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Latin America and the New Left



Sources: Rebellion

Some years ago in Latin America there was a phenomenon that seemed Promising major political-social changes: in practically all countries, from Mexico to Patagonia, there was a heat Protest that covered different dimensions, with movements armed revolutionaries with a strong social base who sought socialist revolution. There was a climate of "social progress", of confrontation or, if you like, according to a conservative discourse of Right - "A moment of generalized rebellion". The Revolution Cuban of 1959 and the inspiring heroism of Che Guevara with his Guerrilla mystique constituted a beacon for the great masses popular, or even more, for groups that were erected in vanguards militants, trying to drive the discontent of these protests. In that climate, various popular movements, trade

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unions, peasants, youth, neighborhood, even Catholics of the Theology of the Liberation, they sought new post-capitalist paths. There was a Strong anti-system stance.

Later from Cuba came the Nicaraguan revolution, while Central America It burned with revolutionary wars, and in different countries of the The region was experiencing a climate of change. A similar phenomenon is He lived in other latitudes of the planet, with the liberation of the yoke colonial in Africa, Arab socialisms that were going expanding, an inspiring French May in 1968 and the Revolution Cultural in China, which meant the rejection of heavy obstacles of antiquity. It seemed that socialism was near. They were asked for several Vietnam to set the world on fire, getting rid of the imperialist chains. Then came the monstrous repression of the Right.

The ruling classes of each country, through their armies and with the Washington's support, undisputed dominator in the region Latin American, for the decades of the 70/80s of the last century They undertook strong counterrevolutionary campaigns to silence That transformative spirit that floated throughout the area. Repression It was tremendous, without leaving a single space of the territories without convulse. The National Security Doctrine, focused on the Combat to the death of the "enemy within", was the dominant element In this counterinsurgency strategy, with Latin American military prepared by Washington in his infamous School of Americas. After the last socialist revolution in territory of Latin America, the Sandinista of Nicaragua in 1979, the Continental right adjusted the nuts. The mountains immeasurable corpses and rivers of blood that are They registered, they frightened at length. Torture and prisons Clandestine were not the whims of psychopathic soldiers, eager to Blood: they were part of a well-studied policy of containment of the communism. Pedagogy of terror, it was called. In other words: A strategy so that nothing would change in the social architecture: the rich with their properties and their luxuries, the armies defending them, the Catholic Church blessing the situation, and the great Popular majorities worked to maintain the splendors of the First. Let nothing change: if for that some "excess" was necessary In repression, God would know how to forgive.

Those Repressive processes, more or less similar throughout the continent Guided by American operating manuals, they marked the History: The popular organization seeking change was deactivating. The lefts were badly damaged, decimated, disjointed, and

although the social protests continued – because The causes that generate them do not disappear - we no longer had the Possibility of collapsing any government, as was the last case with the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua. The proof is that today the Mobilizations continue, but the possibility of transform them into a process of revolutionary change. The recently happened in Chile with the non-approval of the new Constitution lets it be seen: we can protest, much even, but not There is strength to change things in their foundations. The pedagogy of the Terror did its job well, supplemented by the relentless bombardment anti-communist media that floods everything. "No we want another Venezuela," It's the endless catchphrase. The queues of Venezuelans leaving the country (by the way: blocked, attacked) are the Clear "demonstration" of the failure of these proposals "Castro-communists".

In That sea of demobilization initiated in the last decades of the twentieth century, already in the twenty-first century came a series of proposals progressive, always within the framework of institutionality capitalist, largely inspired by the emblematic figure of Hugo Chavez, who after years returned to speak of "socialism", dusting off a term that seemed already defenestrated forever. Undoubtedly, the Venezuelan process aroused hopes: were the Revolutions?

Like this In practically all the countries of the area, we attend in time to these processes of center-left, or moderate left. Starting with the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, in the Early years of this century All Latin American countries had an economic rebound selling their primary products (food and minerals) to China, whose prosperity was growing increasingly. That economic boom allowed all those governments to progressives (Kirchner/Fernández in Argentina, Lula/Dilma Rouseff in Brazil, Correa in Ecuador, Evo Morales in Bolivia, Chávez/Maduro in Venezuela) to be able to grant a good amount of improvements to its Populations. Without being Marxist measures in the strict sense, there were benefits in historically impoverished peoples and Excluded. People stopped feeling like *athingand* became, to a large extent, the protagonist of their lives.

The It is true that all these administrations achieve changes interesting, but without affecting the basement of the system: the property deprived of big capital, national and international, there is no Touched. Even the neoliberal proposals of shrinking the State and Furious attack on the wage class (junk contracts through) It was not substantially altered.

Sometimes, let's be honest in saying it, These popular advances were creating a clientelist attitude, opportunistic at times. Of course, those processes are a step forward in relation to previous military dictatorships, but The basic monetarist proposals were never abandoned. ¿What is preferable for the popular countryside in Brazil, for example: a Fascist Bolsonaro or a popular Lula? Or in Colombia: a Petro with a leftist mood or a recalcitrant conservative like Ivan Duke? With the benefit of the doubt, better a government of a "progressive" like Boric in Chile than a neo-Pinochet like Piñera, or a Xiomara Castro in Honduras than a government run by narcos. Have a "good" president, perhaps honest and transparent (Pepe Mujica in Uruguay, López Obrador in Mexico) is good news. But Beware!: that is not the change that the great majorities need popular, always excluded, marginalized, beaten. "Socialism" It is not a gift from the government, a welfare plan, a measure Demagogic. Socialism is real and effective people's power and a state that directs the economy with a post-capitalist criterion, with Expropriations, with agrarian reform, with a profound policy anti-racism and anti-patriarchy. Experience shows, with pain, that these "lukewarm" projects, commendable in their attempt, if they are not They go deeper, they end up being knocked down. And capitalism continues. Why Cuba Is it maintained despite all the aggressions? Because it is socialist! (*"There are 200 million street children in the world. None are in Cuba"*, Fidel Castro said. Don't forget it! Cuba, the only country in the Third World that was able to produce an anti-Covid-19 vaccine of its own).

In In relation to lukewarm processes, it is worth remembering what was said by the Polish-German revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg: *"No The "right middle" can be maintained in any revolution. The law of its nature it demands a quick decision: either the locomotive moves forward full steam ahead to the top of the mountain of history, or fall dragged by its own weight back to the starting point. And He will overwhelm in his fall those who will, with their weak forces, keep it halfway, throwing them into the abyss."*

"In My country there is no class struggle," or "Let's go." to promote serious capitalism", are some of the slogans given at the time by some of these progressive leaders. Do we stick with that, or can we go more? there?

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