

Nicaraguans Celebrate 44th Anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution

Under Stewardship of Original Revolutionary Leader Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua Remains a Beacon for Social Progress Despite Crushing U.S. Sanctions

By [Lauren Smith](#)

Global Research, July 23, 2023

[CovertAction Magazine](#) 19 July 2023

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [History](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

In the United States, the word "socialism" has come to have a negative meaning. In that meaning, the word implies the loss of individual sovereignty, rejection of religion and the institution of authoritarian political measures.

While denounced as socialist by U.S. propagandists and repeated by the ill-informed media, in fact, Nicaragua has a mixed economy based on traditional humane Christian spiritual beliefs under the concept of Sandinismo. It also encourages multiple political parties in line with genuinely social democratic ideals.

The foreign media denounce the Ortega administration for its alleged oppression though, in reality, the people who have suffered at its hands are individuals and groups who have repeatedly taken part in U.S. regime-change violence against Nicaragua's government, people and public institutions.

Keep in mind that, in the U.S., domestic terrorism is also unlawful.



Youth celebrate 44th anniversary of Sandinista revolution in Managua on July 19, 2023. [Source: Photo courtesy of Lauren Smith]

On July 19, 1979, the Sandinista People's Revolution Party, Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN), overcame the U.S.-installed puppet dictator dynasty, headed by the Somoza family. Below is a photo of a U.S. tank taken by the FSLN that hangs in the former torture facility and prison run by Somoza's death squads in the city of León.

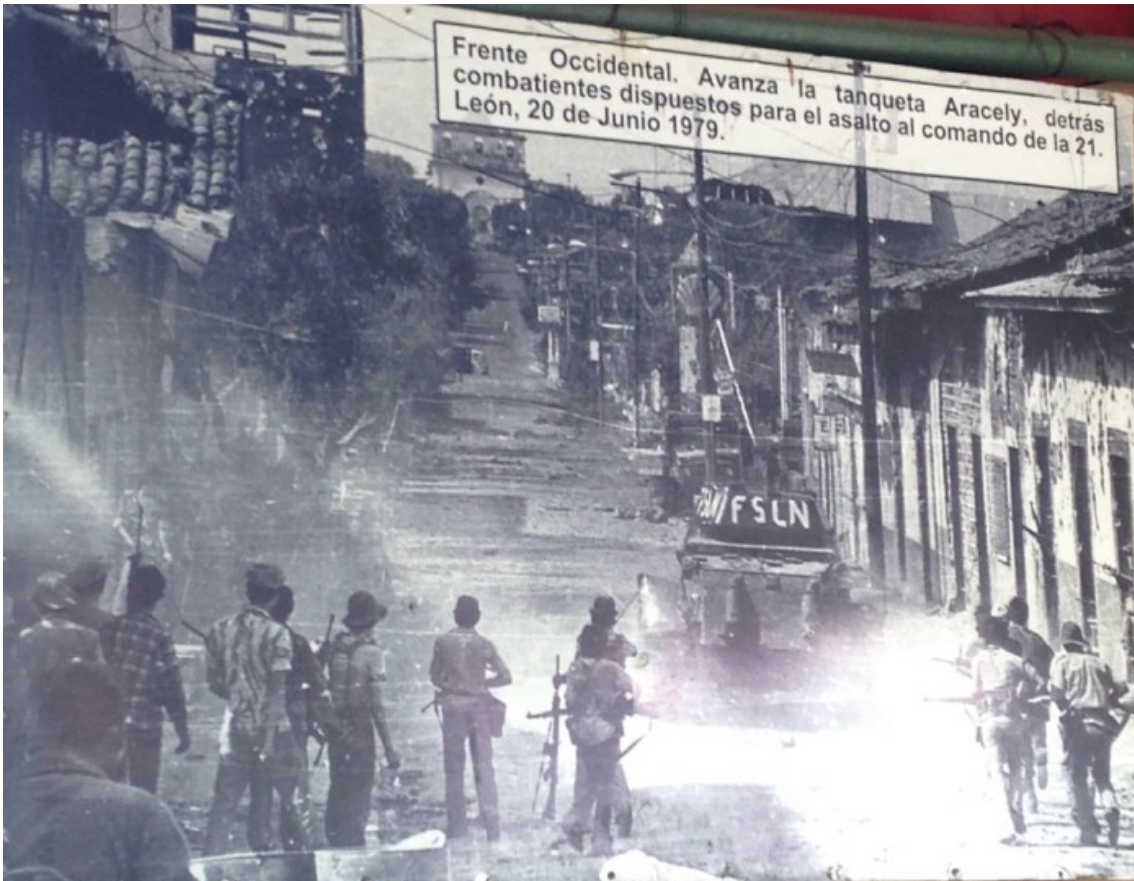
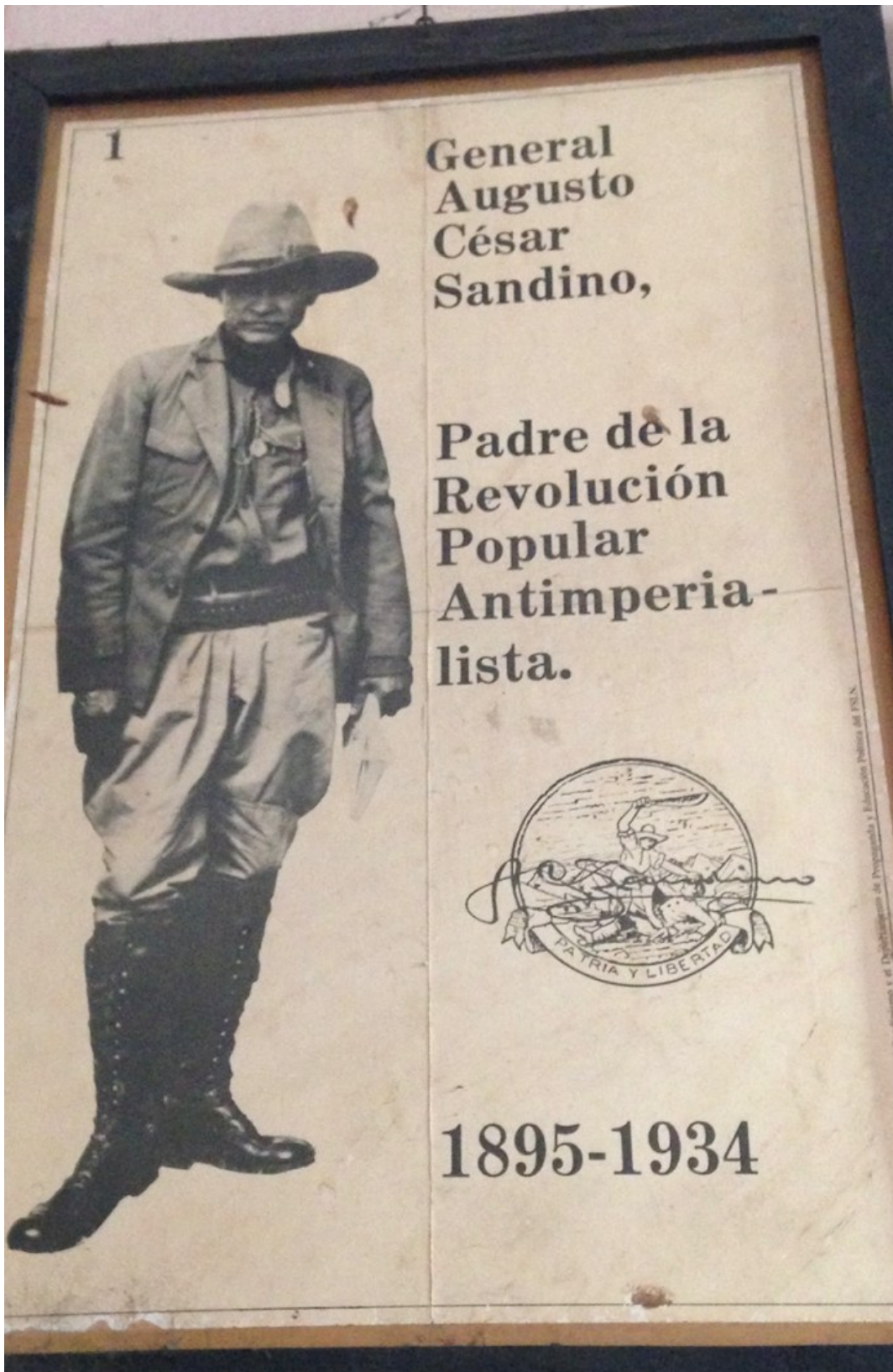


Photo courtesy of Lauren Smith



Former torture facility and prison run by Somoza's death squads in the city of León. [Source: Photo courtesy of Lauren Smith]



León, Nicaragua Revolutionary Museum. [Source: Photo courtesy of Lauren Smith]

The Sandinista government accepted the election result of 1990 to end the violence caused by the [CIA-organized Contras](#). They ceded control to an opposition party funded by the U.S.

Subsequent right-wing governments ruled Nicaragua from 1990 to 2007, after which the FSLN returned to office upon winning the 2006 election. The FSLN went on to achieve sustained economic and social progress until 2017 and was lauded by the [World Bank](#) and the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#). After the failed 2018 U.S. coup, it became

embarrassing for U.S.-funded, non-governmental human rights organizations (NGOs) and international banks to sing Nicaragua's praises.

Sandinismo under President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo and the FSLN simply means caring for all of society's members by providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure an educated, healthy, and economically viable society and a prosperous population and [fair elections](#).

A 2022 survey, conducted by M&R Consultants, confirmed that 70% of Nicaraguans believed its government was leading the country in the right direction. In pitiful contrast, a recent poll found that 71% of Americans believed their country was headed in the wrong direction. The pollsters admitted that they had ["never before seen the level of sustained pessimism in the 30-plus year history of the poll."](#)

President Ortega embraces the concept of good government in the tradition of former U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR). Under FDR, economic relief from the Great Depression involved reforms in industry, agriculture, finance, waterpower, labor and housing.

Today, many of FDR's accomplishments have been rolled back, either through willful negligence or by federal regulatory agencies being captured by industry and/or [censorship](#). Even funds set aside for [Social Security](#), as explained by Max Blumenthal of *The Grayzone Project* in his [address to the UN Security Council](#), are now being funneled into covert warfare.

It seems that the only time funds are "found" are for the military-industrial-complex or other mega complexes. What has emerged in the United States is [corporate socialism](#) managed by investment funds such as [BlackRock, State Street and Vanguard](#) and bailouts in the [trillions of dollars to the New York Federal Reserve dealer banks](#) that service the 0.001 percent of the population. Most U.S. residents and citizens experience the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" form of capitalism (a physical action that is impossible to accomplish) or suffer from declining social indicators such as [life expectancy](#) and [declining birth rates](#).

The U.S. dollar is no longer supported by gold or industry and is now [losing its value as a transactional currency](#). The SWIFT banking system and petrodollar are being replaced by alternate Chinese, Russian and [BRICS](#) transactional systems as a defense against the illegal and unilateral U.S. economic sanctions and [outright theft and piracy](#).

To make matters worse, profits are extracted from the once great U.S. economy and [deposited in overseas accounts](#). Thus, working capital is no longer working through reinvestment. But that does not stop the Fed's printing of dollars. Eventually, inflation will make the 1970s' [stagflation](#) look like a walk in the park.

Unlike the U.S., Nicaragua Is Not Talk: It Is Actions and Accomplishments

Nicaragua is thriving despite a network of illegal sanctions that are premised on [lies told to the American public](#). As explained by human rights, labor rights and peace activist Daniel Kovalik at his recent book signing—held in Casa Ben Linder in Managua for his latest book [Nicaragua, A History of US Intervention & Resistance](#)—Nicaragua serves as the [threat of a good example](#) to the United States.

Nicaragua has free health care for all. Since 2007, 24 hospitals have been built along with 182 maternity homes, 190 natural medicine clinics, 73 pain management clinics, 101 centers for the care of people with disabilities, 52 psychosocial care clinics, a medicinal oxygen plant (the first in Central America), a molecular biology laboratory (only the second in Latin America), and national centers for cardiology, diabetes, chemotherapy, palliative care, audiology and speech therapy.

Additionally, the Ortega administration [provides land titles](#) to families, has increased transportation routes, provided potable water and sanitation facilities, and expanded low-cost electricity and free internet in public spaces.

The FSLN government provides micro-loans to encourage the development of small businesses under [two programs](#):

1. Ahead Program: August 2022-May 2023

Loans: 6,758 Amount: U.S. \$10,343,890.40

2. Zero Usury Program: 2007-April 2023

Loans: 1,605,827 Amount: U.S. \$321,070,539

The FSLN also builds affordable housing, offers free education from pre-school to trade and technical schools, and offers scholarships to university students.

[There are currently 51,879 university students with scholarships](#). The U.S. should take notes and U.S. citizens should not expect less from their elected officials. If little Nicaragua can accomplish these great public feats, so can a superpower like the U.S.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Lauren Smith is CAM's correspondent on location. Lauren's work has been published by the Alliance for Global Justice, Black Agenda Report, Common Dreams, Counterpunch, Global Research, Monthly Review, and Telesur amongst others. She holds a BA in Politics, Economics, and Society from SUNY at Old Westbury and an MPA in International Development Administration from New York University. Ms. Smith is also a member of the [Green Party](#) and [Sanctionskill.org](#).

Featured image: Daniel Ortega and his wife Rosario Murillo give a defiant fist at celebration of Sandinist Revolution in Managua on July 19, 2023. [Source: Photo Courtesy of Lauren Smith]

The original source of this article is [CovertAction Magazine](#)

Copyright © [Lauren Smith](#), [CovertAction Magazine](#), 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Lauren Smith](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca