

Mike Davis, 1946-2022

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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.



The young Mike Davis. Verso

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 and the International Marxist group [1]. 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.

The Editors, *Against the Current*

P.S.

• <https://againstthecurrent.org/mike-davis-1946-2022/>

Footnotes

[1] [IMG Britain](#)