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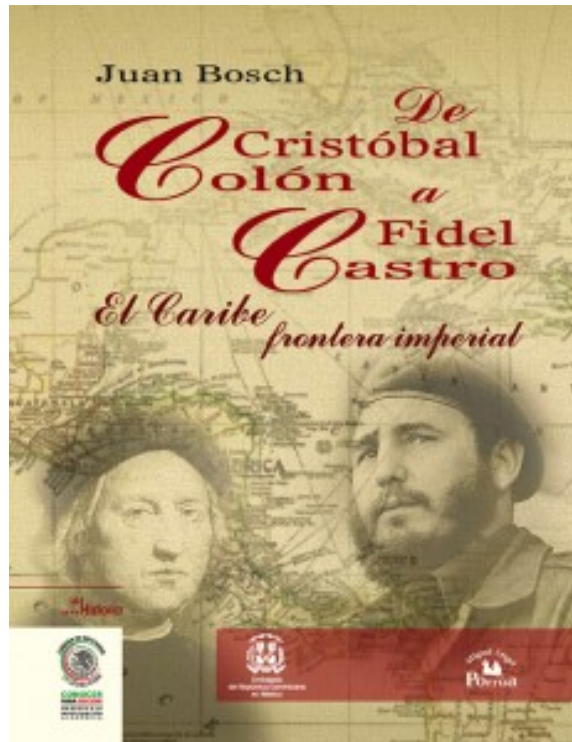
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## Latin American Wars

The Russia-Ukraine-NATO conflict has similar characteristics to what the Cold War was, but it is a deployment of new geostrategies between great powers in which Latin America has no interference.

The long process of the wars of independence of the different regions that will make up what we now call Latin America, was born of local revolutions and patriotic juntas until it led to decisive "internationalist" battles such as Boyacá, Pichincha, Junín and Ayacucho, which achieved the definitive emancipation.



During the nineteenth century, the Caribbean continued, as Juan Bosch argued, as an area of "[imperial border](#)" between colonial powers that maintained their presence. On the other hand, in continental Latin America, frequent civil wars, of local or regional significance, originated in power disputes between conservatives, liberals, centralists, federalists, caudillos and military. The new wars, which can be understood as "international", responded to the processes of consolidation of national States. There were several European incursions, despite the [monroism](#) (1823) proclaimed from the United States, whose power began to take off over Central America. With the "[Texas War](#)" (1835-1836) and then [the major war of 1846-1848, Mexico lost half of its territory](#), which passed to the United States.



After the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico lost half of its territory (Photos: Wiki Commons)

[Chile defeated the Peruvian-Bolivian Confederation in the war of 1836-1839](#) and again in the "[War of the Pacific](#)" (1879-1884), which left Bolivia landlocked. [The Triple Alliance \(Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay\) defeated Paraguay \(1864-1870\)](#). With the interventionist war (1862-1867), France imposed [Maximilian's empire in Mexico \(1864-1867\)](#). In addition, he persisted, by arms, as did Great Britain, in guaranteeing the "freedom" of the Río de la Plata. The incursion of these European powers on Venezuela for the collection of the foreign debt was also attempted.



Pero es durante el siglo XX cuando América Latina realmente se introduce en la trama de las geoestrategias mundiales, porque se inicia la expansión de los EEUU y la pugna por la hegemonía internacional con las tradicionales potencias europeas, en una era de consolidación del imperialismo capitalista. Si bien en el siglo XIX, los EEUU realizaron intervenciones en Centroamérica para respaldar empresas y negocios, se inmiscuyeron en la independencia de Cuba, a la que impusieron la [Enmienda Platt](#) e incorporaron como Estado Libre Asociado a Puerto Rico, en el siglo XX, sobre la base de la utilización continental del “americanismo” derivado de la Doctrina Monroe, aseguraron su presencia y luego de la I Guerra Mundial (1914-1918), tuvieron el camino libre para su hegemonía, ante una Europa devastada y debilitada, que se reforzó, a un nivel superior, después de la II Guerra Mundial (1939-1945).



El 25 de febrero de 1901 el Comité de Asuntos Cubanos del senado norteamericano aprobó una Ley inaceptable para los cubanos que habían luchado durante 30 años por independizar a Cuba de España.

Cuando estalló la I Guerra, la mayoría de países latinoamericanos conservaba estructuras precapitalistas y dominios oligárquicos, asentados sobre economías primario exportadoras. El “capitalismo” despegaba en Argentina, Brasil y México. Pero la dependencia general era con Europa, de manera que la guerra cerró este mercado, afectando precios y volúmenes de productos tradicionales (café, estaño, salitre, cobre, azúcar o cacao), que eran componentes centrales en diversos países, pues representaron, al menos, las dos terceras partes de sus exportaciones. [La crisis norteamericana de 1929](#) se unió a las herencias críticas, aunque favoreció cierto giro nacionalista en la región (los “populismos” clásicos en Argentina, Brasil y México) para intentar la industrialización por sustitución de importaciones. Ecuador, como tantos otros, vivió en un letargo económico durante tres décadas, de modo que su “cuadro del subdesarrollo” a inicios de 1960 daba cuenta de su atraso, pobreza y miseria. La II Guerra desajustó el mercado norteamericano, al que toda la región había girado. Y si bien la I Guerra lució bastante lejana, la II Guerra forzó la alineación de América Latina con los Aliados. En todos los países eso significó

“perseguir” los intereses alemanes, italianos y japoneses, con “listas negras”, confiscación de bienes o expulsión de empresas y capitales.



Los países aliados de Estados Unidos en América Latina: México, Colombia, Perú y Chile son algunos de los países que concuerdan en intereses con EE.UU.

The "cold war" since the 1950s has been one of the most impactful (and irrational) global phenomena in contemporary times. In Latin America, historically unprecedented forms of intervention appeared, such as the destabilization or overthrow of governments considered "communist", under the direct continental geostrategies of the UNITED States and the actions of the CIA; the preparation and ideologization of the armed forces in anti-communism, whose terrible consequences the Latin American Southern Cone will

experience from the 1960s and especially 1970s; the impossibility of taking independent policies to expand economic relations with the socialist bloc; or the subjection to the monroist diplomacy of the OAS that blocked Cuba. The war with the greatest international impact was that of the Malvinas (1982), in which Argentina had to face Great Britain, which had the direct support of the United States, several European countries and also of the military dictatorships of the moment in Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

The collapse of socialism incorporated the region into transnational globalization under the unipolar hegemony of the US, which only in the last three decades has broken with the relative multilateralism that has represented, mainly, the rise of Russia and China. Latin America has had the opportunity to diversify its economic and international relations, which have proved beneficial in breaking the traditional external dependence on the US.

Today's Russia-Ukraine-NATO conflict has gone on to have characteristics similar to what was the Cold War; but it is a deployment of new geostrategies between great powers, in which Latin America has no interference ([Roses for Russia](#)). At stake is the balance of world powers and a reconfiguration of the international economy, which we cannot influence either. We have serious studies that allow us to understand the reasons for the conflict; but the truth is that the people of Ukraine suffer the weight of a war different from all the previous ones, because its dimensions exceed the military front and on its soil the risk of a nuclear war could be defined. It is a situation of enormous complexity due to the existence of diverse identities of origin and languages in the east, center and west of the country, amid the nationalism of the Ukrainian population, which explains their willingness to defend the homeland, their goods and their lives, learning to resist and fight along the way. It is a war - like all of them - brutal, painful, desperate. And Latin America should do everything possible to achieve peace and speak out for life.

The economies of Latin American countries that created relations with Russia are seriously affected. The closure of that market hit Ecuador's main non-oil exports (bananas, shrimp, flowers, fish, coffee), because Russia is the fourth non-oil destination, with 1,200 million dollars per year; and exporters are right to warn the government about this collapse and ask for compensation ([Felipe Ribadeneira](#): Ecuador loses USD 2.5 million per week by not selling its products to Ukraine). Only there the internal reality intersects, where the State, led by voracious plutocratic and neoliberal business policies, privileges the interests

of the private sector, while maintaining the deterioration and neglect in public services (education, health, medicine, social security), which began in 2017. Under these conditions, which other countries also experience, do Latin Americans also have to surround Russia and pursue everything that represents "Putin"? And do we join, moreover, in closing ranks against [Fyodor Dostoevsky](#), against all expression of culture, as has happened with the Russian soprano [Anna Netrebko](#) separated from the New York Opera, or against sports, as [FIFA and UEFA](#) have done?

At least to orient oneself in the midst of a divided Latin America without geostrategies of its own, it is worth examining the position of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, who, at the same time that he has condemned all interference and intervention (in the UN he voted in favor of the resolution that deplores the "aggression" to Ukraine), has proclaimed: "*We are not going to close the country ... [We are not going to close ourselves, to any country...](#) And not to contradict what our Constitution establishes, of non-intervention and self-determination of peoples and peaceful resolution of disputes.*" Principles that also appear in other Constitutions, such as the Ecuadorian one.

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