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Ibero-American fascism: won't they pass?

The problem is not only the growing strength of philofascism, but also the neglect on the part of societies to say "They will not pass", to assume this slogan.



In the trenches of the First World War, on the Franco-German front of the Battle of Verdun, a French soldier shouted: "They will not pass" as a slogan against the enemy. Those same words were the slogan spoken by [Dolores Ibárruri](#), the Passionary, to call for the defense of the Spanish Republic against the attack of fascism. Today it is the most well-known anti-fascist phrase. And it is still in force for one reason: because fascism has not died and now seeks to consolidate itself in the Ibero-American world.

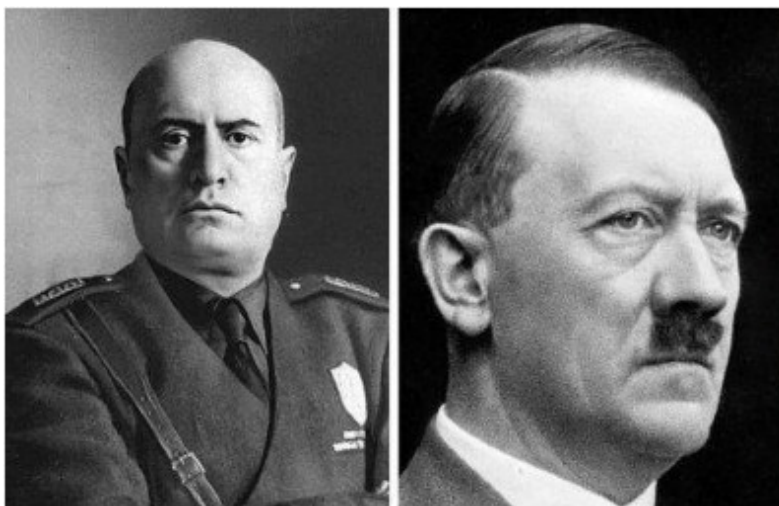


[Speech by Dolores Ibárruri "They will not pass"](#)

Fascists from all countries...

We understand fascism as the fruit of the conjugation of several elements: irrationality, [fanaticism](#), thirst for power, rejection of difference, nationalism, the moral and racial superiority of fascists, imperative language and caudillismo.

Today, there are no blackshirts or brownshirts in Europe, because they were defeated in the Second World War, painfully by means of weapons, but there are political, social and ideological expressions where the fascists continue with the legacy left by Hitler, Franco and Mussolini.



Franco, Hitler and Mussolini: the isosceles triangle

It is fascism today expressed through neo-Nazi groups frequently involved in attacks on immigrants, which has given votes in France and Holland, for example. It is also

expressed in Islamophobic fanatics who do not hesitate to attack mosques or massacre, as they have done in Norway in 2011 and in [New Zealand in 2020](#).

The political movements of the extreme right are the political expression of contemporary fascism that, obviously, does not flourish without a social base, whether or not it is aware of what such a proposal contains and implies. The policies of Marine Le Pen (France), Matteo Salvini (Italy), Geert Wilders (Netherlands) and Viktor Orbán (Hungary), are some of the examples of the fascist resurgence in Europe.



Marine Le Pen, Matteo Salvini, Viktor Orbán and Mateusz Morawiecki

In the Philippines, the government of Rodrigo Duterte and its ways of handling the public, General Al-Sisi in Egypt, as well as several decisions by Donald Trump, show that fascism is not only a European proposal, nor that its forms mechanically repeat the expressions of the 30s and 40s. Today fascisms have many faces.



Donald Trump, Rodrigo Duterte and AbdelFatah al Sisi

Creole fascists

Latin America is no exception (a region that philofascists now rename "iberosphere"). Governments like that of Jair Bolsonaro, in Brazil, reproduce the same elements. Bolsonaro was democratically elected, like Adolf Hitler, which shows that fascism needs for its success a popular support achieved either by fear or by seduction, or by the combination of the two.

Not every authoritarian regime is fascist, but the two share elements. Neither is all dogmatism, but both fear freedom of expression, call for burning books and banning opinions of those they consider not morally valid to speak. That is fascism.



In the twentieth century, there were fascist elements in Latin American dictatorships and in apparently democratic governments; in the violation of human rights and in the systematic war crimes against the civilian population in the armed conflicts of the region.

Its doctrine is based on anti-communism, the defense of the family and private property, the vindication of traditional values, as was the regime of Augusto Pinochet in Chile; in combination of legal and illegal forms (such as social cleansing, the use of paramilitaries or genocidal practices) plus the conviction of a moral and racial superiority of a sector of

society, feed fascism in Latin America. Interestingly, far-right narratives lead to the delirium of saying that the current U.S. government is "socialist."

It is not necessary that the "moral superiors" be, it is enough that they believe it. The same in the face of racial superiority. There was essentially no difference between Hutus and Tutsis in [Rwanda](#), nor between Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka, but conviction is enough to take action. That racial superiority is, for example, part of the Zionist narrative against the Palestinians.

The fascists recognize each other and come together, so they advance. Now, thanks to the polarization of many scenarios, they have grown. That is why they seek to articulate; this is how the Vox party in Spain was born, for example, founded only in 2013. At the European level, Identity and Democracy was created, a group within the European Parliament created in 2019.

Next station: Bogotá

Now, the extreme right seeks to meet in Colombia, on February 18 and 19, 2022, to build ties between Vox of Spain and its co-supporters in Latin America, under the excuse of a type of anti-communist crusade, aiming to further polarize the region and unify under a "common enemy" all alternative and progressive forces.



[Foro de Madrid and the Latin American ultra-right call from Bogotá for an anti-communist crusade](#). The Newspaper of Spain

According to the [Madrid Charter](#), its guiding document, "... a part of the region is hijacked by totalitarian regimes of communist inspiration, supported by drug trafficking and third

countries. All of them, under the umbrella of the Cuban regime and initiatives such as the São Paulo Forum and the Puebla Group, which infiltrate the centers of power to impose their ideological agenda.

The threat is not limited exclusively to countries suffering from the totalitarian yoke. The ideological and criminal project that is subjugating the freedoms and rights of nations aims to enter other countries and continents in order to destabilize liberal democracies and the rule of law."

Eduardo Bolsonaro (son of Brazil's president), Keiko Fujimori (of Peru) and José Antonio Kast (of Chile) would be part of Vox's allies in the region. The oppositions of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua would also be invited.

¿Por qué verse en Colombia? Los filofascistas y los fascistas están asustados con el triunfo electoral de Xiomara Castro (en Honduras), de Gabriel Boric (en Chile), así como los ascensos de Lula da Silva en Brasil y de Gustavo Petro en Colombia. Esos miedos ya se veían con el regreso de fuerzas pro-Evo al poder en Bolivia y el triunfo de Alberto Fernández en Argentina.

Verse en Bogotá es volcar, en las elecciones colombianas de 2022, toda la lucha contra sus fantasmas. Tal como lo reconocen en su web, el “Foro Madrid celebrará en Bogotá su [‘I Encuentro Regional’](#) para alertar del peligro de una victoria presidencial de Petro”.



Parte de esa estrategia incluiría el interés del Gobierno colombiano por “internacionalizar” el conflicto social y armado inventándose un eje Rusia-Hizbollah-Venezuela para explicar toda la conflictividad colombiana, desde el paro nacional hasta los recientes hechos de Arauca.

Un refrán dice que “Los judíos pesimistas terminaron en Nueva York; y los optimistas en los campos nazis”. Lo que se ve no es una simple reunión de posturas de derecha, sino (ojalá yo esté equivocado) una cruzada, un tipo de falange internacional que apuntaría a

fortalecer la implementación de políticas neoliberales, la relativización de los derechos humanos, la quiebra de la democracia, el culto al autoritarismo y el auge de narrativas de miedo para vender seguridad a partir de las fuerzas armadas.

El problema no es solo la fortaleza creciente del filofascismo, sino también el descuido de parte de las sociedades a decir “No pasarán”, de asumir esta consigna. Afortunadamente, algunas voces ya han cuestionado la llegada de Vox a América Latina, pero otros guardan silencio y unos más están enredados en rapiñas de poder, prácticas sectarias, purismos y radicalismos, y en peleas semánticas, haciendo todo esto desde una superioridad moral que los acerca más al fascismo que a lo que dicen querer construir. Fin del comunicado.



[Víctor de Currea-Lugo](#) August 22, 2021

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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