

Presentation by Nan McCurdy, NSCAG Webinar, 12 November 2020

From 1990 to 2006, During 3 neoliberal governments more than 7 billion dollars in state property was privatized including banks, utilities, education and health care. By 2006 the country was barely functioning with 8 to 12-hour black-outs daily, and only water at night.

Unsurprisingly the **Sandinistas won the 2006 elections** and began making amazing changes.

Nicaragua: Example of Alternative Development For the World

-The size of the economy in 2006 was 6.7 Billion, today it is 12.5 Billion

-Since 2006 **Extreme Poverty** has been reduced by **more than half**

- Here are a few more comparisons:

Improvements	2006	2019
Poverty	48%	24.6%
Electricity in Homes	54%	98.5%
Potable water in homes	70%	93%
Connection to Sewage	35%	55%
Infant Mortality	29/100,000	11/100,000
Maternal Mortality	92.8/100,000	29.9/100,000
Maternal Wait Homes	50	178
Chronic Malnutrition Children under 5	21.7	11.4
Chronic Malnutrition Kids 6 - 14	27.2	9.2

Electricity from Renewable Energy 20% 65 to 80%

Food Sovereignty and Nutrition



- There is about **90% Food Sovereignty**
- **During the 2018 coup with more than a thousand roadblocks people didn't go hungry because of the small producers.**
- **The World Food Program says Nicaragua prioritizes guaranteeing food security and praises the school meal program that reaches at least 1.2 million children from preschool on.**
- A September **World Bank report** says that a child in Nicaragua has a **98% chance of living to age 5, one of the highest in Latin America.**
- In August the IMF praised **Nicaragua's programs that strengthen the social safety net with food packages for vulnerable families.**
- **Production bonds have gone to 213,796 families through Zero Hunger since 2007.** This stimulates the popular economy, and helps small farmers produce more.

Advances for Women



- **5th in the world in Gender Equity behind Sweden.**
- **Has the highest level of Gender Parity in Ministerial Positions in Latin America – 55.6%**, according to an August International Development Bank (IDB) report.
- **There are 34 Women’s Police stations with highly trained staff, and 12 under construction.**
- **Nicaragua has the lowest rate of femicides in Central America (.7/100,000)** according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) and the Latin America and Caribbean Gender Equality Observatory (Feb. 14)
- It also has one of the **lowest homicide rates in Latin America and the lowest in Central America**, (7.5 homicides/100,000 inhabitants) (Insight Crime).
- The government has given **low interest loans to more than 812,654 women** for small businesses.

Investment in Social Infrastructure



- Nicaragua ranks **Second in Latin America in Social Infrastructure**
- It ranks **Third in all of LA in Drinking Water Quality, Energy and Transportation** (IDB August) with a “**Huge investment in roads, electricity and water.**”
- It has the **best access to potable water in the region** (IDB, Sept)
- **It ranks 1st in Central America in best roads**
- It **subsidizes basic grains, transportation, electricity and water** for the more vulnerable population.
- **58% of the 2021 Budget will go for social spending**

Transparency and Debt, Exports and Disaster Preparedness

- Nicaragua has **very high transparency in Public Debt** with full data on each Institution’s website about execution of loans (July, World Bank)
- Nicaragua is praised by Banks for its **excellent project execution**. (Central America Bank for Economic Integration CABEL, August)
- **On Oct. 7 Dante Mossi, President of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration said “the quality, planning, dynamism and effectiveness of Nicaragua’s project management is excellent, and the Finance Ministry is extremely organized and**

transparent, allowing CABEL to plan projects in an easy manner and without concerns.”

- In 2020 it has **the lowest debt per capita in Central America** (Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies, July)
- Exports as of Oct. 31 again broke records, reaching more than US\$2.5 billion, a 19.4% increase over the same period last year, according to the Export Processing Center (CETREX) and the Economic Commission for Latin America.
- The World Bank readjusted their economic growth projections for Latin America, highlighting that Nicaragua has been the only country to increase its exports and not paralyze its economy.
- Nicaragua’s export data confirms their good decision **not** to close down during the Pandemic. (UN Economic Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC, August)
- Nicaragua is among the **First Countries in LA in Disaster Risk Management**. (IDB, Aug. 30)

Free and Universal Health Care



- **Health spending increased by 318% from 2006 to 2020.**

- Nicaragua ranks **fourth in all Latin America in Health Investment. (IDB August)**
- **40 Cents of every dollar is spent on health and education (July 7)**
- **18 state of the art hospitals built since 2007**
- **7 more hospitals are under construction**
- **Health personnel (doctors, nurses, technicians) increased from 22,083 to 36,649.**
- There are now **143 Major Health Clinics, 1,333 Health Posts, and 80 Mobile Clinics**
- There is a **New Molecular Biology Lab and an Influenza Vaccine Plant**
- **A new health program is taking specialists and special tests like ultrasounds directly to all the neighborhoods.**
- **There are 70 Natural Medicine Clinics for Pain Management**
- **Cancer radiation centers have Linear Accelerators**
- **Nicaragua does kidney transplants and provides dialysis**
- **All of this is free**

Covid Preparedness



Nicaragua Disinfected public spaces like markets and buses

- Nicaragua was **one of the first countries** in the world to create a **comprehensive plan** for dealing with Covid **Prevention, Containment and Treatment.** (OPS, March 12)

- Nicaragua prepared **19 hospitals** for treating Covid, and prepared **37,000 medical staff**, and more than **150,000 volunteer health workers**.
- It has **stringent screening at all of the entrances** to the country and **does careful follow-up to make sure people are doing their quarantine**. (OPS, March 16)
- The IMF said Covid-19 **cases were treated in accordance with International protocols**. Nicaragua **implemented a National Alert, a 24/7 hotline**, epidemiological surveillance protocols, control measures at all entry points, Health personnel were trained and have exchanged experiences with international experts. (IMF, August)
- From March to May Medical Personnel and Volunteers made more than **5 million home visits for education, prevention and detection**.

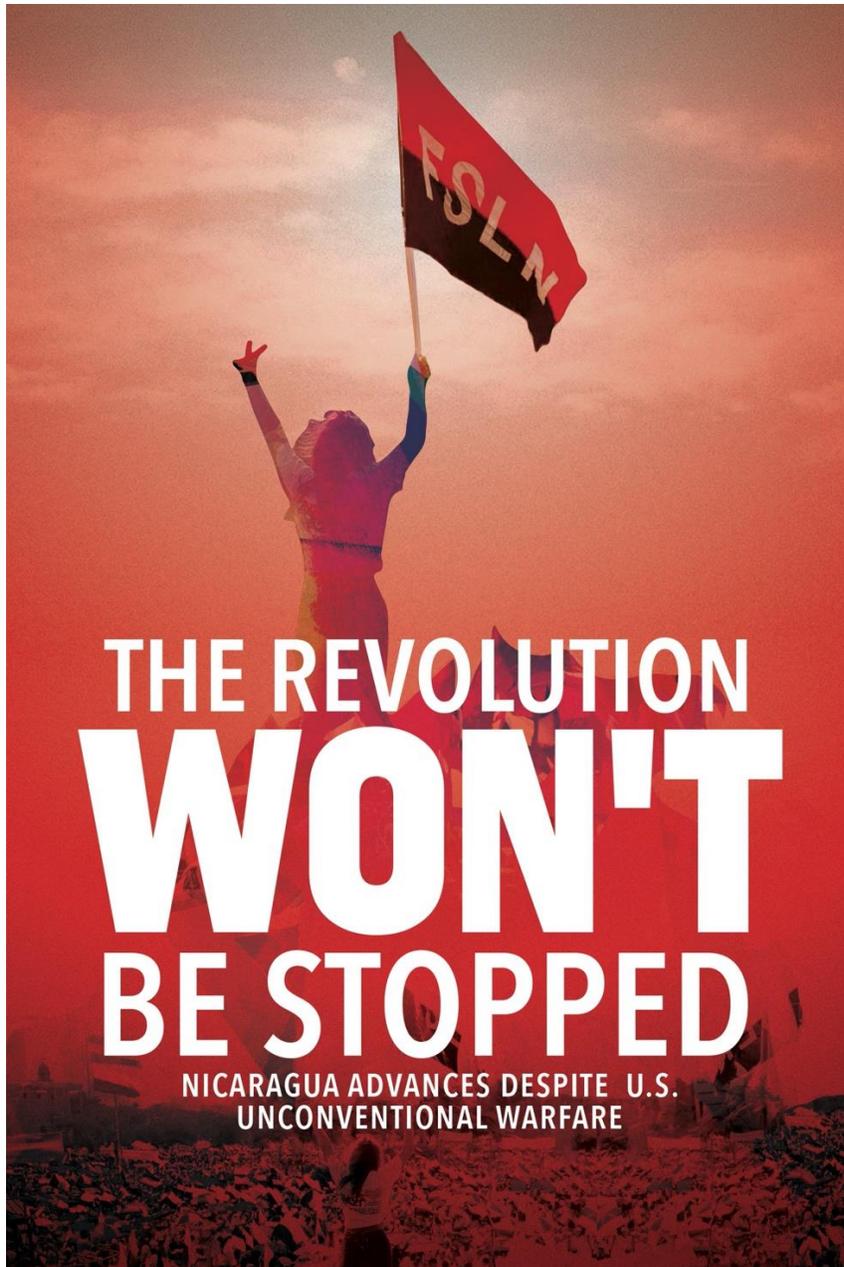
Free and Universal Education





- There is a **94% approval rating from 1.7 million students and parents**
- More than 7,700 schools were built or rebuilt and equipped since 2007
- **School meals are provided for 1.2 million students**
- **There are 500 rural secondary schools** so village kids can study high school
- The government provides **free books, backpacks and materials to over 1 million children**
- A Monetary bonus is given to high school graduates
- There is Constant **teacher training**
- **English language** teaching from First grade on.
- More than **500 schools with internet access**
- **Free wifi in most parks** throughout the nation
- **280 mobile classrooms**

Finally, I haven't seen an honest article about Nicaragua in the US press in many years – it's important to find alternative sources, like NicaNotes and like the two books a group of us have published available for free at AFGJ.org: Nicaragua Live: Uprising or Coup and The Revolution Won't be Stopped: Nicaragua Advances Despite US Unconventional Warfare.



<http://www.nscag.org/resources/Nan%20book.pdf>