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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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## *The notion of nation*

If it cannot be debated... where is sovereignty? If citizens do not even have the right to express their opinion on issues that directly concern them, such as their laws - starting with the first: the Constitution - where is the notion of nation? If it is not possible to define more priorities or objectives than a high level of profit for foreign capital accompanied by a ridiculous tax rate... what good is voting?

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Collective beliefs dissipate, lose strength, count less, or simply no longer count. Who believes political parties (I do not say *corrupt* because it would be a pleonasm) for example? Or to the Church refuge of pedophiles? Who still identifies with their own country when there are those who sell them at *outlet* prices? Luis Casado reflects on the

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subject, without using tweezers or metaphors... It is not the case to rejoice, as Lucretius did...

*Suave mari magno turbantibus aequota ventis aequora spectare e terra magnum laborem alterius*

(It is pleasant, when the winds torment the waves over the vast sea, to contemplate the sufferings of others from the top of a promontory... Lucretius. De Natura Rerum, II, v.1 to 33)

Among the tools I learned to use as a child is an irreplaceable one: the dictionary. I later learned that local practices make any word a very careful polysemic entanglement. Thus, a "guagua" is a nursing child in Chile, while in Cuba or in the Canary Islands it is a bus of those that in Chile we call "micro". What our Argentine neighbors call "Kurdish", in Spain is "to be in fart" and in Chile a "tranca", which the RAE defines as a *thick stick that is put for greater security, as a prop or crossed behind a closed door or window.*



Worse still, the same thing is designated in different ways and understanding becomes difficult. Example among others: for Cubans *papaya* is not the fruit one thinks. One thinks that he masters the language but returns to the dictionary to eliminate doubts, specify a

meaning or learn new words. Disadvantage: sometimes the dictionary itself misleads you, confuses you, leads you to dead ends.

I consulted the dictionary of the RAE to examine the notion of "nation" and look what I found: the word receives three meanings,

1. *f. All the inhabitants of a country governed by the same Government.*
2. *f. Territory of a Nation.*
3. *f. A group of people of the same origin and who generally speak the same language and have a common tradition.*

Ireland, a nation, has three governments: one in Dublin, one in Belfast and a third in London. The former Yugoslavia – one country – is now separated into no less than twelve "countries" with as many governments, including one created by bombings by the US and NATO. Scotland seeks independence from Britain and meanwhile is ruled by a government in London and another in Edinburgh.

Then, for the nation to be defined as the "territory of a nation" is something like a recursion: the definition of a word with the same word. *Bread is bread...*

As for the group of people of the same origin and who generally speak the same language and have a common tradition ... how can we not think of countries that are home to inhabitants that are dissimilar in language, culture, territory, traditions, customs, gastronomy, anthropological characteristics, skin color, religion, etc.? France is a good example. Or Belgium. Or Spain, not to mention India or even China and Russia. Or Chile, in whose territory we still find Aymaras, Quechuas, Diaguitas, Mapuches, Onas, Alacalufes and even other peoples despite the strenuous efforts of the conquerors and their unworthy successors to liquidate them all.



Assembly of some of the best known and abundant Amerindian tribes  
*Exit* therefore the RAE and its definitions. That is why he has turned to a concept of the French economist and researcher Frédéric Lordon. Here it is:

*"Democratic deliberation has its most favorable place in the constituency of what we call a nation. Knowing that by nation, if we are capable of a little spirit of abstraction, we must not understand the data of the outline of the current nations, but the nation, defined as the space of realization of the principle of sovereignty."*

I am not saying that this definition makes it easier to do with it: the European Union, for example, and the countries that make it up, would have great difficulty in demonstrating that it constitutes, or constitutes, the area for the realization of the principle of sovereignty.

That ectoplasm called Ursula von der Leyen, for example, was not chosen by anyone, and she rules as if she were the embodiment of popular suffrage. The same can be said of that clown-hitman named Josep Borrell, a mutant who went from the left wing of the PSOE to guardian of the European neo-fascist heritage. Franco must dance *muiñeira* in his grave.



Ursula von der Leyen and Josep Borrell. © EC audiovisual service

Add that Europe is nothing but a Protectorate of the USA and we already have it messed up. I do not say it, Charles de Gaulle said it when he denounced, in his capacity as president of France, that ministry of colonies called NATO. *Mon Général* had, as he himself said, "a certain idea of France": a great, strong, independent and sovereign nation... Nation that succumbed to him. Once again I do not say it, says Pierre de Gaulle,

grandson of the great Charles, who maintains that the French political class betrayed the ideals of his grandfather by surrendering to the domination of the empire.

When it comes to governing for their own people, the presidents have it raw every time they make decisions that contradict the interests of the oligarchies and the financial markets. Or the empire... which is pretty much the same.



The Ministry of the Colonies called OtAN

To resist you have to have convictions, skill, a brain and some balls. Otherwise you end up appointing Jaime de Aguirre Minister of... Culture!

Currently, in economic matters nothing can be debated, nor can the doxa be discarded or the revealed truth denied. Neoliberalism is the insurmountable destiny of humanity. That today the US practices hypocritical protectionism, finances companies that decide to leave Europe to settle in the empire, that once again important banks fail leaving the account to public funds ... It does not even stimulate the desire to think where no one thinks these things. In Chile for example.

If it cannot be debated... where is sovereignty? If citizens do not even have the right to express their opinion on issues that directly concern them, such as their laws - starting with the first: the Constitution - where is the notion of nation? If it is not possible to define more priorities or objectives than a high level of profit for foreign capital accompanied by a ridiculous tax rate... what good is voting?



Lord manu, sa vie, son œuvre...

The nation is no longer the space for the realization of the principle of sovereignty, if it ever was. To put it bluntly, the nation no longer exists.

These days, Macron tries to rule by decree in France, and so it goes. The immoderate use of Article 49.3 of the French Constitution, which imposes laws that no one has voted for, could bring down the government, force new parliamentary elections, and weaken, yes or yes, the fragile legitimacy of a default election.

Elsewhere the Constitution must be the result of extremely private masturbation among experts of onanism at the behest of big capital. You call it as you please: committee of experts, citizen council, technical committee ... What is nowhere to be found is the nation. That space of realization of the principle of sovereignty that disappeared on September 11, 1973, almost 50 years ago.

How we miss you, Salvador...!

*Luis Casado for La Pluma*

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