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The Cold War

Discontent has only just begun, and the omens of a new global recession are repeated endlessly. Nor has there been the expected economic (or political) collapse in Russia or China, countries that seem to take on the challenge without major problems.



Faced with the impossibility of a direct confrontation between the great powers that emerged from the Second World War - especially due to the existence of atomic weapons - the dispute for world hegemony was prolonged through local wars in the periphery areas, that is, through indirect confrontation using third countries. The traditional policy of capitalism was aimed first of all at making impossible the so-called "advance of communism" but without forgetting the traditional competition also between the same

Western powers and Japan that had provoked the two world wars of the twentieth century; competition for control of markets, raw materials and areas of influence. The direct war between powers is then replaced by the forms of the so-called "*Cold War*", the same that has been maintained until now only changing scenarios and protagonists but subjecting all actors to the same dynamics. It is not surprising then that after the contemporary wars in Asia, Africa and on the periphery of Europe the interests of the Western capitalists and Japan can be recognized, and that today as yesterday, the objective is to subdue Russia and China, nuclei of the old socialism. In a similar way it is also a question of subjecting the other "emerging powers" grouped in the BRICS and in many respects also countries that also link their development and national sovereignty to new forms of integration into the world market, outside and often in contradiction with the former hegemonic powers of capitalism.



The current war in Ukraine is nothing more than the latest expression of that "cold war". The "cold war" has also been carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean, and continues to this day. In countries such as Cuba and Venezuela, the anti-communist discourse stands out as the central axis of the policy of Washington and its allies (local and international); but in so many respects this "cold war" in Latin America and the Caribbean is also manifested in US interventionism against simply nationalist governments that in so many cases cannot be pointed out as a "leftist danger". To the military coups, dictatorships and other direct ways of making that "cold war" must be added new forms of interventionism, of modern war that without excluding the direct military intervention that Washington has carried out on many occasions in the region have focused on economic

sabotage, media war, terrorism financed and guided by specialized agencies of the United States, to which are added for a while to this part others of European countries and especially of Israel. In the case of Colombia, this "cold war" has in fact turned a good part of the institutions (and in particular the armed forces and police) into an extension of the US war entities with the clear objective of achieving an open war between Bogotá and Caracas. The new Petro government has the not easy task of removing from Colombia the denigrating qualifier of being the "Israel of the Andes". The "Cold War" can then manifest itself in a thousand ways and not necessarily by open conflicts as in Asia, Africa or Europe.



If the "cold war" did not succeed in subduing Russia and China (although it can claim the collapse of "really existing socialism", at least partially, since this system collapsed fundamentally by its own mistakes and would have also ended without the sabotaging action of the West) the current forms of this war between powers do not show signs of achieving it either. It would be very hasty to predict how the conflict in Ukraine will end; but apparently, Russia is winning the challenge: it recovers Crimea and at least ensures control of the exit to the Black Sea (Kiev would have to make many concessions to Moscow to keep the port of Odessa, always under Russian supervision); Putin shows the former Soviet republics now turned nato bases (which literally surround Russia) the bad business of allying with Westerners in their war adventures; the position is notorious for

those who prefer to maintain good relations with Moscow while doing so with the West, Hungary, for example, as well as other countries in the region such as Turkey and Israel. No less significant is this war in Ukraine for those who abandon their neutrality - Sweden or Finland, for example - that if things do not change radically they would understand that the fate of Ukraine – literally devastated – can await them if their commitment to NATO goes beyond words.



In the triumphalist declarations of the European Union between the lines it can be read that the traditional contradictions with the United States remain in force. France and Germany, above all, have always bet discreetly but with sufficient clarity to generate their own mechanisms in the world confrontation. The supposed unity in NATO is not – if this reading of the facts is true – as monolithic as the propaganda shows. It is enough to consider the differences that are registered in relation to the economic sanctions against Russia due to the negative impact that the conflict has on their economies (without excluding the United States itself). Indeed, some business groups (arms producers, for example, or energy monopolies) derive incalculable profits from this war, but the same is not true of other sectors of capital that see their normal functioning subjected to total uncertainty if not to ruin. The working population of Western countries engaged in this war adventure already pays the high cost of the conflict and is subjected to a general rise in prices when wages fall at the same rate. Discontent has only just begun, and the omens of a new global recession are repeated endlessly. Nor has there been the expected

economic (or political) collapse in Russia or China, countries that seem to take on the challenge without major problems.



The scenario can be read in many different ways. An optimist, who wants this "cold war" to lead to a peace agreement similar to the one that occurred after the Second World War, but without a "cold war". An agreement that involves the effective limitation of armaments, both atomic weapons and the many new forms of destruction – some of which seem to be being tested already in the war in Ukraine; a global agreement that in a truly democratic way to the so-called international institutions (the UN, in particular) and, above all, an agreement so that competition in the market is carried out peacefully, as preached by classical liberal philosophy, that is, that those who offer better prices and better quality prevail on the market, and that all non-economic and mafia forms that harm competition be avoided. Of course, there is no lack of the most dramatic (and hopefully wrong) reading of those who fear that this "cold war" will lead to a Third World War, whose catastrophic impact would have such dimensions that it may even compromise the very survival of the human race.

Juan Diego García for La Pluma, July 16, 2022

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