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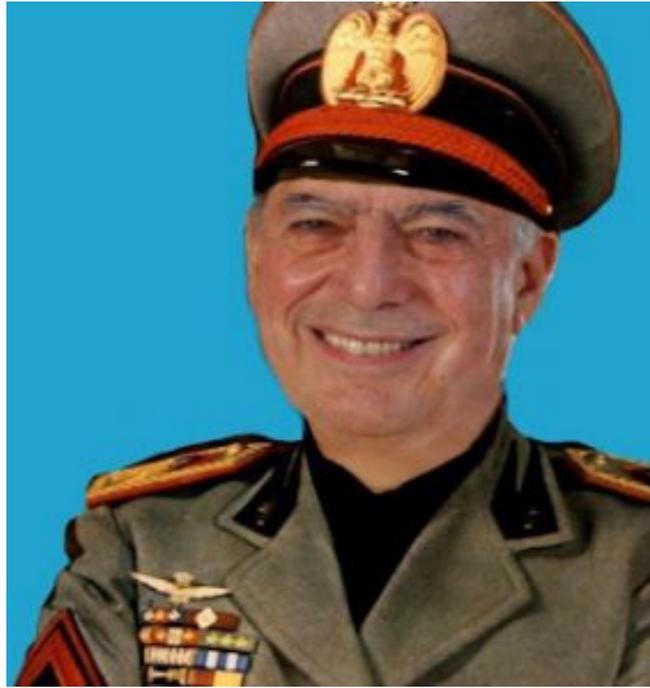
Carlos Figueroa
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Vargas Llosa and neo-fascism

Kast's project is to defend neoliberalism with authoritarian repression.



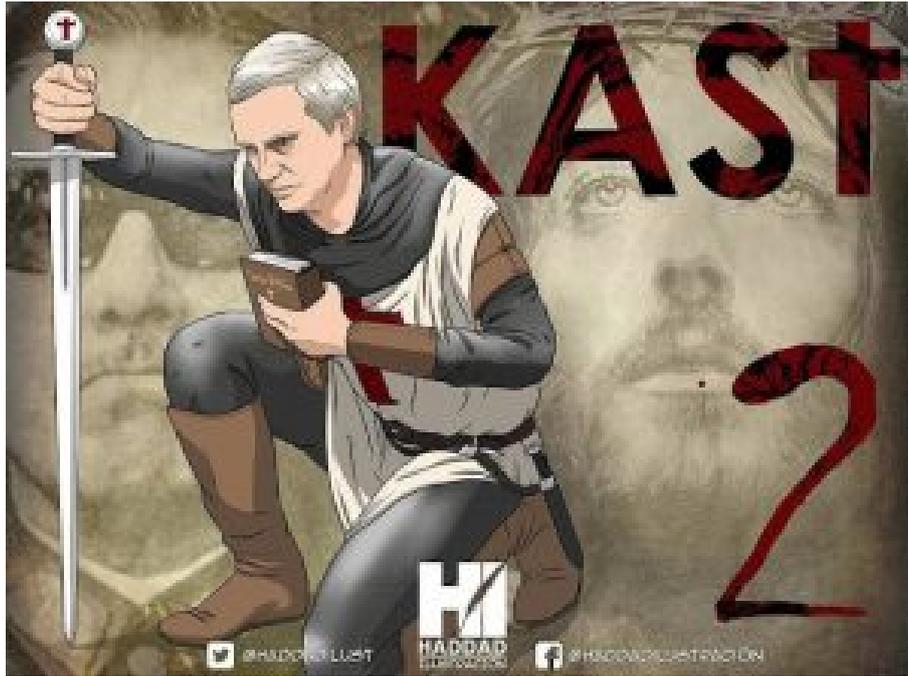
From the left Mario Vargas Llosa is seen as someone who turned to the right. He is certainly a man intelligent enough not to repeat the far-right assertions prevalent in these times. He ascribes himself as a "democrat," one of the euphemisms with which the neoliberal right wants to disguise its true affiliation. His latest novel, "Tiempos Recios," dedicated to the overthrow of Jacobo Árbenz in Guatemala and subsequent assassination of his overthrower, Castillo Armas, reveals his agenda different from that of the neo-fascist right. The meaning of the novel is to reproach the anti-communist right for giving the left the historical figure of Árbenz.



However, undoubtedly, in the face of the advance of the left, the neoliberal right will prefer any other scenario before the triumph of that left. At this moment, in Chile, the outlook for the neo-fascist José Antonio Kast is not flattering. After optimistic predictions for his candidacy having narrowly won the primaries, recent polls give a victory to the candidate of the left Gabriel Boric by a margin ranging from 5 to 13% of difference of votes. Given Chile's electoral history, it would be unusual for Boric to win in the second round: never has a losing candidate in the first round won the second.



But fear floods the right inside and outside Chile. When they celebrated "the end of the cycle of progressive governments," it seems that a new wave of them is coming. In an online meeting organized by Kast's party, Vargas Llosa said that "it would be a real tragedy for Latin America if the left continued to win elections." But who is the candidate Vargas Llosa considers preferable to the tragedy of a winning left?



Kast is the son of a Nazi officer who managed to take refuge in Italy and then in Chile.

Brother of Miguel Kast, one of the "Chicago Boys" who participated in the neoliberal design of the Pinochet dictatorship. Moreover, Miguel was associated with the Directorate of National Intelligence (DINA), the secret police of the Pinochet dictatorship. His other brother has been mentioned as a participant in prisoner interrogations after the 1973 coup.

Kinship aside, Kast defends Pinochet's legacy, a renewed "state of emergency" with powers to break into dwellings and espionage in communications, ditches (not walls) to prevent the passage of migrants, closure of the National Institute of Human Rights, an international plan against "left radicals" (new Plan Condor) [*read [Chile: Candidate Kast and Operation Condor](#), by Roberto Pizarro Hofer*], repeal of the Abortion Law, elimination of the Ministry of Women, closure of FLACSO-Chile [*Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences*], fight against the intervening State. Defense of the Pinochet Constitution, Christianity and the free market.

Kast's project is to defend neoliberalism with authoritarian repression. For forty years neoliberalism claimed to be a supporter of democracy. Now that it is in crisis, the Chilean social explosion in 2019 reveals it, it takes refuge in a right that takes off the democratic mask. Apparently Vargas Llosa is on that page.



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