



Latin America and the International System: a turning point? Multidisciplinary perspectives on Venezuela

Friday, January 30th, 2026 – 4.00 pm CET

Online

Introduction:
Prof. **Matteo Legrenzi**,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Prof. **Andrea Ruggeri**,
University of Milan and SGRI
*Sovereignty in the International
System from an IR perspective*

Prof. **Sara De Vido**,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
*Whither International Law?
Sovereignty and the prohibition
of the use of force after the
intervention in Venezuela*

Prof. **Luis Fernando Beneduzi**,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
*U.S. Interests in Latin America:
A historical perspective*

Dr. **Felipe Krause**,
Oxford University
*The Political Economy of Drug
Policy in Latin America*

Prof. **Valerio Dotti**,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
*Sovereignty and Energy
Economics in Venezuela: How
"investable" is Venezuela?*

Prof. **Matteo Cosci**,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
*Costantino Acosta's philosophy
of law for a future Venezuela*

To participate in the event, please
register at this [link](#).

Cecilio Acosta's philosophy of law for a future Venezuela

Prof. Matteo Cosci
(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

3 current trends in history of philosophy:

- expanding the canon
- decentering the (Western) tradition
- decolonizing the past



Cecilio Acosta:
¿Quién fue?

“The Montesquieu of Venezuela”

don Cecilio Acosta (1818-1881) was an essayist, poet, orator, and professor of law and economics at the Central University of Venezuela



Universidad Católica 'Cecilio Acosta' de Maracaibo





“Public wealth disappears, torn away or destroyed by the hand of expropriation or by the helmet of war; the spirit of enterprise declines; the craftsman closes his workshop; no capital comes to the country thus devastated, for fear that it will be lost; money is hidden, and the specter of public misery looms over deserted lands and fields like a terrifying ghost.”

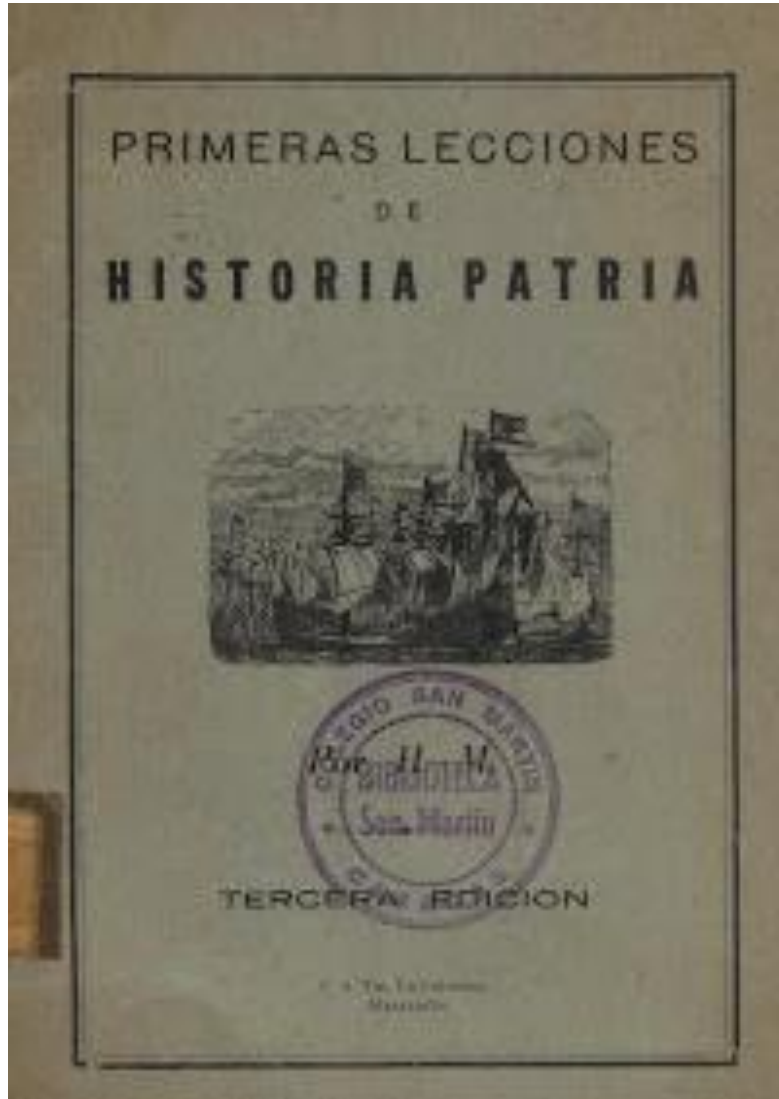
C. Acosta

ideological misappropriation of a free thinker?



*inauguration of a new statue of Cecilio Acosta
«en concordancia con las acciones promovidas por el presidente Nicolás Maduro»
(2023)*

Cecilio Acosta's legacy between honorability and propaganda



*«In this crucial time, as we are in the midst of unconventional warfare and facing blockades on various levels, we must educate our youth so they can build what we need for Venezuela to be independent of other countries and truly masters of our own destiny. **This is the Cecilio Acosta who aspired to be considered honorable**, and it is this honor that we must bear witness to before history today to continue the relentless march of our free and independent nation».*

communication radio-broadcasted by the División de Investigaciones Históricas y Semiológicas del Ejército Bolivariano (2019).



the Venezuelan nation
(belatedly) granted to Acosta's remains
a place on its Altar of the Fatherland
in the National Pantheon on July 5, 1937.



Nicolás Maduro ✓

@NicolasMaduro

Cecilio Acosta fue un firme defensor de la justicia y la libertad; filósofo, abogado, escritor y humanista, además de sus virtudes intelectuales, es recordado y respetado por nuestro Pueblo, por su honestidad, integridad moral y vocación de servicio.

[Traduci post](#)



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48



3.315



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Ministerio del Poder Popular de
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FINANZAS**

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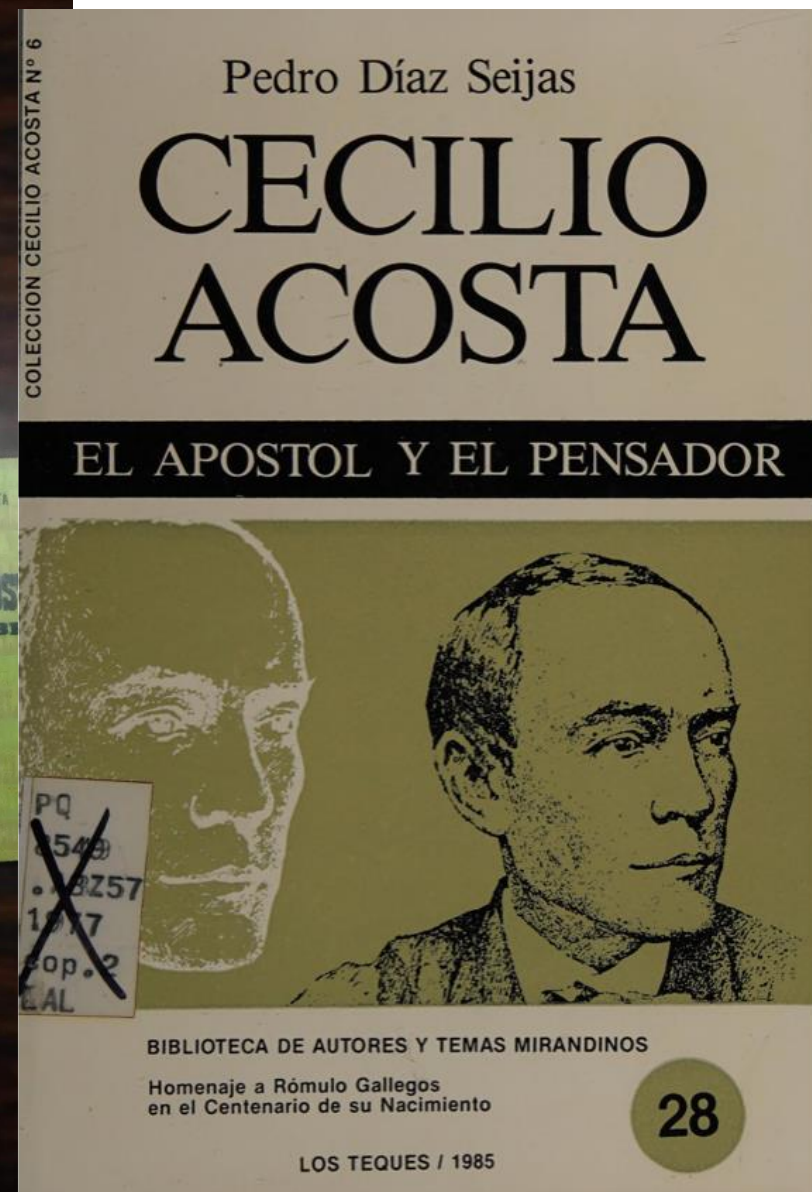
NOTICIAS MPPEF

Pensamiento humanista y liberador de Cecilio Acosta prevalece en la Patria a 190 años de su siembra

8 julio, 2021



Cecilio Acosta
1818-1937



today Cecilio Acosta's documental archive is preserved at his home-museum in in San Diego de los Altos (Miranda Region), Venezuela

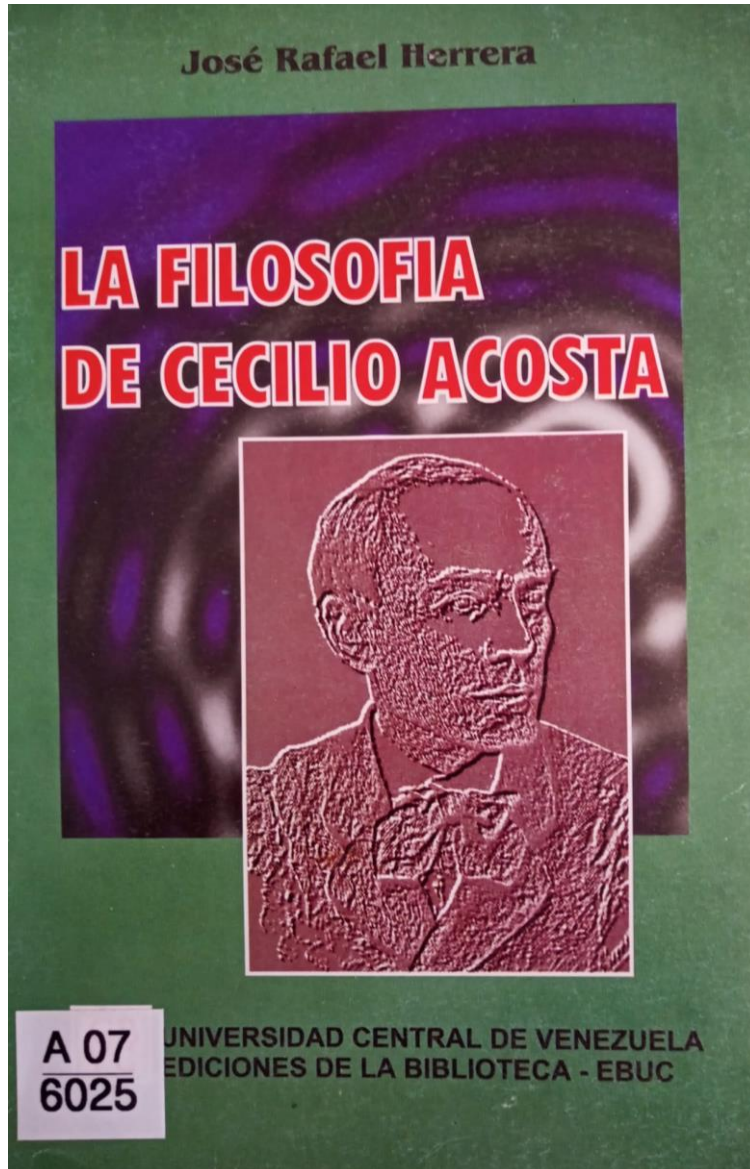
and has been partially digitized and made available by the Biblioteca Digital "César Rengifo"(with online free access)

but it is still neglected and understudied.



Acosta's philosophy of history

Reflexiones políticas y filosóficas sobre la historia de la sociedad desde su principio hasta nosotros (1846)



La filosofía de la historia

La filosofía de la historia es aquel alto juicio que da a cada cosa su tiempo, y a cada tiempo sus costumbres y leyes dominantes.

(De: "Influencia del Elemento Histórico-político en la literatura dramática y en la novela. La Comedia". Obras, vol. II, p. 78).

The U.S. named their military intervention in Venezuela " the *Absolute Resolve* operation "



...but was the "Absolute Resolve" operation in Venezuela really *absolute*?

Acosta's philosophy of law

- *Reseña histórica y prospecto de Código del Derecho Penal (1865)*
- *Estudio de Derecho International (1871)*
- *Co-redaction of the Penal Code of Venezuela (1870-1873)*



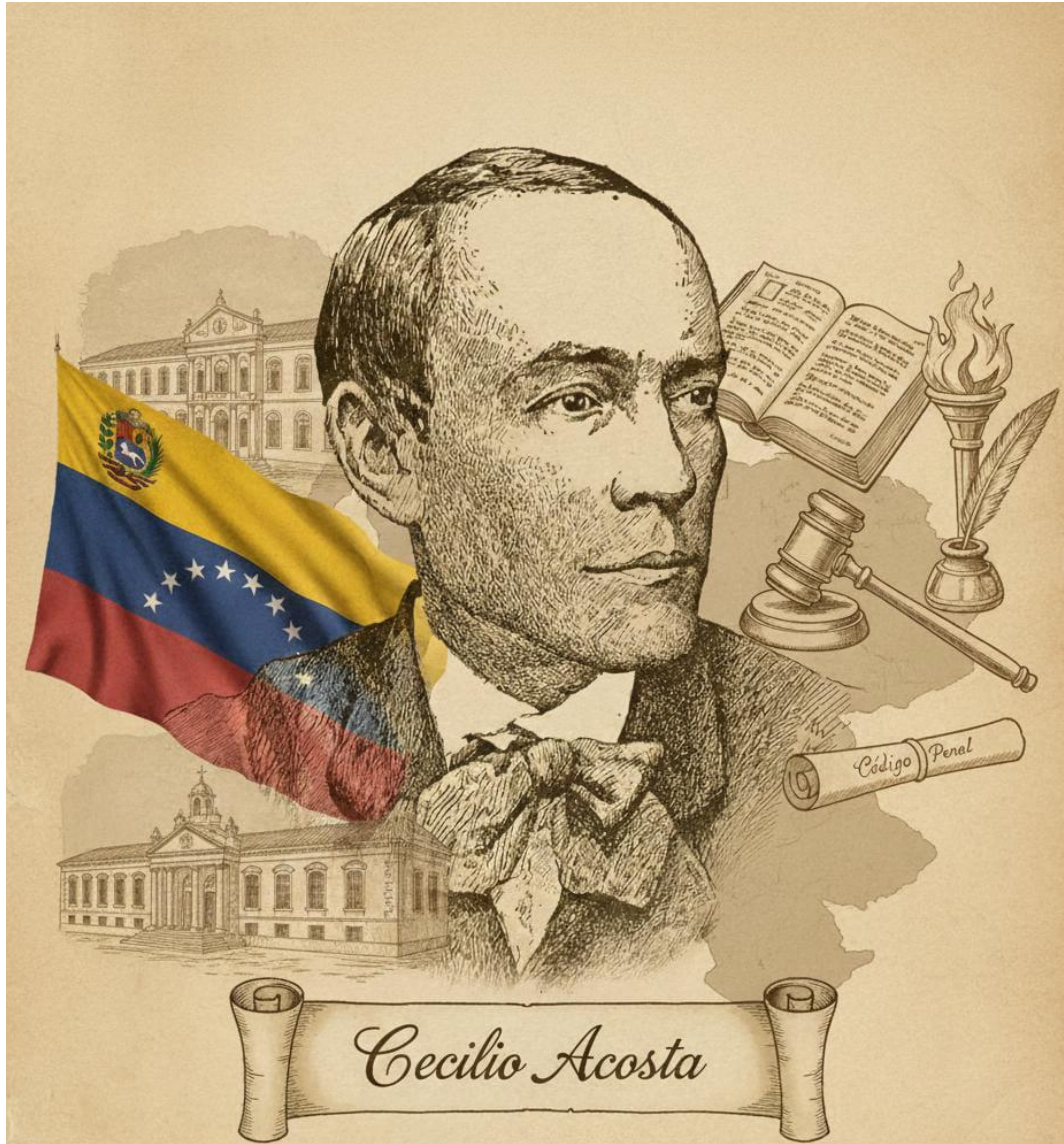
«La redacción del Código penal venezolano fué encomendada por el Sr. General González Blanco, Presidente de la República, á una Comisión de dos Abogados, compuesta de los Doctores Cecilio Acosta y Juan Pablo Rojas Paúl, quienes llevaron á cabo su cometido tomando por modelo el Código penal español de 1850.»

Acosta's philosophy of law

- *Reseña histórica y prospecto de Código del Derecho Penal* (1865)
- *Estudio de Derecho International* (1871)
- *Co-redaction of the Penal Code of Venezuela* (1870-1873)

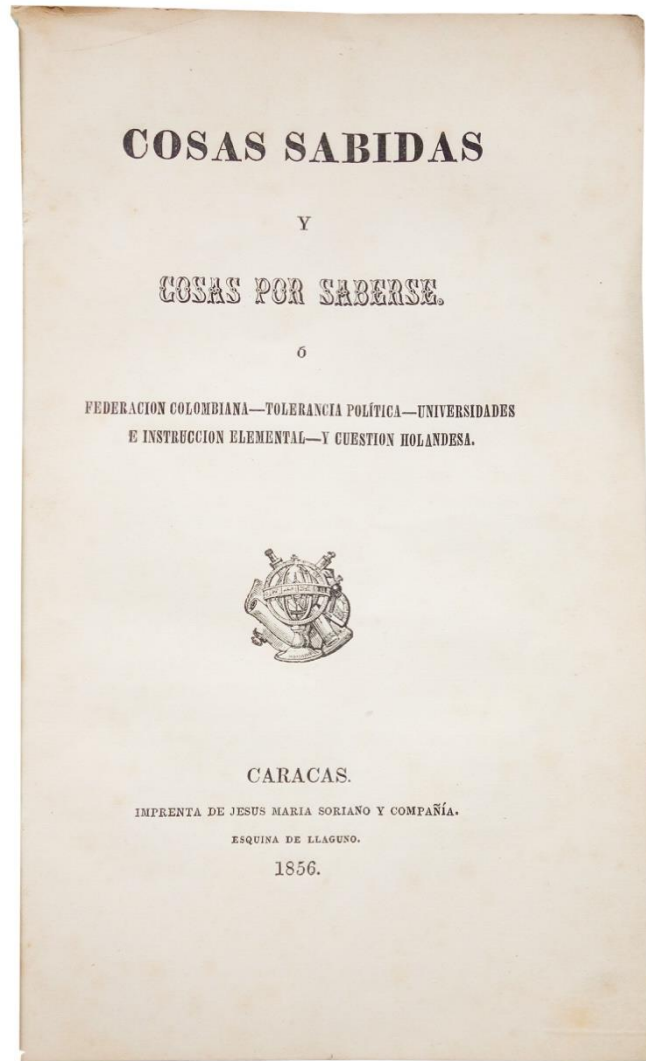
EXPATRIACIÓN

Cada país tiene derecho de fijar en materia de expatriación las leyes que quiera, y no admite duda que si por la naturalización no se pierde la ciudadanía de la anterior patria, los deberes del naturalizado reviven con la vuelta á ella, sin que pueda reclamar la exención de ellos la patria de adopción.



«I am well aware that nations' physiological impulses are neither morality nor justice, but both of them – **morality and justice** – are so closely connected to the history of progress that if the former must be followed as a rule, the latter cannot be avoided as a matter of study, because without its development there is no life, and its struggle for affirmation provides a reason for law to be triumphant.»

Acosta's philosophy of education



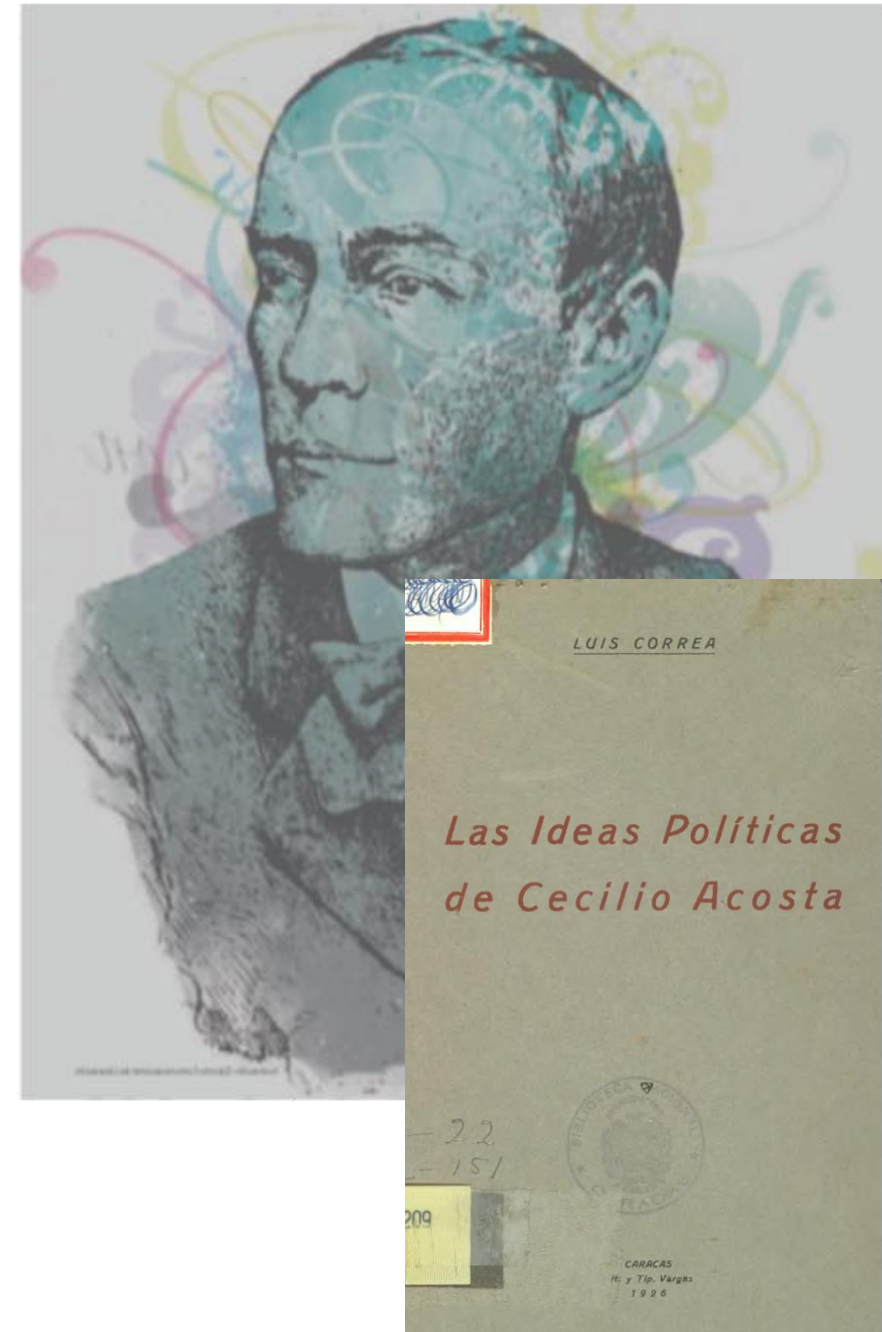
***«We do want neither tyranny,
which seeks darkness,
to have worshippers,
nor that ignorance, which serves it,
to have proselytes».***

***«Teach what does make sense,
teach what is of some service,
teach to everyone»***

revolutions are legit but inconvenient

"It is true that revolutions bring and instill new ideas, but it is also true that they tear down an old order and impose **the burden of rebuilding**. They appear as much admirable as providential, and it is legit to make a revolution, but in all cases, **revolutions are a convulsion that disrupts**, even when they are a remedy that regenerates."

(A. Acosta, quoted in: G. Carrera Damas, *El culto a Bolívar: esbozo para un estudio de la historia de las ideas en Venezuela*, Universidad Centreal de Venezuela, Editorial Alfa, 1970, p. 158, my transl.).



Venezuela's Education Under Siege: A Conversation with Luis Bonilla-Molina

A professor and researcher who advised Chavez on education issues talks to VA about Venezuela's pedagogical model.

Cira Pascual Marquina | July 17, 2020



“

The US' criminal blockade affects not only the economy but also daily life for the population, including, of course, education.



***La casita blanca* (1872)**
the most praised poem by Cecilio Acosta



***La casita blanca* (1872)**
the most praised poem by Cecilio Acosta



*[...] No la mía separes de tu historia;
no mis deseos mas te sean ignotos;
no olvides nunca mis fervientes votos
¡ni me apartes jamás de tu memoria!*

*[...] Let not mine be parted from your story dear;
Let my wishes no longer be unknown to you;
Forget not ever my vows so ardently true
Nor ever from your memory let me disappear!*

La casita blanca



“La sangre no deja más que sangre... La luz que aprovecha más a una nación no es la que se concentra, sino la que se difunde.”



Cecilio Acosta.