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Who is trapped in the Cold War?

Is it the left-wing critics who are trapped in the Cold War or the mercenaries of big capital, NATO and the multiple imperialist interventions?



Le Monde published a wide-ranging plea against "left-wing intellectuals" that we did not approve of Putin's invasion but held NATO responsible for provoking the conflict. Ignacio Paco Taibo II was accused of denouncing "the new censorship of Russian publishers by the International Book Fair" in Guadalajara, which also does not mean that he approves of Russia's censorship of Western media.

Les accents pro-Poutine de la gauche

Le réflexe d'opposition aux Etats-Unis conduit intellectuels et politiques à



Le Monde, 27 de marzo de 2022

As far as I am concerned, the French media was dispatched with a sample of light interpretations such as: "In a series of opinion articles published in the Argentine newspaper *Página 12*, the Uruguayan intellectual Jorge Majfud carries the voice of this left that remains very discreet on the subject, and explains 'why a good part of the world left supports Putin [who] is too smart for the leaders of the West', he says, pulling the string of the anti-NATO and anti-US stance with the idea that 'The only argument that the hegemonic powers understand is that of atomic bombs'.

In subtitle, he repeats and highlights: "The Russian war, 'sadly simple, is a reaction to the action exerted to a large extent by Washington', writes the Uruguayan intellectual..." Etc.

Neither voice of the left nor discreet and less shy. Tell them to those who threaten us and accuse us of *being radicals*, just for not aligning ourselves with either the warmongering radicalism of the good guys or the double standards that lead nefarious characters like Condoleezza Rice to claim that the invasion "violates international laws." Or a more nefarious George Bush, who condemned Putin for launching a war "without provocation and without justification." Or President Joe Biden, declaring that Putin is "a war criminal," a title he would never accept for any former president of his country.

For not continuing with the classic double standard of the made-up racists who, magically, opened the borders of Europe to receive Ukrainian refugees, a completely correct policy if not for the fact that those same borders were closed to those fleeing the chaos of Africa

and the Middle East, chaos produced by invasions, looting, massacres and wars of the Northwestern powers for a couple of centuries. For not continuing with Washington's magical opening of borders to receive 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, or the reports of the facilities that Ukrainians find to cross the border with Mexico, the same one that was always closed to refugees from the south; children and women, refugees from the chaos created by Washington in Central America, in the Caribbean and beyond, with its dictatorships and massacres since before the Cold War, during and after. As is the case of Haiti, blockaded and ruined since it became the first free country in the Americas in 1804 and bled to death until yesterday no more, by France, by the dictatorships of the Duvaliers, by the terror of the CIA paramilitaries, the coups d'état against Aristide or the neoliberal imposition that ruined the country, to cite just one example. When these people fled the chaos, they were persecuted as criminals. In 2021 we witnessed the hunting of Haitians on the border, on horseback, as slaves were hunted in the nineteenth century.

More direct were the journalists of the Western networks who reported the tragedy of the Ukrainians as something inadmissible, being "white Christians", "civilized people", "blond with blue eyes". Or politicians, such as Poland's pro-government deputy, Dominik Tarczyński, who proudly confirmed that they were open to Ukrainian immigration because they were "peaceful people" but would not receive a single Muslim refugee. Zero." Of violent Nazi leaders like Artiom Bonov, refugees in his country, silence.

As an example to follow, *Le Monde* praised "the young Chilean president, Gabriel Boric" who "bluntly condemned the invasion of Ukraine, the violation of its sovereignty and the illegitimate use of force." In other words, if you do not understand that reality is a football game and that you have to be one hundred percent on one side without criticizing the other, it is because you are on one side without criticizing the other.

Not coincidentally, imperial powers for generations have not accepted being named that way. For them this is not the time to mention Western imperialism. It is never a good time to talk about imperialism, except if another military power thinks of doing the same.

Le Monde qualifies when he quotes me again about something that we have been repeating since months before the war: "That we consider NATO to be primarily responsible for the conflict in Ukraine does not mean that we support Putin, or any war..." But in his line of thinking, this is hardly an irrelevant detail. The thesis is different: the criticism against

NATO is due to the fact that "Anti-Americanism remains rooted in the subcontinent." Like the old, childish argument that (in the Sub) "they hate us because we are rich and free."

Recently, University of Chicago professor and expert on the region, John Mearsheimer, in *The Economist* and *The New Yorker* blamed the United States for the war in Ukraine. A few days ago Noam Chomsky reminded me that not only had he warned years ago of the danger of a war for not maintaining Ukraine's neutrality, but also "George Kennan, Henry Kissinger, the head of the CIA and virtually the entire senior diplomatic corps who knew anything about the region were of the same opinion. It's crazy."

Crazy, but it has an explanation: the boundless greed of the merchants of death, that which President and General [Eisenhower himself delivers](#) his [farewell speech](#) had warned of as a greater danger to democracy and U.S. policies.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned U.S. citizens about the "[military-industrial complex](#)" in his farewell address.

Now, that we agree with Kissinger and the CIA itself on the causes of the conflict, does not mean that we agree on the objectives. An example that I have pointed out in *The Wild Frontier* sums it all up: the CIA inoculated the Latin American population with the idea that fascist dictatorships in Latin America were to fight communism and that, for example, Salvador Allende was going to turn Chile into a new Cuba at the same time that his agents and analysts reported the opposite: if they had done nothing, it would most likely have been that, because of Washington's policy of ruining the Chilean economy, Allende would have lost the next election. But the goal was to make a neoliberal laboratory under the

tutelage of a dictatorship, as so many other times. The CIA promoted in the great Latin American press and even in the streets with flyers and posters a speech in which it did not believe and of which it even laughed. Even today, the non-existent "communist threat" is fanatically repeated by its butlers, from pro-oligarchic politicians to the press and its honorary journalists and mercenaries.

To get an idea that this media manipulation continues, it is enough to consider that the Western secret agencies have budgets several times higher than they had in 1950 or 1990 and do not use them only to train neo-Nazi militias in Ukraine, which they called, as in so many other countries, "self-defense groups". Self-defense groups that did not serve to prevent a Russian invasion or the very thing that President Zelensky now wants to negotiate, Russia's first claim: the neutrality of Ukraine.

So are it the left-wing critics who are caught up in the Cold War or the mercenaries of big capital, NATO and the multiple imperialist interventions?

JM, March 2022

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