

<https://www.internationalviewpoint.org/spip.php?article7867>



Obituary

Mike Davis (1946-2022) “A stalwart of revolutionary Marxist politics”

- Features - In Memoriam - Obituaries and appreciations -

Publication date: Sunday 30 October 2022

Copyright © International Viewpoint - online socialist magazine - All rights
reserved

MIKE DAVIS (1946-2022) was a razor-sharp and combative writer, bogglingly knowledgeable, and with granite-hard socialist convictions. He died following a struggle with esophageal cancer at the age 76 in San Diego on October 25.

In his many books, starting with *Prisoners of the American Dream* (1986) and *City of Quartz* (1990), he could take full command of an intricate narrative with copious threads. A towering figure on the U.S. Left, he audaciously went into new areas with *Ecology of Fear* (1991) and *Late Victorian Holocausts* (2001) to display a magisterial conceptual grasp. The result was a deepening of his understanding of Marxism, recently on display in *Old Gods, New Enigmas* (2020).

Mike was distinctive in having had an activist background in both the Communist Party (USA [1]) and the International Marxist Group (Britain [2]). Remaining a stalwart of revolutionary Marxist politics who blazed with rage against oppression until the end, he seemed to be a different breed entirely from most radical academics.

Against the Current was honored to have Mike as a member of its advisory board and to publish at least 15 pieces by him. We express our condolences to his family and friends; in a forthcoming issue of the journal we will pay further tribute and discuss his contributions to Marxist culture.

Source [Against the Current](#).

PS:

If you like this article or have found it useful, please consider donating towards the work of *International Viewpoint*. Simply follow this link: [Donate](#) then enter an amount of your choice. One-off donations are very welcome. But regular donations by standing order are also vital to our continuing functioning. See the last paragraph of [this article](#) for our bank account details and take out a standing order. Thanks.

[1] See for example [“Mike Davis Showed Us What “Old-School Socialism” Looked Like”](#) or Dan La Botz [“Mike Davis \(1946-2022\): Miscellaneous Encounters with “A Real Marxist”](#) among others.)

[2] On his time in Britain see Chris Bambery [“Mike Davis \(1946 – 2022\): A class fighter - obituary”](#) and Alex Callinicos [“Mike Davis 1946-2022—we’ve lost a superb Marxist when we needed him most”](#).