

# Why Does Cuba Matter?

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**Abstract:** Recent transformations in the Cuban political and economic system form part of an alternative model of development to those currently existing in the region and other parts of the Global South. What are these main changes? What model of socialism is being crafted in Cuba and what are its perspectives? What can it contribute to other countries if it succeeds?

**Biography:** Consultant for Sol2 Economics, a progressive consulting firm based in Berkeley, California, and The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), a non-profit organization devoted to increasing the positive global impact of responsible tourism. Professor Betancourt is the author of *Construyendo socialismo desde abajo: La contribucion de la Economía Popular y Solidaria* (Editorial Caminos, La Habana, 2017), and co-author, with Martha Honey, Jannelle Wilkins and José Luis Perelló, of *Por el Mar de las Antillas: 50 años de turismo de cruceros en el Caribe* (Ediciones Temas, La Habana, 2018). He has numerous published articles and is a frequent speaker in Cuba and the US on economics and tourism in Cuba. Born in Cuba and educated in the United States, he currently lives in Cuba and shares his time between the two countries.

(Esta conferencia se adapta al público presente, con más énfasis en política o economía.)

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