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workers in Cuba: unions and labour relations

a 2011 update

**DEBRA EVENSON
AND STEVE LUDLAM**

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In 2003 the Institute produced a short pamphlet dispelling the many hostile myths generated about Cuban unions and Cuban labour law. Debra Evenson, a US Lawyer, produced an in depth analysis of Cuban industrial relations, examining the relationship between unions, the State and the Communist Party and explaining how Cuban unions operate in the workplace and the wider society.

Then in 2010 economic changes initiated by President Raúl Castro brought renewed attention on Cuba. With half a million workers redeployed from the public to the private sector, UK media outlets suggested that Cuba was retreating from socialism and dumping 10% of its workforce. Such crude characterisations could not go unchallenged and so in 2011 this updated IER pamphlet looks at developments in Cuba since 2003. As Steve Ludlam explains in his new contribution to the original text, "in Cuba such changes come about as a consequence of debate and negotiation ... and not in a Thatcherite war on organised labour conducted by criminalising solidarity and defeating strikes." This short Comparative Note offers a timely insight into an alternative society and its world of work.

This new edition is published jointly with UNITE the Union, with a foreward by Unite General Secretary Len McCluskey.

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