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Chile: An irrepressible desire for freedom

What could prevent the Chilean nation from regaining its most basic freedoms and rights?

Approving the New Constitution is an open door to the future...



"The Roman emperors did not forget to adopt the title of Tribune of the people, because this function was considered holy and sacred; established for the defense and protection of the people, it enjoyed great consideration in the State. By that means they made sure that the people trusted them better, as if it were enough to hear that name without the need to feel the effects. But those of today do not do better than, before committing their most serious crimes, they are preceded by some beautiful speeches about the public good and the consolation of the unfortunate. We know the formula they use so finely; but can we speak of finesse where there is so much impudence?"

([Étienne de la Boétie, Discourse on Voluntary Servitude](#), 1576).

Étienne de la Boétie wrote her famous text when she was just 16 years old. His recurrent reflection has to do with a very simple question: what is it that makes millions of human

beings allow themselves to be subjugated and enslaved without hardly trying to recover their freedom?



Étienne de la Boétie

The author points out that any captured animal lives its captivity as a misfortune and in many cases prefers to die than lose its freedom. The reaction of human beings, according to Étienne de la Boétie, is usually very different:

"It is incredible to see how the people, as soon as they submit to them, suddenly fall into such a deep oblivion of their freedom that it is impossible for them to wake up to reconquer it: it serves so well and so willingly, that when it is seen it would be said that they lost not only their freedom but at the same time gained their servitude."

I am convinced that the people of Chile do not subscribe to this unfortunate behavior. On the contrary, I retain the lesson of Étienne de la Boétie itself:

"while a people is compelled to obey and obeys, it does good; but the moment he can shake the yoke, and shake it, he does even better..."

Salvador Allende said the same thing on the fateful day of September 11, 1973:

"The people must defend themselves, but not sacrifice themselves. The people must not allow themselves to be razed or riddled with bullets, but neither can they humiliate themselves... (...) Keep knowing that, much sooner rather than later, the great avenues through which the free man passes will be opened again, to build a better society."



Four centuries separate the deed of the Fellow President from the work of that brilliant teenager who warned humanity of the danger it runs by becoming accustomed to slavery and the absence of rights.

In today's Chile, unfortunately, a caste very inclined to servitude proliferates, which enthusiastically declares to be in favor of the yoke of the Constitution imposed in dictatorship, a cursed law that for 42 years has deprived the people of Chile of their citizen rights, making them the object of the depredations of a handful of oligarchs.



The infamous gestation of this esperpento, its simple existence, is a source of shame for every well-born human being. Who could nauseously evoke a text whose main objective is to deprive an entire people of the human rights enshrined in 1793 by the French Revolution and then adopted by the United Nations?

When it comes to eliminating from the face of the Earth this attack on humanity and intelligence committed by the civic-military dictatorship, our main concern is not focused on the version of the word processor, nor on the font of characters used to print it. It is enough to know that the gestation of the new constitutional text was democratic.

That annoying detail. In particular to the self-proclaimed yellow goose poop dye, and to numerous walking corpses with pretensions of cinemascope zombies.

Text matters of course. And if they hurry me, I would say that there are many who think (think) that if they had entrusted them with the wording of the New Constitution, this would be a marvel of precision, conciseness, relevance and humanity.

But the reality of social processes, those that "do not stop with crime or force" appointed the members of the Constitutional Convention for such an eminent task. Their work, the text of the New Constitution, is an open door to the future.

Everyone can point out defects, imperfections, absences and oversights. But this text has the immense merit of making the infamous grievance of the Pinochet-Laguient Constitution disappear in one fell swoop.

Added to the opportunity to build a country in which its citizens will recover, after almost 50 years of odious servitude, their most elementary freedoms and rights.



"History is ours and it is made by the peoples..." said my (only) President.

That is why I will vote I approve.

Luis Casado for La Pluma

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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