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***“With All, and for the Good of All”: The Emergence of Popular Nationalism in the Cuban Communities of the United States, 1848-1898*** by Gerald E. Poyo

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*“With All, and for the Good of All”: The Emergence of Popular Nationalism in the Cuban Communities of the United States, 1848-1898.* By Gerald E. Poyo. Durham, North Carolina. 1989. Duke University Press. Pp. xvii, 182. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$28.95.

Cuban immigrants’ contributions to enriching the Florida peninsula have received mainly symbolic recognition by state and local government. Tourism capitalizes on this historic cultural link and inevitably disregards the political and economic conflicts that have consistently mobilized and polarized Cuban immigrant communities. Gerald E. Poyo’s *“With All, and for the Good of All”* skillfully analyzes Cuban immigrants’ roles in their country’s developing independence movement between 1848 and 1898. Centering on the émigré workers of Key West and Tampa, the author examines the interests, political action and rhetoric of exile organizations and cigar workers in Florida, New York and New Orleans.

He emphasizes not only the various philosophical and economic issues that led to separation from Spain, but also their outcomes, adding a valuable new dimension to analyses of the relationship between achieving independence and attaining sovereignty. The title of the book, a quote from a Tampa speech by José Martí in 1891, refers to Martí’s success in mediating conflicting notions of Cuba’s future relations with Spain and the construct of a free Cuba. In studying Martí’s efforts to forge consensus at least on immediate goals, Poyo highlights the ideals of émigré anarchist cigar workers who ultimately supported the revolt for a Cuba free from racism and labor exploitation.

Poyo suggests that the very process of organizing, capitalizing and securing support for independence profoundly affected immigrants’ subsequent relations with the United States. Cuban émigrés participated in the U.S. economy and culture while recognizing their separate interests in Cuba. They also adopted values, ideas and expectations from their U.S. experiences that helped shape post-1898 events. A significant dichotomy emerged. Cuban political nationalism – the recognition of historic differences and goals – achieved unprecedented force, and strategies of expression were debated within a foreign country which historically coveted island control.

The author is not alone in demonstrating the significance of Martí’s 1895 death in shaping Cuban history. The unique contribution of this study is its exploration of class conflicts within the émigré communities, revolving around both political and military options – conflicts that ultimately “gave the middleclass nationalist leaders the opportunity to dictate the future of the insurgent struggle” (114) and of independent Cuba. Once Martí had secured class solidarity through the Cuban Revolutionary Party (PRC), the institution itself was perceived as embodying the goals of social and economic justice. Although José Martí’s successors did not exhibit commensurate adherence to these ideals or institute effective programs for accomplishing them, one step – ending Spanish colonialism – was achieved. Movement toward the other objectives would take much longer.



**José Martí, surrounded by Tampa cigar workers, stands (with his jacket open at the top center of the steps) in front of Martínez Ybor's factory in Ybor City.**

Photograph courtesy of USF Special Collections.

*“With All and for the Good of All”* enhances our understanding of the tangible manifestations of U.S. influence in Cuba: in trade, property and investment. Poyo offers a well-written and well-researched account of the issues debated in the émigré communities, and his sources include a broad range of newspaper accounts, published essays, pamphlets, broadsides, archival materials and secondary works from the U.S. and Cuba. Relating his study of emigre thought to broader political and economic processes, he has nevertheless kept his topic in precise focus. This book should be appreciated by anyone interested in Florida history, Cuban history or Latin American nationalism.

Susan Fernández

*St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream, 1888-1950.* By Raymond Arsenault. Norfolk, Virginia. 1988. Donning Company. Pp. 360. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$29.95.