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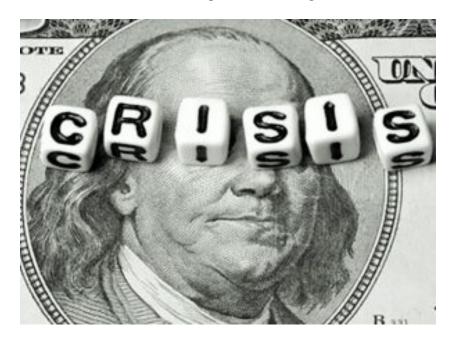
No one foresaw that the U.S. would isolate itself to die: the end of Western domination

Since 2001, all world leaders have seen Westerners, and especially the United States, as a dangerous wound. They dare not confront her and look for a way to carefully direct her towards the slaughterhouse.



Rather than confronting Russia and China, Washington has chosen to retreat into its empire, to isolate the West from the rest of the world in order to maintain US hegemony.

The US, which always waited until the last moment to get involved in the two world wars – thus avoiding damage on its own soil – emerged from those conflicts as a great victor. Becoming heir to the great European empires, that country managed to establish a system of domination that made it the "world gendarme". But its hegemony was fragile and could not be maintained in the face of the development of other great nations.



A partir de 2012, ciertos politólogos comenzaron a hablar de la <u>«trampa de Tucídides»</u>, estableciendo una analogía con la explicación que aquel historiador de la Antigua Grecia elaboró sobre el porqué de las guerras del Peloponeso entre Esparta y Atenas. Según aquellos politólogos, el ascenso de la República Popular China hacía que un enfrentamiento entre ese país y EE.UU. fuese tan inevitable como las guerras entre Esparta y Atenas. Habiendo comprobado hoy que China se ha convertido en la primera potencia económica mundial mientras que Rusia es la primera potencia militar, EE.UU. ha decidido combatirlas, pero no al mismo tiempo.

Ese es el contexto de la guerra en Ucrania. Washington presenta ese conflicto como una *«agresión rusa»*, impone sanciones y obliga a sus aliados a hacer lo mismo. La primera explicación que viene a la mente es que EE.UU., sabiéndose inferior en el plano militar pero económicamente superior, ha decidido escoger su campo de batalla. Sin embargo, el análisis de las fuerzas implicadas y de las medidas adoptadas desmiente esa lectura de los hechos.

El sistema económico mundial

El sistema económico mundial contemporáneo fue creado por los <u>acuerdos de Bretton</u> <u>Woods</u>, en 1944. El objetivo de los acuerdos de Bretton Woods era instaurar un marco para el capitalismo posterior a la crisis de 1929, luego de comprobarse que el nazismo no había sido la solución. En Bretton Woods, EE.UU. impuso el dólar -su propia monedacomo divisa de referencia convertible en oro. La Unión Soviética y China no estuvieron en la conferencia de Bretton Woods.

En 1971, el presidente Richard Nixon decidió unilateralmente -y de manera no oficialponer fin a la paridad del dólar estadounidense con el oro... para poder financiar la guerra de EE.UU. en Vietnam. Concretamente, se abandonó la tasa fija dólar-oro. Esa decisión unilateral estadounidense no se hizo oficial hasta después del fin de la guerra -también estadounidense- en Vietnam, en 1976. Fue también en ese momento cuando China se alió a las transnacionales anglosajonas. Desde 1972, la Comunidad Económica Europea predecesora de la actual Unión Europea- tuvo que adaptarse a las tasas de cambio, que de ser fijas habían pasado a ser *"flotantes"*, primeramente enmarcándolas con la llamada *«serpiente monetaria»* y después con la creación del euro.



A partir de 1981, EE.UU. comenzó a permitir el crecimiento de su propia deuda. Después de haberse elevado al 40% del PIB estadounidense, la deuda exterior de EEUU es hoy equivalente al 130% de su PIB. EE.UU. intentó después «globalizar» la economía mundial, o sea imponer sus propias reglas del juego a los países solventes y destruir las estructuras de los Estados de los demás países -la estrategia Rumsfeld-Cebrowski.

Para pagar sus propias deudas, EE.UU. imprimió dólares, espió a las empresas de sus supuestos aliados y robó las reservas de dos importantes Estados petroleros -Irak y Libia. Nadie se atrevió a cuestionarlo. Pero, desde 2003, el sistema económico de EE.UU. ha dejado de ser lo que pretendía ser. Oficialmente, EE.UU. seguía siendo un país de *«economía liberal»*, pero todos podemos ver que ya no produce los alimentos que necesita, ni sus propios productos de primera necesidad y que además vive sólo del saqueo.

La economía estadounidense, que después de la disolución de la URSS llegó a representar un tercio de la economía mundial, hoy es sólo una décima parte.

Many States are envisioning the end of the Bretton Woods rules and are looking for a new system. In 2009, Brazil, Russia, India and China, countries quickly joined by South Africa, created the BRICS group. These countries have equipped themselves with financial institutions that prefer to invest according to the system called leasing or "financial leasing", also called "rent with the right to buy", according to which the country receiving the investment becomes the owner when the investment has been amortized. While the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank impose structural reforms and political commitments of alignment with Washington on everyone who borrows.

In 2010, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia – later joined by Armenia – founded the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). These countries, which have common borders, established a free trade area with Egypt, China, Iran, Serbia, Singapore and Vietnam. They could soon be joined by South Korea, India, Turkey and Syria.



In 2013, China undertook its vast project known as "New Silk Roads". The following year – when its GDP surpassed that of the US and reached parity with its purchasing power – Beijing created the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and in 2020 established a framework for foreign capital.

In 2021, the European Union conceived its "*Global Gateway*" to compete with China and impose its own political model. But many countries interpreted that move as a return to colonialism and the "*European Gateway*" was the subject of massive rejection.

The Russian bloc and the Chinese bloc have been moving closer to each other thanks to the common project called the Great Eurasian Global Partnership – which emerged in 2016 – within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. It is a question of developing all this space as a whole by creating in it balanced communication channels according to the ideological bases defined by the Kazakh Nursultan Nazarbayev: inclusivity, equality in matters of sovereignty, respect for the cultural and socio-political identity of the participants, openness and willingness to integrate other groups.

Washington's attempt to destroy that ensemble in formation has absolutely no chance of success. We can already verify that:

- the economic aggression did not begin with the invasion of Ukraine but 2 days before the Russian military operation;
- economic aggression targets first and foremost russian banks, russian billionaires and the russian gas industry, without touching the new eurasian communication network;
- finally, economic aggression tries to exclude Russia from international organizations... but it does not concern states that refuse to condemn Russia. It will therefore push the latter into China's arms.
- In other words, in practice the US is not isolating Russia but isolating the West 10% of humanity from the rest of the world, or 90% of humanity.

The process that is separating the West from the rest of the world

- The US economically assaulted Russia on February 22, 2022, the day after Russia's announcement of recognition of the independence of the Donestsk and Luhansk People's Republics an announcement issued by Moscow on February 21. On February 23, a day after U.S. economic aggression against Russia, the European Union followed in Washington's footsteps. Russian banks Vnesheconombank and Promsvyazbank were excluded from the global financial system.
- Vnesheconombank (VEB. RF) is a regional development bank and could have helped the Donbass Republics. Promsvyazbank (PSB) invests mainly in the defence sector and could have had a role in the implementation of mutual assistance treaties between Russia and the Donbass People's Republics.
- Russia began its "special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24. On February 25, Washington extended the exclusion of the two Russian banks already mentioned, including in it all Russian banks. The European Union did the same also on 25 February.



- To avoid as much as possible that other states could stand with Russia, Washington extended trade "sanctions" to Belarus. The European Union began to disconnect Russian banks from the SWIFT system thus bowing to the instructions already given from Washington and also extended the "sanctions" to Belarus and censored the Russian public media RT (Russia Today) and Sputnik on March 2.
- On March 3, Washington began lashing out at Russian millionaires mistakenly called "oligarchs" who actually abhor Putin, and on March 8 it banned imports of Russian hydrocarbons. On March 9, the European Union followed Washington's lead against Russian millionaires but resisted the order to ban the import of Russian gas, indispensable to the European economy.
- On March 11, Washington extends financial sanctions to the IMF and the World Bank and on March 11 expands the list of sanctioned oligarchs and prohibits the export of luxury goods to Russia. The European Union does the same on 15 March.
- On March 24, Washington seeks to ensure that members of the Russian parliament are stripped of all rights in the West like the so-called "oligarchs" that Russia cannot use its funds deposited in the US to pay its debts to that country and that it cannot use its gold to pay its debts abroad. The European Union is also following Washington in adopting these measures it bans the import of coal and partly Russian oil... but it still does not ban purchases of Russian gas.



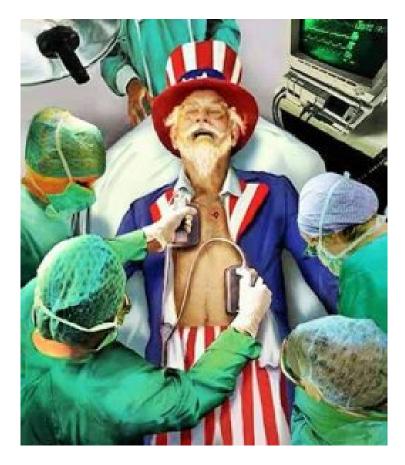
The response from the rest of the world

We are witnessing a tremendously surprising phenomenon. The U.S. managed to get a majority of states to take its side... but they are the least populous states in the world. Everything seems to indicate that Washington has run out of means of pressure on the countries really interested in being independent.

The unilateral actions of the Anglo-Saxons and the European Union are dividing the world into two heterogeneous spaces. The world is saying goodbye to the era of economic globalization. Economic and financial bridges are falling one by one.

In a quick reaction, Russia has convinced its BRICS partners of the need to end their dollar exchanges and to create a common virtual currency to conduct their transactions. In the meantime they will use gold. The common currency of the BRICS countries would be based on a basket of currencies of their own members, currencies whose value would be estimated according to the GDP of each of these countries and a basket of raw materials with stock market value. That system must be much more stable than the current system.

But most importantly, Russia and China seem far more respectful than the West when it comes to relations with their partners. They never demand structural reforms, neither economic nor political. The Ukrainian crisis is showing everyone that Moscow is not trying to seize power in Kiev or occupy Ukraine but to oppose the advance of NATO and fight the *"bannerists"* – the neo-Nazis, according to increasingly accepted terminology. The method may or may not seem appropriate to us, but the objectives are legitimate.



In practice, we are witnessing the end of four centuries of Western domination and the empires established by the nations of the West. We are seeing the confrontation between very different ways of thinking.

Westerners only think in terms of weeks. That short-term view may lead them to believe that the U.S. is right vis-à-vis the Russians. But the rest of the world reflects in terms of decades, even centuries. Seen this way, it is unquestionable that the Russians are right while the Westerners, as a whole, are wrong.

On the other hand, the Westerners are rejecting international law: they attacked Yugoslavia, Libya and Syria without authorization from the UN Security Council and lied to attack Afghanistan and Iraq. Simply put, the West does not respect the rules it previously imposed.

The other States, on the other hand, aspire to a multipolar world where everyone has the freedom to think according to their own culture; they are aware that international law is the only thing that can preserve peace in the world they dream of.

Rather than confronting Russia and China, Washington has chosen to retreat into its empire, to isolate the West to maintain US hegemony.

Since 2001, all world leaders have seen Westerners, and especially the United States, as a dangerous wound. They dare not confront her and look for a way to carefully direct her towards the slaughterhouse.

No one foresaw that the beast would isolate itself to die.

<u>il Manifesto</u>, Italy.

Edited by María Piedad Ossaba

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