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## The New Fascism

Today it is necessary to bring together then all the social and political forces opposed to fascism to prevent the advance of the extreme right.



The extreme right is reborn in the metropolitan world and leads us to think that as a system of domination fascism was only in reserve, carefully guarded as an emergency instrument, as the ultimate way out of situations of extreme risk for capitalism.



The new far-right European parties use increasingly obvious symbols of their ideology.

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The current deep crisis of the neoliberal model allows the rebirth of these extreme solutions that partly repeat the traditional forms and partly are announced in new forms. It is easy to see how today as yesterday forms of mass manipulation are used – today much more sophisticated than in the past – such as the creation of subjects guilty of all evils – the scapegoats – that if before they were the ethnic minority groups such as the Gypsies or the Jews now it is the poor immigrants and in particular the Islamists; a pathological nationalism is promoted that opposes the community itself to any other community and even the doctrines of the "Living Space" of the Nazis are manifested again, just as the state of Israel does to justify the expropriation of land from the Palestinians or an attempt is made to legitimize imperialist wars by presenting them as crusades of the Christian West to promote democracy and development.



There is also the demagoguery that seeks to attract to the awnings of the new fascism to social sectors very affected by the crisis (whose effects the pandemic only increases) raising as a flag the so-called "defense of individual freedom" in the face of the "outrages" of the authorities that are forced to take restrictive measures to avoid the greater impact of the pandemic, or the demonization of poor immigrants who are impelled by circumstances to compete with locals in the labor market, and other similar motives. But presenting themselves as defenders of the workers most affected by the crisis is not a new tactic; Hitler's party, the NSDAP (National Socialist Party of German Workers) also presented itself as a champion of the workers hit by the crisis and the disastrous effects of the First World War on Germany.



#### Fascist groups in Western and Central Europe and their symbols

Of course, the new fascism also places as the main target of its attacks the left which is, in its opinion, to blame for all evils. If yesterday the communist parties were exterminated in a good part of Europe and the social democrats were viciously persecuted, today what remains of socialism in the Old Continent records with concern how the new extreme right (which in the end is the usual one) renews its attacks against any communist discourse or alternative movements that shows the crisis as a natural result of a capitalist system that should be overcome, or at least radically renewed according to some of the formulas of traditional social democracy. It is significant that in this discourse, today as yesterday, the extreme right in closed defense of capitalism in its most savage form fully agrees with the ideologues of the big bourgeoisie who are reluctant to replace the neoliberal model with some form of less aggressive capitalism. It is understandable then that the extreme right, the fascism of our days, also undertakes it against the bourgeois tendencies of liberal inspiration and democratic overtones that are harshly condemned by lukewarm and unacceptable concessions to communism.

Nor is it surprising that in the Western democracies of that time there was no great concern about the fascist elimination of the pillars of the liberal bourgeois order, since the economic foundations of the system were not touched. There was no shortage of voices in

Western democracy who welcomed fascism as an effective remedy against the communist and socialist danger. In reality, the democratic West was not too alarmed when Hitler attacked the USSR or seized much of the then Czechoslovakia, but when it was evident that Germany – as in the First World War – tried to remake in its favor the world distribution of markets.

The current panorama of fascist rebirth in the West then has very similar characteristics to those of yesteryear. And as yesterday, the big bourgeoisie endures the rebirth of the Nazi plague because in the face of the current unpredictable development of events and the increase in protest in their societies, this new fascism could be used as it was done before, as a useful instrument to save a system plunged into deep crisis. The big bourgeoisie, as always, has at its disposal a range of parties of the centre and the right, but if the development of events makes them useless instruments in the face of the profound aggravation of the situation, it will have no qualms about taking away their support and trusting in the groupings of the new fascism. For the time being, in the metropolises the traditional bourgeois parties still retain their role as useful instruments for the management of the state; but if they prove incapable of their traditional function, it would come as no surprise if the big bourgeoisie is committed to modern forms of fascism.



Jake Angeli, one of the Capitol raiders and defender of Qanon's theories

The new fascism already has sufficient funding (from whom?), has social bases that in some cases are considerable (case of Trump in the United States); It has not inconsiderable parliamentary representation in the European Union (greater than Hitler's before taking power) and expands with hate speech, pathological nationalism and well-known forms of

mass manipulation collected without major criticism by the media, practically all owned by large capitalist corporations. His electoral progress is not only a worrying issue on the United States; the challenge for democratic social and political forces is to deal effectively with these unhealthy tendencies and to bring together enough electoral and social forces to prevent fascism from gaining government. The Trump phenomenon is very serious but it is not something that can be limited to the United States. There are many Trumps around the world; not only in democratic Europe. It is much more present where classical liberal forms are almost always pure formalisms, as is the case in Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolsonaro, Fujimori or Uribe Vélez, without going any further).



It is worth reflecting on the way fascism managed to impose itself in Europe. In the case of Germany, for example, the Nazis only had just over 30% of the vote but an insurmountable distance between socialists, communists, liberals, monarchists and other democratic forces (majorities in Parliament) allowed the Nazi minority to access the government. Total power was now in the hands of the large capitalist corporations that then had free rein to manage the social order at will, impose terror and boost the war industry that brought them so many profits. In addition, everything was assured by the fidelity of the barracks, so close to the war and nationalist discourse.

Today it is necessary to bring together then all the social and political forces opposed to fascism to prevent the advance of the extreme right. If the correlation of forces does not allow greater advances, we can at least aspire to achieve controls that hinder the harmful action of capital against society and nature, starting by dismantling the current absolute hegemony of the market, the one that the extreme right likes so much.

Juan Diego García for La Pluma, September 18, 2021

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