

MAPPING THE DSA MACHINE



STUDY GUIDE

INFLUENCE HAS INFRASTRUCTURE

THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AROUND IT

The DSA now boasts its highest membership in forty years and control of the mayor's office of New York.

Its own published program would gut the Electoral College, the Senate, and an independent presidency. And

it's fighting hard to win even more power in cities, states, and Congress in the 2026 Midterm Elections. But we didn't get here by chance. Behind the "grassroots" facade of the DSA is a massive international network, and nearly nineteen million American nonprofit dollars are already moving through it.

The paperwork is public.

Almost no one follows it.

But we did.

This is your guide to understanding how subtle influence becomes infrastructure that reshapes a nation, one partnership, one seemingly insignificant connection at a time.

The doorway into this underground world is the DSA, but that's just the beginning of the story.

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START HERE:

THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA) HAS REACHED ITS HIGHEST MEMBERSHIP LEVELS IN FOUR DECADES.

THREE NAMES MARK ITS RISE:

Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Zohran Mamdani.

MEMBERSHIP TIMELINE:

- Founded in **1982** and stayed near 6,000 members until the Bernie Sanders campaign.
- After DSA endorsed Bernie Sanders in **2016**: about 8,500 members.
- After the **2017** election, when a new cohort took formal control and voted to leave the Socialist International: about 24,000 members.
- After AOC beat Joe Crowley in **2018**: about 55,000 members.
- **2021**, the year DSA adopted its first national platform: peaked near 93,000.
- **October 2024**, the month Mamdani launched: 50,713.
- **December 2025**: 92,912 — an 83 percent rise, nearly double, and the highest total in more than four decades. The party that just elected the mayor of New York.
- New York City DSA over roughly the same period: from fewer than 6,000 members to more than 13,000.
- By **July 2026**, DSA said it had passed 120,000 members. That total would make it the largest socialist organization in U.S. history, above the Socialist Party's 1912 peak of about 113,000 members.

Source: City & State New York membership report

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THE DSA'S RADICAL GOALS:

- Abolish the Electoral College.
- Abolish the Senate.
- Replace the president and Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress.

Source: DSA current program

THE DSA AS A NETWORK:

No single faction controls the DSA, and its continuous march into the outer rim of the radical left is plagued by infighting. Still, leftward they march.

- DSA is factional. Its members argue. Its caucuses fight.
- They disagree about strategy, elections, revolution, foreign policy, and what socialism itself should mean.
- Do not imagine one brain. Imagine a political ecosystem, and that system has international reach.
 - Germany
 - Cuba
 - Venezuela
 - Progressive International

Source: DSA current program

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Let's take this one international connection at a time.

PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL | THE DSA'S GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

- In 2023 DSA formally joined Progressive International. Their mission: "unite, organise, and mobilise progressive forces around the world."

Source: Progressive International — About

- The founding declaration of Progressive International proclaims: "Our aim is international organization." "Our mandate is to build the infrastructure for internationalism."

Source: Progressive International — Declaration

- Members share resources, exchange tools, and organize actions across borders. It connects members so they can share "experiences, resources, tools, and tactics," creating opportunities for collective action around a common agenda for change.

Source: Welcome to the Movement

- According to DSA's own announcement, its national convention voted overwhelmingly to join in order to strengthen coordination and solidarity with left-wing parties, organizations, and movements around the world.

Source: DSA announcement — October 2023 dispatch

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GERMANY AND THE DSA

THE ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION, FINANCED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYS AMERICAN CITIZEN NEAL MEYER, A LONGTIME ORGANIZER OF ONE OF DSA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTIONS.

→ HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- The foundation's own annual report says it is financed principally through the German federal budget, including the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Office, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and other federal sources.

Source: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Annual Report 2024 (English), page 82

- The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation has a New York office. One of the people working there is Neal Meyer. Meyer is a longtime organizer and leader in Bread & Roses, one of the major internal caucuses of DSA. The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's New York office published a history of the Democratic Socialists of America. The editor was none other than Neal Meyer. On the title page: "With support from the German Foreign Office."

Source: DSA history PDF from rosalux.nyc (title page and pages 1-2)

GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT → FEDERAL FUNDING

→ ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION → EMPLOYMENT → NEAL MEYER

→ DSA / BREAD & ROSES LEADERSHIP

Important

There is NOT evidence here that the German government writes checks to the DSA. What we do know is that a foundation financed by the German government employs a person who has held a significant organizing role inside one of DSA's major factions

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VENEZUELA AND THE DSA

- In June of 2021, the DSA sent eight delegates to Venezuela.
- According to DSA's own International Committee, they attended the Bicentennial Congress of the Peoples; partnered with the Simón Bolívar Institute; visited Venezuelan communes; and met Nicolás Maduro, along with other Latin American political leaders.
- A few months later, DSA went back as official election observers. DSA says it obtained official observer credentials for the first time in its modern history.

Important

Does that prove Nicolás Maduro controls DSA? No. Does it prove Venezuela is secretly funding DSA? No. But there is a relationship being cultivated between Venezuela and the DSA. DSA itself says that in 2021, its convention committed the organization to building relationships with left-wing parties and movements across Latin America — including regular election-observer delegations and exchange programs. This is intentional international organizing.

Source: DSA International Committee — Venezuela solidarity

CUBA AND THE DSA

- DSA's International Committee has a Cuba Solidarity Working Group, organized delegations to Cuba, and encouraged DSA chapters to organize Cuba campaigns.
- A convicted Cuban operative runs the state institute that \$18.93 million in traceable U.S. nonprofit money is organized around.
- DSA is part of a bigger Cuba-support network. This network sits next to DSA. It does not give grants to DSA.

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HERE IS HOW THE MONEY MOVES:

Following money in these networks is difficult because the name on the protest sign may not be the name in the financial records. The public sees logos, websites, and campaigns. What they don't see is who handles the money, who receives the grants, who processes donations, who handles payroll, who does the accounting, or who provides the tax structure.

A small activist project does not necessarily have to build all of that itself. A common legal nonprofit mechanism can provide much of it: fiscal sponsorship.

How to follow the money.

Do not stop at the logo, the website, and the project name. Those are often just a storefront. Look underneath. Ask: Who receives the donation? Who provides the nonprofit paperwork? That structure is called "fiscal sponsorship." It is legal and common. It is not, by itself, proof of secret control. But it is why the name on the sign may not be the name in the financial records.

DSA AND NNOC:

DSA told members to seek out other organizations in the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) and collaborate with them on Cuba-solidarity projects already underway.

Source: Cuba Solidarity Working Group — our work | DSA statement on Cuba/U.S. policy

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DSA → FORMAL MEMBER → NNOC

Important

NNOC is not secretly DSA and doesn't control the DSA. DSA itself chose to formally join this network to organize in coalition with other NNOC member organizations around Cuba.

HERE ARE SOME OF NNOC'S MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Alliance for Global Justice
- CODEPINK
- Democratic Socialists of America
- Global Exchange
- IFCO / Pastors for Peace
- The National Lawyers Guild Cuba Subcommittee
- Venceremos Brigade
- The Hatuey Project

Source: NNOC member organizations

THE HATUEY PROJECT CONNECTION:

DSA → HATUEY PROJECT → NNOC

- DSA is a member of NNOC.
- Hatuey is a member of NNOC.
- They participate in the same Cuba-solidarity coalition.
- It also says the medicines are delivered under export licenses granted by the U.S. Commerce Department.

Source: Hatuey Project

This is an openly declared Cuba medical aid and solidarity project.

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THE HATUEY PROJECT AND THE PEOPLE'S FORUM:

HATUEY PROJECT → FISCAL SPONSOR
→ THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM IS THE FISCAL SPONSOR OF THE HATUEY PROJECT.

- If you write a check to them, it must be made out to:
"The People's Forum / The Hatuey Project."

Source: Hatuey donation page

- The People's Forum describes itself as a "movement incubator."

What this means:

Hatuey is the public-facing project — the storefront. The People's Forum provides the nonprofit / fiscal-sponsorship structure through which Hatuey says donations can flow. If you only looked at Hatuey, you would stop too soon. Underneath the umbrella is The People's Forum.

THE NEVILLE SINGHAM CONNECTION

- Remember him? Glenn has been sounding the alarm about the potential malign influence of this Shanghai-based American investor for years.
- <https://www.facebook.com/GlennBeck/videos/last-year-the-fbi-knocked-on-my-door-to-talk-about-one-of-my-glenn-tv-specials-t/1719530432379879/>
- <https://x.com/glennbeck/status/1968413683668705717/video/1>

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- The People's Forum has publicly acknowledged Singham's financial support.
- Congressional investigators have cited reporting alleging more than \$20 million in Singham-linked support to The People's Forum through intermediaries and donor-advised vehicles.

Source: Grassley letter to the DOJ

- Most of the reporting so far has focused on his alleged role in supporting groups in the United States to benefit China.
- The reporting also mentions his wife, a co-founder of Code Pink.

Source: Grassley letter to DOJ / FBI on Code Pink and The People's Forum

- Tricontinental is another group the State Department's Cuba report identified.
- Singham is listed as part of Tricontinental's International Advisory Council.

FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL

- DSA said it belonged to NNOC.

Source: DSA coalitions list

- NNOC said Hatuey belonged to the coalition.

Source: NNOC member list

- Hatuey said The People's Forum sits underneath its current donation structure.

Source: Hatuey donate page

- NNOC also works with a Cuban institution: ICAP

FROM NNOC'S OWN WEBSITE:

"Each year, the NNOC works with ICAP (Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples)."

Source: NNOC brigades page

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WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ICAP:

- ICAP is the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples. In June, the United States Treasury Department put ICAP on its sanctions list under the Cuba program.

Source: Treasury / OFAC action, 2026-06-04

- The president of ICAP is Fernando González Llort. He was one of the Cuban Five — the defendants associated with Cuba's Wasp Network. U.S. Justice Department court records describe members of that network as operatives of Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence.

U.S. Justice Department brief (PDF page 8)

KEEP FOLLOWING THE MONEY...

IN JULY OF 2026, THE STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASED A REPORT ON CUBA CALLING THE COUNTRY THE "CAPITAL OF 21ST CENTURY COMMUNISM."

Source: State Department Cuba Report (July 2026 PDF)

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GROUPS LISTED IN THAT REPORT:

- National Lawyers Guild
- The People's Forum
- Tricontinental
- CODEPINK
- IFCO / Pastors for Peace
- Global Exchange
- DSA

Several of these organizations appear on NNOC's current membership roster — the coalition that works with ICAP.

Source: NNOC member organizations

TRACEABLE U.S. NONPROFIT DOLLARS

- The groups identified in the State Department report have nearly nineteen million traceable U.S. nonprofit dollars spread out between them.
- This is not money delivered to Cuba, but floating around within the network—the network DSA operates within.

NOW, PUT IT ALL TOGETHER:



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DSA membership has exploded—from a few thousand after Bernie Sanders's 2016 run to more than 120,000 by mid-2026—on the back of high-profile wins by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Zohran Mamdani, while the organization openly calls for abolishing the Electoral College and the Senate and subordinating the presidency and Supreme Court to Congress.

That domestic surge is the doorway into an international web: DSA formally joined Progressive International to share tactics and resources across borders, sent delegates to meet Nicolás Maduro and serve as election observers in Venezuela, and became a member of the National Network on Cuba.

Inside that Cuba coalition sit the Hatuey Project (a medical-aid project whose donations must be written to The People's Forum) and other groups named in the State Department's 2026 Cuba report; The People's Forum has publicly acknowledged support from Shanghai-based investor Neville Singham.

The same network works annually with ICAP, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, which is now on the Treasury's sanctions list and is led by a convicted Cuban operative. And a German-government-funded foundation employs a longtime leader of one of DSA's major caucuses and even published a DSA history with Foreign Office support.

Nearly \$19 million in traceable U.S. nonprofit dollars circulates inside this overlapping set of boards, fiscal sponsors, and coalitions—American money moving through American 501(c)(3) structures that sit next to, and sometimes formally include, DSA—without any single foreign check written directly to DSA itself.

If you follow the fiscal sponsorship paperwork, the coalition memberships, and the recurring officers, you find that U.S. dollars underwrite an ecosystem with the stated aim of international organization and whose partners include sanctioned Cuban institutions and a Shanghai-based financier.

This web is an example of how influence becomes infrastructure that slowly reshapes a nation—not through a flashy, grand conspiracy, but with one connection at a time. This process is so mundane and shrouded in paperwork that it's easily missed, but not by us.

We see it.
And we can expose it.

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Special Thanks

This research is provided to you in partnership with Jennica Pounds,
AKA "DataRepublican."

Her new book

"UNELECTED: How You Paid a Sinister Elite to Take Over America"

is available for preorder now, and will release wherever you get your books
on October 20, 2026.