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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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20.04.2022

Uruguay, paradise that everyone wants to enter... Or do you want me to tell you?

Carlos Vaz Ferreira, master of thinking, warned us against "mental colonialism." It seems that he would still have to keep warning us...



Uruguay is so important as to sign treaties of military association with the United States on an equal footing; as an article in the Uruguayan press says, " Visit by Major General Cornish demonstrates the strength of military relations between the U.S. and Uruguay. " Q l p!, I would say, Mendieta the dear friend of Inodoro.



But Uruguayan public opinion does not live on self-hype alone.

Mario Vargas Llosa, another conspicuous representative of the Great Democracy of the North, has declared with all the wisdom that he harbors belonging to networks such as the Interamerican Institute for Democracy and the Foundation for Freedom (both based in Miami, Florida, USA), that although the entire continent is threatened with a castrocommunist fever, Uruguay, and only Uruguay, it is safe from such a threat because it "represents true progress."

I am not in a position to gauge the prospects of each country of the 3 Americas, but I do allow myself two observations: first, it is striking that MVLL sees so many problems in almost all the countries of the American continent and excepts from them the United States, which I understand is experiencing an increasingly intense crisis and an increasingly problematic geopolitics, and secondly, that some apprehensions about the fate and perspectives of all the colonized and neo-colonized nations of the continent can even be shared; others are frankly unshareable, such as his commitment to Chile before Boric, that is, to the continuity of an attenuated Pinochetism. But it is my interest to concentrate on Don Mario's judgment of the country where I was born.

First of all, praise often has an effect that is not invoked and sometimes not even imagined; they are numbing, they betray our psyche; and when they are repeated again and again, they acquire traits of politics, blinding, enervating, with their most diverse clothes.



Let's cross the praise that MVLL lavishes on us, which we already briefly reviewed on the occasion of the visit of the US Southern Commander, [1] Barry Cornish, with, for example, those of the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), dedicated to the modeling of "peaceful" societies, establishing its "tables of positions" (any resemblance to promoting competition is pure coincidence).

This year, "fortunately" according to the IEP, Uruguay has climbed to the n position^{or}. 30 in a table of 163 states. It's no small thing; is the best position among countries of the so-called "Latin American" (Costa Rica, second, for example, occupies the 39th.)

The IEP does not take these results out of the galley. They take care of many factors, we suppose with solvency.

We present below the passage from Rosendo Fraga's "report" that summarizes the evaluation:

"In late February, Australia's IEP launched the Positive Peace Report (PPR), a report that analyzes, since 2009, positive peace in 163 countries.

By positive peace the PPR means the attitudes, institutions and structures necessary for the creation of peaceful societies. According to the PPR, countries with higher levels of positive peace are more resilient, generally have robust and prosperous economies, better environmental performance, higher levels of well-being and happiness, strong social cohesion and higher satisfaction with living standards. In other words, positive peace can be described as creating an optimal environment for human potential to flourish."

Let's go in parts, dismembering so much quality of life:

"robust and prosperous economies". Perhaps it refers, in our case, to the process of foreignization of the land and the economy in general, increasingly in transnational hands.

Perhaps it refers to something more domestic; the proliferation of *deliveries*, which has allowed us to install in Uruguay the equivalents of *rickshaw* drivers, which we saw with sympathy in films about India, Japan and other distances.

"Better environmental performance." This must have to do not only with the systematic neglect of water quality, caused by its putting at the service of cellulose production, which means dumping into the rivers the pollutants and effluents of the plants of the branch (of which, taking only the last one, settling on the Negro River, we will have a volume of water used well above one hundred million liters per day (you read correctly, the zeros are more than eight), which will return to the river greatly diminished in volume, and at the same time, very polluted. But the deterioration of the country's water also has to do with production obtained through agrottoxics, also in furious modernizing expansion. Therefore, the Negro River should update its name as Green. But not ecological, precisely...

But does the "good environmental performance" perhaps refer to our solid waste policy? There is not even the slightest recovery of glass, for example; a millenary invention of extraordinary cleanliness and total recoverability in the vast majority of countries with some environmental performance. Uruguay has abandoned its production or reduced it to its minimum expression: satisfying the large transnational producers of plastic packaging (those yes, seriously polluting). Glass containers are thrown away, perversely or humorously called "landfills". And, in truth, with plastic bags "for everything", Uruguay "resisted" not very heroically, by the way, its abandonment.

"higher levels of well-being and happiness." We believe that the presenter Fraga or the report refers to the degree of obesity of the population that covers all ages but not all social strata, since obesity is a disease of poverty that has had enormous success in avoiding hunger, which was a torn cry against distributive injustice, while obesity – by those magics of modern medicine – atrophies the voice (of protest).

But it is also possible that the invoked advances in levels of well-being and happiness obey other causes; for example, suicide, in which, despite the elusive Uruguayan statistics in this regard, we are among the ones we have the most by number of inhabitants in the entire continent (along with Cuba).

However, it is worth looking at other causes, also probable, such as the number of road accidents and deaths so called "accidental": here again the statistics fail, as if it were a country more than a fourth than a third world, but perhaps the statistics are used and

deployed only to show us that we have more and more motor vehicles per capita. Something that we will consider without risk of doubt, as a real advance.

"attitudes, institutions and structures necessary for the creation of peaceful societies".

Whether it's the Institute for Democracy or the Institute of Economics and Peace, why not? even U.S. military commanders can consider the countryside/city relationship we have as a population, and our relationship with the land, key to the successes noted. The country has a rural population that does not reach 5%, a proportion that is even lower than that of the most modern states, such as France or the United Kingdom, which are around 10%. As we know that countries "lagging behind" according to the dominant economic jargon have an agrarian population of 30%, 50% and even 70% (afghanistan case), our position as the world leader in the domain of asphalt over mud is clear.

Will we really be more modern than France or England? If we associate these guarismos and percentages with those of foreignization of the land, we could arrive not at ports of modernity but of coloniality, caramba...

Will this string of items that we have traveled be factors that reflect reality or embellish it?

With the question comes why. Why are we painted in such a positive way, when it is so manifest that this is "a little pinturita" and not reality?

A "pinturita" erases from sight the multitude of the "homeless", the school dropout, the omnipresence of public almsgiving, the expansion of car guards as covert unemployment ...

My impression is that for a long time now, the political leadership, the long-term, American leadership has chosen Costa Rica and Uruguay as media showcases of Western democracy, having much, little or nothing to do with the real. Simply because of the lack of sufficient blood jets to occupy the first page.

This "window policy" has a huge drawback for those so painted: to believe it. Because that introduces a principle of mental laziness in the inhabitants of the country in question.

There are countries, such as Argentina, where nothing can be worse than it already is (even if it gets worse), but in the face of such a critical situation, there is a need for resistance. [2]

In others, such as Uruguay, everything seems to be on wheels, very high cultural, political, educational, moral, democratic level, level of environmental care, modernization, investment grade, mediating capacity, and we are unable to see what we lack.

Let us return to the Panglossian descriptions of the institutes:

"greater satisfaction with the standard of living". As these are higher (and lower) degrees of satisfaction we understand that it attends to an algebraic sum between what we gain and what we lose...

We're not going to go around asking people how they're satisfied (or not). Because we have something already solved: we win permanently in cell phones and in media plants that keep us permanently fed with messages.

In past times, sagacious peasants learned to overfeed geese, harassing them to make their liver more palatable: this is how the renowned pâté was obtained: a *delicatesse*.

Today, we are, but not only in Uruguay, like geese; food and mediatically overwhelmed.

Carlos Vaz Ferreira, master of thinking, warned us against "mental colonialism." It seems that he would still have to keep warning us...

Notes:

[1] *In its task as planetary gendarme, assumed with joy and sufficiency since 1945, the US has divided the entire world into regional commands – as if they were the police stations of a megalopolis – traditionally six; Command N, in and for North America, Command Europe (Western Eurasia), Africom, Central Command, in the heart of the Near East, Southern Command for South America and presumably Antarctica, and Pacific Command. We must add another five today, supervised with state-of-the-art technology, cybernetics and extraterrestrial space.*

[2] *And although the usual Argentine dramaticity is tinged by a certain Buenos Aires ombliguism that makes us think of Buenosairesland at times, that resistance is manifested, exists, both against centralism and against surrender.*

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Edited by María Piedad Ossaba

La Pluma.net 19.04.2022