

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Juan J. Paz And Miño Cepeda
17.03.2022

Historical breakdown of "Americanism"

Undoubtedly, the region will have better alternatives in a multipolar world, which the twenty-first century is defining.

During the nineteenth century, Russia was unknown, strange and absolutely distant to Latin Americans, except for certain intellectual elites who were informed about it and appreciated different manifestations of their culture. Thanks to the Russian Revolution of 1917, the development of the USSR aroused a certain worldwide fascination. The communist parties that began to proliferate in Latin America subordinated themselves to the political guidelines and dogmas of official Marxism derived from the [Comintern \(Third International\) founded by Lenin in 1919](#) and maintained a long ideological confrontation with socialist parties and critical Marxists.



In any case, the left, identified in all these sectors, are the ones that promoted popular organization, social struggles and the conquest of labor rights that, otherwise, would not have advanced in the region, where most countries were pre-capitalist, with primary-export economies, oligarchic governments, with dominant elites and miserable and exploited populations. However, economic relations with the USSR remained far away and after World War II (1939-1945), with the development of the "cold war", the USSR was isolated from America for decades, to which was added the [Chinese Revolution \(1949\)](#) equally outlawed by the Western world.



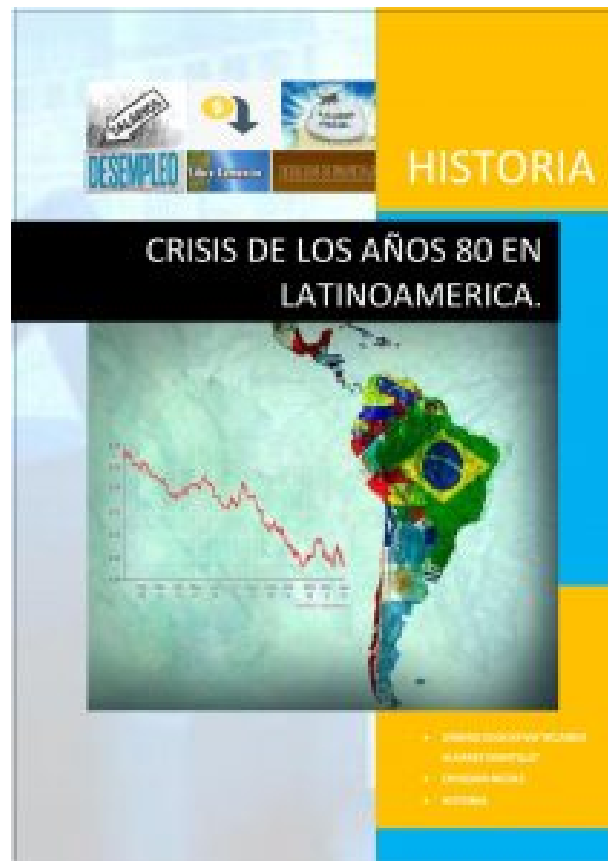
The Chinese Communist Revolution established the People's Republic of China in 1949. In this context, [NATO \(1949\) was created to encircle the USSR](#), which responded with the creation [of the "Warsaw Pact"](#), while the US asserted its hegemony in the American continent and promoted the creation of the OAS (1948), under the principles of the Monroe Doctrine. But it was the [Cuban Revolution \(1959\)](#) that provoked historically unprecedented reactions. Blocked by the US and since 1962 by the OAS, Cuba's survival was assured by the USSR for three decades, while in the rest of the countries interventionism, the actions of the CIA and the propaganda of anti-communism ensured the alignment of Latin American governments or dictators with the US. Paradoxically, the Cuban Revolution not only inspired guerrilla movements, but also socialist ideals, which fostered the growth of the Latin American left, whose political and social presence became evident in the 1970s, with [the triumph of the socialist Salvador Allende in Chile \(1970-1973\)](#) and the [Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua \(1979\)](#), while Marxism became the rector of the Latin American social sciences, whose prestige and diffusion was affirmed. This rise of the left tried to be liquidated by the terrorist military dictatorships of the Southern [Cone, Operation Condor](#) and the right-wing international of the region, always

hand in hand with the fight against "communism", in whose framework prejudices and misrepresentations were cultivated about the USSR and also about China and the other socialist countries.



Operation Condor

The Latin American external debt crisis in 1982 altered the economic course of Latin America: neoliberalism penetrated through the "letters of intent" with the IMF and developmentalism was abandoned. But the decisive and unexpected impact on world history came with the collapse of the socialist bloc and the dissolution of the USSR (1991), which gave birth to the new Russia, in an international environment that consolidated capitalist globalization under unipolar hegemony of the US. Weakened Russia could not prevent NATO's eastward advance; however, it progressively rebuilt its power and since 2000 was ready to expand its international ties. Then Russia entered Latin America.



It is during the new millennium that Latin American entrepreneurs and also governments of different countries, sought the Russian market. It is not true that the new relations only interested "leftist" or "populist" rulers of "anti-American" orientation. Almost all Latin American countries progressively created ties with Russia, so that unipolar globalization could not avoid those rapprochements, which include China and other countries previously outlawed or remote. And they are not only economic relations, although primary Latin American exports and imports of agrochemicals, certain technologies, oil, aluminum, iron, coal and wheat predominate, from Russia. The military rapprochements have been, above all, with Venezuela, although much less with Nicaragua and Cuba. The main sale is weapons. But, according to Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, the possibility of Russia deploying significant military capabilities in those countries is "doubtful". Those who occupy the first places in the exchange with Russia are Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Chile and, particularly, Ecuador. According to the president of Ecuadorian exporters (FEDEXPORT) Russia is the fourth non-oil destination in the country, with 1,200 million sales in bananas (700m), shrimp (150m), flowers (80m) and others. The closure of the Russian market due to the war in Ukraine has an immediate

impact, for which these businessmen went to the government to request "compensation". President Guillermo Lasso's response was to stop "crying" the rich, because they will not have a penny of money "from everyone" (State), and to assume the risks of their businesses ([Felipe Ribadeneira](#): Ecuador loses USD 2.5 million per week by not selling its products to Ukraine). This temporary tongo is resolved in another way: the business and plutocratic-neoliberal model revived since 2017 will continue, with the imminent privatization of public goods and services, in the face of an unprotected population, which has seen the worsening of job insecurity, unemployment, underemployment and poverty - as shown by statistics and multiple studies - without also having political forces that seriously assume the representation of their rights and interests.

The expansion of Russia and China, as well as the emergence of the BRICS and the development of international relations in the new millennium, are processes that have determined the overcoming of *unilateralism* and the formation of a *multipolar world*, which for Latin America has meant the possibility of diversifying its economic relations, alleviating or overcoming the traditional dependence on the US and expanding the radius of its sovereign decisions, despite the lack of a common geostrategy among the countries of the region. Even so, it is not precisely Russia that has best projected itself on the continent, but China, which has become the second largest trading partner for Latin America after the US.



Clyde O. DeLand: The Birth of the Monroe Doctrine. 1912. Personalities portrayed: John Quincy Adams, William H. Crawford, William Wirt, James Monroe, John C. Calhoun, Daniel D. Tompkins and John McLean.

With all this, it has not been noticed that *monroist Americanism* has also received a historical blow. That of "[America for the Americans](#)" (to paraphrase, no one can think of a "Europe for Europeans" or "Asia for Asians") no longer makes the original sense, unless Latin American countries stop expanding relations with Europe, cut with Russia over the issue of the war in Ukraine and renounce to strengthen economic relations with China and so many other countries "outside" the continent. If that can be done by powers such as the US or Great Britain (they lead the sanctions on Russia for the war in Ukraine), for Latin Americans it would be a suicidal route, since it would curb the possibilities of their development and condemn the region to return to being the "backyard" or "front" of the US, which does not matter. But that old "Americanism" still haunts the stage. Evan Ellis, a professor and researcher of Latin American studies at the Institute for Strategic Studies at the U.S. Army War College, acknowledges that the U.S. could admit certain commercial activities with Russia, but its presence and possible military deployment in Latin America is a "threat," as much as the "shift to the left and authoritarian populism" in the region. Therefore, he concludes, the Russian presence must be "actively" rejected including sanctions, which should even fall on China, if it continues its global alliance with Russia ([Russia's recent return to Latin America](#)). Despite this, Latin America will have to take its own path. Alberto Fernández, "leftist" president of Argentina visited Russia a month before the war broke out in Ukraine and Jair Bolsonaro, "right-wing" president of Brazil did so on the eve of the conflict, despite pressure and criticism from the US; while the president of Mexico, [Andrés Manuel López Obrador](#) subscribes to a document of radical criticism of the European Parliament. Undoubtedly, the region will have better alternatives in a multipolar world, which the twenty-first century is defining.

Juan J. Paz and Miño Cepeda for La Pluma

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

Source: [History and Present – blog](#), March 14, 2022

Visit the network of the [Ruta Crítica](#) collective, the new blog for the dissemination of alternative thought and communication

La Pluma. Net 16.03.2022