente-video/)