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War in Ukraine

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The armed conflict in Ukraine is one year old and, at this point, it is impossible to know how long it will last and what the results will be. However, certain evidences allow us to formulate hypotheses with more or less correct features.

The most obvious thing is that this conflict is not a reality between Russia and Ukraine but between the United States and Russia and, more strategically, between the United States and China. And the possible exits of it necessarily pass through the role played by these

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powers, its true protagonists. Ukraine is just a pawn that is paying very hard for its role in this conflict. For their part, the European Union and other minor allies of the United States turn out to be equally secondary pawns although, given their size – especially of the EU – the problems generated within them by this commitment are not of minor dimensions.



Support for the United States and commitment within NATO already generate certain differences between key countries, casting doubt on their internal cohesion and the possible evolution of these contradictions, whether the submission of Europeans to the US strategy deepens or, on the contrary, ends up realizing a certain degree of independence of Europe from Washington. no less than nuances within NATO, without excluding the old idea (of General de Gaulle) of creating a European NATO, free from all external control.

Ukraine's role is explained above all by its enormous weakness and the very right-wing nature of its rulers (in some cases openly Nazi-inspired), mired in flagrant cases of corruption and apparently with little ability to manage their internal problems born of the multi-ethnic composition of the country; could the so-called Russian-speakers and those who welcome the Moscow Orthodox Church be up to 30% of the population? In addition to these, there is also no less friction with other ethnic and religious minorities, all of which complicates the management of the government. Although Western propaganda about the development of the war announces almost daily that Kiev wins and Moscow retreats, some recent events would show that, at least partially, this triumphalist announcement is far from true and responds rather to the typical war propaganda. The Ukrainian government also does not seem to be the best military strategist that is preached and the role of the military and intelligence services of the Western powers seems decisive

in the decision-making of Kiev (the United States and the United Kingdom, above all). The case of Germany is very significant; his weak (and mediocre) government does not count – judging by the polls – with solid support from the population and there is no lack of very authoritative voices such as Oscar Lafontaine who in a recent interview makes it clear openly: Berlin's decision is completely wrong and his country needs to promote a diplomatic solution and above all, terminate the relationship of submission to the United States.



The role of war in the economy allows us to see clearly how the current neoliberal model works, which has been managing unsuccessfully the harsh crisis of 2008 (which has not yet been fundamentally overcome) no less than the covid-19 pandemic. It is scandalous that from all these events (and the war in Ukraine turns out to be central to this perspective) the great centers of economic power of the West reap astronomical benefits while the majority of the population of the central countries sees their incomes reduced and the threshold of insecurity increased in all orders. And let us no longer talk about how the impact on the populations of the peripheral world turns out, of enormous drama in so many cases. The role of large companies linked to oil, gas and food stands out in this scenario, no less than the enormous profits of banking, as happened with the pandemic, which next to the millions of deaths and affected produced gigantic benefits to

pharmaceutical consortia. The application of economic sanctions to Russia has, of course, had a certain impact on its economy, which has been resolved with new customers on the planet; but the outlook in the West could not be more disappointing for its strategists judging above all by the harsh impact of the measures against Russia on its own economy, hitting especially the Europeans (for their not inconsiderable commercial links with Russia). Europe needs Russian oil and gas for the functioning of its economy, no less than its mineral and agricultural products. The economic measures against Russia, again, favour some minority groups (within the Western big bourgeoisie) but little or nothing to the bourgeoisie in general and less to broad layers of the population; including, of course, the United States itself.

In the background, it highlights the reality of a world in which the hegemony of traditional metropolises (especially the United States) tends to decline precipitously, while the new powers (the BRICS, and China in particular) gain ground with each passing day, dislodging the West. It is not by chance that the United States, NATO and their other minor allies have failed to gain real support in the rest of the world for their adventure in Ukraine. Beyond formal declarations, almost always of a purely diplomatic nature, in which most of these countries on the periphery of the world system regret the war in Ukraine and call for a diplomatic solution, the truth is that the traditional powers do not get real support on decisive issues. China and Russia, for example, maintain – and in many cases expand – their good relations with the vast majority of countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, that is, more or less 80% of the world's population and an already important (and growing) percentage of the generation of global wealth. The West is becoming less and less indispensable; No wonder then that he does not receive real support for his war adventure.



The governments of the periphery know perfectly well that this war of the West against Russia (and against China, from a broader perspective) is not their war and they have little or nothing to gain by supporting it. From this perspective, the proposals of some leaders (Lula, for example) to promote an initiative for peace talks are interesting. It only remains to specify what each of the contenders would gain, something that is decided of course on the battlefield, no less than at the negotiating table. Westerners do not seem to be very adept at these tasks judging by the results of the many wars they have promoted in recent decades; and Ukraine's could be one more to add to its list of defeats. Leopard tanks may influence something, but they won't decide anything. Once again, this war has served to enrich – even more – the so-called "military industrial complex" (Eisenhower) that it uses to liquidate stocks, increase its production (and profits) no less than to test new weapons. The Nazis also tested the massive bombing of towns in Guernica; in fact, it had already been tried long before by the colonial powers in China and Vietnam. And they didn't win either.

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