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To nationalize they call ...: EUclothing, Yankee protectorate, in the face of the energy crisis

When the hand comes bad, the fiercest defenders of neoliberalism pass the dogma through the Arch of Augustus. The important thing is business, profit, control of markets. If any competing power appears on the horizon... it is done as Sparta did before Athens: war is declared. This is what the US does, followed like lapdogs by the European Union, its Protectorate.



Photo: Matthias Zomer.

Attentive staff, what comes is not advisable for minors of mental age.

The world passed placidly, in full bonhomie, in the manner of a well-deserved Sunday nap after morning football and a roast in churrasco plan, washed down as it should be with a red chuico as odorous of its vines as cardene of its dye.

The European Union, according to Josep Borrell, *lived in a sort of French garden, clean and tidy facing the outer jungle* (the words in italics are Borrell's). Inflation had

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disappeared from the horizon, and healthy economic growth built on two formidable pillars described by Borrel himself, – cheap Russian energy and a huge Chinese market wide open – augured a bright future, clear skies and spring weather. Praise!

How is it that we suddenly enter a new crisis that causes scarcity, announces more unemployment and poverty on one side and more concentration of wealth on the other?

To contribute to philosophical, political and economic reflection, without warning, Emmanuel Macron cracked with a couple of comments for bronze.

One relating to the amount of social assistance to the needy, to the miserable, to the pringaos so that you understand me. Here it is:

"Social policy, look: we put a goose paste (a pognon dingue) in the social minimums, and people are still poor. We didn't get out of that one. People who are born poor, are still poor. There must be a trick that allows people to escape that fate."

Goose pasta – according to those who calculate the budgets of the French State – is of the order of 25 billion euros per year, 1% of French GDP, it is not a matter of looking at less or treating them as *a godfather*, tied, stingy, caught, greedy and petty, but the truth is that the mass of poor does not stop growing.

However, the part of the national budget devoted to mitigating the effects of inequalities plays the role of a mustard poultice on a leper sore. Macron does not understand that extreme poverty and excessive wealth are monozygotic twins: they grow together.

El discurso político suele criticar a los “asistidos”, esos holgazanes que no trabajan y viven de la asistencia social. El mismo discurso político que condena a los miserables reclama, exige, impone ayudas y facilidades para la inversión privada, único camino hacia el crecimiento y el bienestar. Si la asistencia social es caca, los estímulos a la codicia empresarial son agua bendita.

Justo por curiosidad fui a ver cual es el monto de la contribución pública francesa a la inversión privada: la última cifra anual conocida me tiró de espaldas: 157 mil millones de euros.

El monto, –6,28% del PIB–, se justifica mayormente por la gigantesca carga de generosidad que está en la raíz misma de su génesis: se trata de “crear empleo” para los pringaos, de pavimentar e iluminar el camino que conduce a la prosperidad de los miserables.

Macron's second comment was even more surprising. Inspired perhaps by the words of Winston Churchill on May 13, 1940, announcing to his people that Britain would not

give in to Nazi barbarism, – "I can only offer you blood, sweat and tears" – Emmanuel announced "the end of plenty".



Hello French, no more abundance and indifference!-Placide Vignette

Those who lack everything, those who walk three and four and those who barely make it to the end of the month (the hardest are the last 30 days ...) we wonder what abundance our banker-president meant. It wasn't hard to tell. The investigative press studied the holidays of the first French fortune and second world:

"In one month, Bernard Arnault's mega yacht consumed 470,000 liters of diesel (at €2.15 per liter... just over a million euros in fuel alone...), the equivalent of the economy that 27,000 French households would make by turning down the heating in their apartment for a year... Bernard Arnault's luxury boat emitted 1,250 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) in a month's vacation..."



Symphony, Bernard Arnaut's superyacht with multiple leisure activities

Poor Bernard, he is one of those who receive part of the 167 billion euros of aid to investors...

The truth is that the population begins to snort in the face of inflation: for two decades prices remained reasonably stable and the inflation target of the European Central Bank (ECB), -2%-, was met without major dramas. One of the consequences was that wages did not rise. However, 2% plus another 2%... They end up doing more than 10 percent after five years and in the meantime your salary remained the same. Now, with inflation approaching 10% a year, staff cough and wonder if it's not time to get paid fairly.

Among the rising prices is energy. France, thanks to my General de Gaulle and the Program of the Resistance, began a vast movement of industrialization at the end of World War II. An important part was to equip the country with 56 nuclear reactors that supplied abundant and very cheap electricity for decades. France exported electricity.

Then, the neoliberals came up with the idea of privatizing the EDF company. The private ones dedicated themselves to milking the cow, to obtain the maximum profit and for this they avoided doing maintenance work. Result: 32 nuclear power plants are shut down and produce not one Kilowatt/hour. Macron, in another demonstration of his genius, decided to renationalize EDF, so that citizens will pay for the restoration work of nuclear power plants. Isn't capitalism nice?

LES RÉACTEURS FERMÉS EN FRANCE

(32 réacteurs fermés sur 56)



Source : BFMTV

Nuclear power plants in France with reactors closed in red

All this in the midst of an energy crisis whose outbreak we owe to the European Union. The 'model' of prosperity based on two pillars, – cheap energy supplied by Russia and cheap products from China – suddenly became a mortal sin, a "dependence on unfrequentable countries", very precisely from the conflict in Ukraine.

No one noticed that Ukraine failed for eight years to comply with the Minsk Agreements, signed by several European Union countries. That the US was behind a characterized aggression against the Russian population of eastern Ukraine did not bother any "Western" country. The "free world", which happily participated in the bombing of Serbia and its tearing apart and the creation of a pseudo-puppet country that even they themselves do not recognize, – Kosovo – is scandalized by the Russian military intervention that seeks to protect the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine.

So neither short nor lazy the European Commission decreed that the EU needs neither Russian gas nor oil, thus unleashing a crisis of unsuspected dimensions. For the simple reason that there was not, there is not, spare energy. Prices went through the roof, and European industry, mainly German, is threatened with bankruptcy and/or relocation to other countries, such as the USA, or China...

The geniuses who run the EU – all handpicked – proposed setting a maximum price for gas, to avoid a catastrophe. The first to react negatively were not the Russians, but the German Prime Minister Olaf Scholz who treated them veiledly as morons (if they set prices outside the market that gas will go to other countries ...). The other was Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre (Norway is Europe's leading producer of oil and gas) who stated very succinctly: "If they want energy, they will pay for it at market price."

To alleviate the crisis generated by the lack of energy by helping its companies, Germany released 200 billion euros. Once again the geniuses who run the EU showed their blindness by condemning measures that "contradict the rules of free competition". Seriously?

Thus, without the slightest debate, companies are renationalized, States intervene in the Economy, a group of countries that built a common market (the EU) intends to set prices outside the market. All that remains is to repeal the Law of Supply and Demand.

Meanwhile the USA, *Deus ex machina* or *Deus absconditus* from all this disaster, rub their hands: the F-35s sell like hotcakes.

As long as the military industry works... Everything is fine.



Lockheed Martin F-35

Breaking news: Liz Truss, the very mediocre prime minister of the United Kingdom, lasted just 45 days in office. Today he resigned, in a demonstration of the disorder that reigns in the United Kingdom (no pun intended) despite – or thanks to – his withdrawal

from the European Union. The other leaders are not worth much more...

The only consolation is that in the US they have a senile Joe Biden... Lean comfort.

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