Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

Hear Armando Choy speak at UBC Monday, March 12. Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong – three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry – threw themselves into the 1956–58 Cuban revolution that brought down the Batista dictatorship. They all became generals in Cuba’s army, helped lead 375,000 Cuban volunteers in the fight to defeat South African apartheid’s invasion of Angola, and play leadership roles in Cuba today. Our History is Still Being Written, published by Pathfinder Press, tells their story.

The three describe how Cuba’s Spanish colonial rulers brought over 150,000 Chinese indentured labourers to work as virtual slaves in the sugar industry. They tell the story of the thousands of Chinese-Cubans who participated in the war of independence against Spain and in the 1956-58 revolution. They explain that it was only because of Cuba’s socialist revolution that “discrimination—against blacks, against Chinese, against women, against the poor—was ended.” Along with millions of other Cubans the three have changed the course of history.

Hear Armando Choy:
Chinese-Cuban leader and author

Other speakers:
Alejandra Bronfman: Associate Professor, Latin American Studies, UBC
Allan Cho: Editor-in-chief, Perspectives
Mary-Alice Waters: Editor, Our History; President, Pathfinder Press
Henry Yu: Associate Professor: History, UBC; Asian American Studies, UCLA
Eleanor Yuen: Head, Asian Library UBC

For more information:
Tel: 604-324-2671
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Chinese-Cubans 1960 rally in support of nationalizing U.S. industries.