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How the radical right gains strength in Latin America



Sources: The Century

The map of Latin America has been painted red. With few small exceptions, following the triumph of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Brazil, governments are, or soon will be, occupied by leftist leaders.

This says a lot about the resilience that the left has had after the defeat, almost continental, of the first progressive cycle that was losing ground in a resounding way in the last decade.

However, things are not the same as during that time. golden. Now, the right, defeated in the presidential elections, have shown not only an electoral advance, but a set of variants that They allow us to understand a great strength that could manifest itself in the In the

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coming years, always projecting that these times will surely be Especially hard in the economic arena and, therefore, prone to political destabilization.

Brazil is paradigmatic. His right, as in the rest of the continent, has advanced in the popular territory that hegemonized the left, and this is the main data.

"The result in the Brazilian presidential elections shows that a Radical right has managed to territorialize part of the popular camp in He disputes and thus get out of the class confinement that repaired his speech elitist and liberal."

The right was concentrated in the middle and upper classes. In the more westernized sectors, usually white, professional and socially promoted. That is why they were presumed to be politically "correct", quintessential and morally "superior" democrats. They talked to him especially "good people" and did not mind harassing the poor, peasants, workers and excluded. But that is no longer the case.

The close result in the Brazilian presidential elections shows that The right, and not just any right but a radical, has achieved territorialize part of the popular camp that is now in dispute and thus get out of the class confinement that repaired his elitist discourse and liberal.

How did they do it? Talking to the sectors Popular. Building a strong populist language that previously only He managed the left, suspending his respect for democracy liberal and lashing out at the *Status quo*, where it includes the "corrupt left."

By populist we do not mean an adjective or political insult but, from its sociological conception, as the method, the political logic that It implies questioning the popular sectors: speaking to the people from their problems and concerns, and this is something the left is going to. losing little by little and that the right is learning to use.

A left in government, but with how much power?

The shift to the left in Latin America is incontestable, but this time the cycle does not seem so solid.

- In Mexico, the next presidential elections will be in 2024 and there is no clarity on the left's strategy, despite the division of the right-wing forces.
- In Argentina, the opposition is leading in the polls amid a deep economic crisis.
- In Chile, the defeat of the Plebiscite for the new Constitution with a Rejection of 61% generates a climate of unrest and indeterminacy for President Gabriel Boric.
- In Brazil, outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro managed to divide the popular electorate, so much so that there is already talk of "Bolsonarism" for the enormous power he achieved in Congress and the Regions. In addition, the winner, Lula da

Silva, was far from his previous results (in 2006 it achieved 60% and in 2022 50%) and tied to the alliances with the moderate right that will slow down its Maneuverability.

- In Ecuador, progressive forces remain divided and with it It will be very difficult to achieve victory in the 2025 presidential elections.
- In Venezuela, an atomized opposition has managed to agree on Primaries to unify while Chavista forces have seen significantly reduce their electorate.
- In Peru, President Pedro Castillo has not yet been allowed to govern And, while it has survived the impeachment attempts, it is weakened by a radical right that has managed to advance in a important in last month's regional elections.

Perhaps, who could have more strength is the president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, who comes from the left but many do not They place in those ideological coordinates.

In this way, we see the Latin American picture entering a Difficult situation in which different factors converge, such as: weakness of the left, which often has to take refuge in the center and liberalism, which leads him to lose his initiative Transforming; Strength of the right, now using a language popular, interpelative and advancing in the poor electorate, that is, stealing "the wallet" from the progressive world; In addition, an economic crisis global that deepens and that can destabilize any of the New governments, which have fierce opposition.

In short, a cocktail that looks very dangerous due to the emergence of proto-fascist, far-right actions and speeches that can strengthen in the midst of severe imbalance and consequent Incapacity of the exercise of government.

And not only that. Sectors of the radical right are taking to the streets, while the left and progressive social movements are They remove from it.

From left-wing to right-wing social movements

The right is taking to the streets, which were a privileged space for progressive social movements.

We have seen it in Brazil, after the election result was known, with the mobilizations that do not know the result and ask for the intervention of the Armed Forces, but also in Colombia to scarce weeks after the inauguration of President Gustavo Petro.

"It is no longer enough for the right to have control of the media and The institutions have also decided to mobilize not only to opposition, but also to take the land off the street from the left-wing social movements".

In Bolivia, the agitation of the SantaCruzright is It has become chronic and reappears at every juncture, protected by the Equally chronic impunity. In Ecuador, indigenous mobilizations They are not enough to change the correlation of political forces. In Argentina, the "negationism" has mobilized and in Peru the Conservatism has also taken to the streets to call for the overthrow of Castle.

So, the right of the region is not enough to have the control of the media and institutions, they have also Determined to mobilize more vigorously not only to make opposition, but Also to take the ground off the street from social movements of the left, who have suffered a reflux to the extent that they have assumed State management.

Populism or Latin AmericanTrumpism

Right-wing populism is not a properly Latin American phenomenon.

Already the philosopher Didier Eribon, in his book*Return to Reims*, tells us how in France an industrial belt decidedly Communist has ended up debased by the speeches of the extreme French right.

But the best global example is represented by Trumpism. Has it was former President Donald Trump who has catapulted the discourse right-wing populist that led him to increase by almost ten million I vote for their vote from 2016 to 2020, but also to increase exponentially to the voters against him. Now he plans his return.

We are talking about a polarizing discourse that achieves its commitment in the To a measure that the left governs and is weakened by the slowness of the changes it trumpets and its muddy in the mechanisms of the Liberal institutionality.

It is no longer a radical right that is used by the right. moderate and liberal to confront the left, but of imposition of the radical that is hegemonizing the right-wing spectrum.

"The populist right, on the rise, is much more dangerous because of its Detachment from democratic rules and their claim to achieve a Historical regression that recovers repressive methods and persecution towards the progressive sectors".

Bolsonaro has again become an icon of this movement for Latin America. It is a kind of "Brazilian Trump" that mixes nationalism, anti-communism, evangelism and speaks to the majorities Popular against the Brazilian establishment and liberalism political, as much as Trump did and with comparable results: he loses in the presidential elections but gains electoral ground and remains as Option nothing disposable, increasingly with greater power.

It is not so much the entire right that is on the rise as the right itself. Populist right, much more dangerous because of its detachment from the rules democratic and its claim to

achieve a historical regression that recovers repressive methods and persecution of sectors Progressive.

If the left does not analyze and understand the new variants, it will be unable to control this boom and we will be in the presence of a progressive cycle much shorter than the previous one. There are still several years to see how this dispute evolves.

Source:<https://elsiglo.cl/2022/11/09/analisis-como-la-derecha-radical-toma-fuerza-en-america-latina/>

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