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Interventions



Sources: The Day

The White House's Western Hemisphere chief declared at a forum in Cartagena last week that 40 years ago the United States would have done everything it could to prevent the election of Gustavo Petro, and once before someone like him in power, he would have done almost everything possible to sabotage his government.

But they were *Cold War* policies, he argued, and today for the U.S. government, ideology no longer matters... but only if a government is democratically elected and governs.

Some highlighted the honesty of Juan Gonzalez's statement and welcomed the message that Washington will no longer seek to intervene in other countries over ideological

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differences. But for others, it only confirmed that Washington continues to proclaim that it is judge and jury over who is democratic or not, and behind that, it maintains its implicit right to intervene.

And in fact, the United States not only continues to intervene around the world but, if we talk only about military interventions, it is doing so more frequently than ever before in the *post-Cold War* era, that is, in the last 40 years.

The United States has conducted nearly 400 military interventions — defined as those that include both deployments and threats of use of force, covert operations, and other low-profile ones — from 1776 to date. Half of those interventions occurred between 1950 and 2019, and more than a quarter of the total occurred since the end of the *Cold War*, according to new research from Tufts University's Military Intervention Project (MIP) summarized in *Responsible Statecraft*.

Of the total military interventions, 34 percent were against countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to MIP. The directors of that project note that "with the end of the *Cold War* era it was expected that the United States would have reduced its military interventions abroad... but these patterns reveal the opposite. The United States has increased its military involvement abroad." (<https://sites.tufts.edu/css/mip-research/>)

All this does not include other traditional forms of intervention in other countries such as intelligence operations, and projects to support opposition forces within other countries that, under various justifications and disguises, use Washington funds not only to influence the internal politics of their countries, but in the fully documented cases of Cuba and Venezuela, among others, in order to promote regime change to this day.

Would Washington accept programs pushed by other governments to influence its domestic politics, including fomenting political dissent and even direct action to promote regime change? Would you accept that other countries invest millions of dollars in new centers and NGOs within their territory dedicated to judging and promoting changes in their Constitution, in their justice system, in civil and human rights matters? Perhaps direct assistance should be offered to the United States in defending its democracy, which is now under existential threat.

Perhaps it is time for opponents of interventionism around the world to reconnect with anti-imperialist figures and forces within the United States throughout its history, including the great African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who proclaimed himself against the war against Mexico in the mid-nineteenth century; Mark Twain, who helped found the Anti-Imperialist League at the end of that century, followed by Emma Goldman, Helen Keller and socialist leader Eugene Debs against the imperial game of World War I, and decades later with the anti-imperialist Martin Luther King during Vietnam, and more recently the countless opponents of US interventions in South and Central America, The Middle East and Africa have been able to proclaim together that the judges of democracy should be the peoples, not the ones with the most dollars and weapons.

Grateful

Dead. *US*

Blues. <https://open.spotify.com/track/4liJSGUkdIKXQuvLbm7mD8?si=6f2c5e57d5e2407>

Source: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2022/08/15/opinion/027o1mun#texto>

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