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Juan J. Paz And Miño Cepeda

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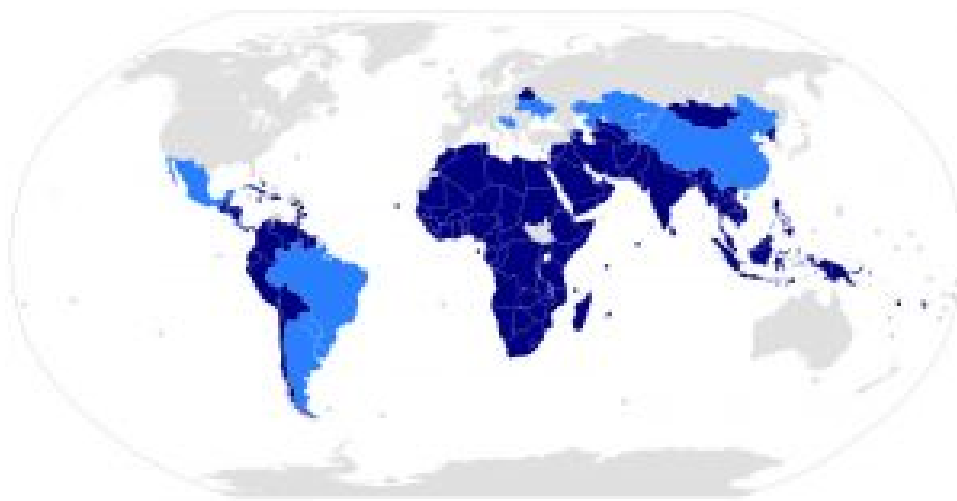
Latin America and the Rebirth of the "Third World"

In this nascent Mundus Novus of the XXI Century, the ideals of Bandung take strength and deserve to be renewed, which creates conditions for the rapprochement of Latin America with the other nations of the Third World, with the purpose of creating a geopolitical front that also affects the international arenas, on the basis of new forms of political integration for the defense of sovereignty, against the intentions of the Western powers...



The European colonialism of America took advantage of Spain in almost the entire continental territory, Portugal in what is now Brazil, while the Caribbean was a zone of dispute between the colonial powers. In any case, after the independence of the United States (1776), the independence processes of Latin America and the Caribbean between 1804-1824 marked the historical end of European colonialism on the continent, although

some territories were still pending (such as Guayanas or Malvinas), as well as Cuba and Puerto Rico, independent in 1898. On the other hand, although the European colonization of Africa had a long previous history, it was the *Berlin Conference of 1884* that resolved the division of this continent among the European imperialisms of the time, under the assumption of avoiding conflicts between them. The beneficiaries were, in order: France, United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain. Consequently, the independence processes of almost all countries, better identified as *decolonization of Africa*, only occur from the fifties of the twentieth century and extend until the 1990s. Several of those processes were bloody.



The liberation of Latin American countries, despite the external dependence that occurred during the nineteenth (England) and twentieth (USA) centuries, allowed the construction of national states, the advancement of sovereign policies at different times and the modernization of economies with relative autonomy. The same did not happen throughout Africa, because its belated release affected overall progress. On both continents, European colonization marked the conditions of underdevelopment, dependency and deep internal social divisions in almost all countries. But, equally, since the birth of the "Third World" since the Bandung Conference (Indonesia, 1955), a long process of accumulation of forces, wills, consciences and policies took root, which has raised the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to demand respect for their sovereignty, independence and autonomy, with the aim of building their own systems of economy and political regimes. Also largely an obstacle was the "cold war," which Manicheally divided the world between those who have "freedom" and "democracy," versus those of "communist

slavery." A duality built by the USA with the adhesion of the capitalist powers of Western Europe, which for decades have justified direct or indirect interventionism on the "underdeveloped" countries, to impose their interests.



The duality of the world created by the Cold War collapsed with the fall of Soviet and Eastern European socialism. Transnational globalization seemed triumphant forever. But the rise of China, Russia, the BRICS and the "Third World" countries, which asserts itself as never before since the beginning of the twenty-first century, has once again altered the world map. Today, the traditional powers of the West cannot impose, as they did in the immediate past, their vision and interests. This situation is the result of a set of contemporary historical processes, among which it is worth highlighting: the experiences of interventionism have accumulated growing rejection and resistance in the peoples; the advancement of education and technological progress in communications, sow citizen awareness, information and knowledge available to all, making deception impossible or difficult; economic modernization and material progress favour autonomous decisions, have expanded relations between countries and diversified "dependencies"; markets articulate new relationships; social movements and progressive and democratic forces

(usually identified with the left) emerge, which are committed to a different society; Governments are also formed with projects aimed at strengthening sovereignty; and in Latin America regional identity is growing.



Emmanuel Macron and Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi – Photo: Ludovic Marin / AFP.

Under these new conditions of world development, the old colonial powers are challenged. Just last week, unprecedented events accumulated: the president of France, Emmanuel Macrón, traveling through four African countries (former colonies), said that he will reduce the military presence, questioning the rapprochement with Russia and China; but in the Democratic Republic of Congo, President Félix Tshisekedi confronted him, demanding that he be respectful and that "the way Europe treats us has to change"; at the same time that street protests against France multiplied in West and North Africa; and, likewise, in Namibia, President Hage Gaeingob enlisted the German ambassador for his claim about the greater presence of Chinese than Germans in the country.



Hage Gaeingob, President of Namibia

With a singular audacity, Republican Congresswoman María Elvira Salazar warned the Argentine government na María Elvira Salazar warned the Argentine government that if they build Chinese fighter planes the US will not sit idly by before this "pact with the devil" and that "there are two worlds, the free world and the world of slaves, I hope that Argentines stay in the free world," he threatened, something that the spokesmen of the Argentine government house have had to answer.

With greater audacity, Republicans Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) and John Kennedy (Louisiana) have proposed that the US Executive can authorize the use of armed force to intervene in Mexico against drug trafficking, to which President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has responded with words that represent the broad feelings of the Latin American peoples. for he has criticized the "mania" and "bad habit" of the United States of "considering itself the government of the world"; He added: *"But it is even worse that they want to use military force to intervene in the public life of another country. That is, invade another country with the excuse that they are going after terrorist drug traffickers. Of course, it is pure propaganda. However, we must be rejecting all these claims of interventionism"*; and concluded by stating: *"Mexico is not a protectorate of the United States or a colony of the United States. Mexico is a free, independent, sovereign country. We don't take orders from anyone."* The pressures for Latin America to take a position in the war in Ukraine also want to define the region in favor of the interests of the Western world, while what is at stake in these lands is to preserve its status as a zone of peace,

without being defined by any of the powers that act in a conflict alien to Latin American sovereignty interests. although the war has already deserved regional condemnation.



Pavel Égüez. Cry of the Excluded, ceramic mural. Cotacachi, Ecuador. 2001

It warns that there is a takeoff, still slow, although historically unstoppable, of the dependent countries and that it has been possible due to the rupture of the hegemony of the West and the formation of a multipolar world. In this nascent *Mundus Novus of the XXI Century*, the ideals of Bandung take strength and deserve to be renewed, which creates conditions for the rapprochement of Latin America with the other nations of the Third World, with the purpose of creating a geopolitical front that also affects the international arenas, based on new forms of political integration for the defense of sovereignty, against the intentions of the Western powers to divide the world, once again, between the supposed bloc of "democracy" and the diabolical sphere of regions of "authoritarianism".



Juan J. Paz and Miño Cepeda for La Pluma, Ecuador March 13, 2023

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