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07.06.2022

The so-called World Order

Playing into Washington's hands in the Ukraine war (which is actually strategically against China) does not contribute to that necessary new world order.



The breakdown of the world hegemony of the United States is already an incontrovertible fact because it has advantaged competitors in the economic sphere with the advances of China, above all, which apparently is about to become the first economy on the planet, that is, the first producer and therefore the first seller, and main buyer of raw materials. Neither the United States nor its allies dominate the world market as before, and therefore the dispute for control of the planet appears at the very center of their strategic concerns; the current so-called globalization has only intensified it because in reality, there has always

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been since the modern era was inaugurated with the circumnavigation of the planet in the origin of capitalism. The United States and its allies no longer have a monopoly on war, although their military industries continue to lead the world's arms production; it is another sector that gradually escapes its control. Atomic weapons, for example, give a country like North Korea virtually the ability to talk on an equal footing with Washington despite the enormous military distance that separates them. It is not by chance that the great powers try, without results, to prevent the expansion of the so-called "*nuclear club*".

New technologies and the general advancement of science are no longer the absolute predominance of traditional powers. China, for example, is not only a large producer of consumer goods and production goods but also a decisive country in the most advanced scientific research, successfully competing with the United States, Europe and Japan. Even countries with less decisive economic capacity have made considerable progress in this regard. Technology is no longer the monopoly of Western capitalism in such a way that the new order that is replacing the traditional one advances with solid bases generating margins of autonomy and national and regional independence that a few years ago seemed an unattainable utopia.



El dominio estadounidense y europeo de la política mundial también se resquebraja como puede comprobarse en el actual conflicto en Ucrania; a excepción de algunos gobiernos del mundo periférico la gran mayoría de estos gobiernos –empezando por China pero también por India, que juntas representan algo así como la mitad de la población mundial- si bien no apoyan la intervención militar rusa y abogan por salidas diplomáticas y acuerdos entre las partes, están lejos de unirse al coro de los gobiernos europeos y estadounidense que intervienen directamente en el conflicto y tienen una enorme responsabilidad en la generación y desarrollo de ese conflicto bélico. La mayoría de los gobiernos del resto del planeta -Latinoamérica, el mundo árabe o africano- con señaladas excepciones, no ven esa como su guerra y aunque la lamentan tampoco secundan las sanciones con las que Occidente busca castigar a Rusia. Prácticamente todos –hasta gobiernos como el colombiano, tan sometido a los dictados de Occidente- aunque formalmente acogen algunas de esas sanciones, las burlan en la práctica por el impacto negativo que tendrían en sus economías.

Inclusive la ampliación de la OTAN, vista como un triunfo de Washington, tiene también otra lectura pues los países como Alemania y Francia, aunque formalmente apoyan las medidas contra Putin en la práctica proceden de forma tal que buscan siempre salvar sus intereses nacionales ya que Rusia no solo es un gran mercado para sus productos sino una fuente de materias primas y energía muy complicado de sustituir; lo mismo sucede con varios países del área oriental o del norte del Viejo Continente, muy dependientes del mercado ruso, sin olvidar el estratégico rol de Turquía que hace todo lo posible por alcanzar un equilibrio en sus relaciones con Rusia y las potencias occidentales.

Además, una mayor presencia europea dentro de la OTAN resta poder a la hegemonía que hasta ahora ha ejercido Estados Unidos en su seno. No faltan las voces en los gobiernos europeos llamando a la moderación y sugiriendo que solo la diplomacia ofrece salidas ventajosas para todos. La idea de unas fuerzas armadas europeas, aunque se presenta como un “reforzamiento” de la OTAN no deja de dar alientos a quienes en realidad buscan alcanzar una relación menos dependiente de Washington (Francia lo ha buscado siempre, desde De Gaulle); apenas debe sorprender que medidas contra el gobierno ruso o no se cumplen, o se cumplen a medias o se lo hace formalmente pero siempre con matices que terminan por hacerlas inútiles.



Europa

The impact of the conflict on the U.S. (and global) economy is already evident and reinforces the voices of those who call not only for a quick way out of that war but go further, pointing to the need to seek civilized ways to achieve a new international order in which, although the laws of the market are still cruel and ruthless (so inspired by social Darwinism) they could at least prevent new hecatombs. The League of Nations failed to prevent the Second World War and the current United Nations is powerless in the face of the current evolution of conflicts and the risks of nuclear war if the struggle of the current great powers is not controlled. The United States should start by recognizing that it is no longer the hegemonic power of the planet; accept that the bloc of so-called BRICS countries – China, in particular, but also India and Brazil, in some respects – will soon be (if they are not already) an invincible competition in the tough game of the world market. Washington would have to accept that in this competition only "the cold logic" of profit works, the result of a civilized game between supply and demand, as preached by bourgeois economics, excluding aggression against competitors in any of its forms (military, economic, political, etc.). The European capitalists should also seek formulas that lead to this new world order in which the Old Continent can make similar, peaceful and civilized balances, in order to reach the necessary distances with the United States and strengthen new relations with the emerging powers (China, in particular). Among other

reasons because militarily, the West would not be well fought in a war with these new powers; the era of easy colonialism ended long ago. Playing into Washington's hands in the Ukraine war (which is actually strategically against China) does not contribute to that necessary new world order.

The opportunity of the peripheral world (the poor and dependent countries of the planet) to use the competition between the great powers to gain advantages for the benefit of their own national projects is evident. In the case of Latin America, the position of governments such as the Mexican government or the proposals of Argentina and Lula in Brazil can guide the steps that must be taken to ensure that this new world order excludes aggression (which these countries have always suffered), that they are not used as cannon fodder in the disputes of the powerful (you know, "*when elephants fight, grass suffers*"), that a world of relations can be achieved in which mutual benefit prevails, at least to the extent that capitalism allows it.



Juan Diego García for the Pen, June 4, 2022

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

La Pluma. Net 05.06.2022