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زبانهای اروپایی

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03.05.2023

Colombia: deepening the change or accelerating the coup?



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The triumph of the government of change and power of life, of the "[streets and squares](#)", marked a historic break in the line of continuity of the traditional governments of the bourgeoisie. For the first time in republican history, a president is elected who, on the one hand, represents a broad popular movement and free citizenship, and on the other, does not come from the liberal and conservative political parties, parties with which Colombia has been governed by a single class, the oligarchy.



[Responsible parenthood](#), by Matador, *El Tiempo*

The government of hope, as they call it, with broad popular support, has begun to navigate the troubled and polluted waters of Colombian politics, as everyone knows. Complete 8 months trying to approve a program of urgent reforms that cries out for the society of the socially excluded; reforms that without being the most radical and being adjusted to the Constitution, find a fierce opposition and the preparation of a coup by the class that historically has become a narco oligarchy.

Opposition lacking scruples and respect for forms and norms, which has been making use of different strategies to wear it down and create the conditions to give a (soft) blow against the first government that seeks to reform the corrupt, criminal State at the service of the mafias and return it to its character as a Social State of Law as established by the Constitution.

No one who knows and has studied the development and radical changes that the Colombian State has undergone in the last five decades, can deny the condition of failed State that drags the nation. A state at the service of a minority that has captured it and enriched itself from public goods, the national budget, the fair of public offices, big business and contracts that they have monopolized for their oligarchic circles, their clients, their servants and their lackeys.

This excessive concentration of wealth in Colombia in a few hands, has left without constitutional rights a majority that suffers exclusion, state violence when protesting, systematic extermination, in addition to massive poverty, unemployment, lack of basic services, quality access to health, education, culture and decent housing.

Undoubtedly, those who radically oppose the government of change are the real factors of power led by the [defeated political forces](#), inside and outside the country (the interference

and interests of US imperialism), such as big capital, private banks, key institutions such as the Prosecutor's Office, Attorney General's Office, army and police, paramilitarism and the counterinsurgency parastatal that continues to systematically assassinate social leaders. the high clergy and the monstrous corporate media. Meanwhile, the government of change only has the electoral triumph and a significant majority of mobilized people.

Hence, the new cabinet appointed by President Petro raises fundamental questions about what he will have to face from now on, apart from the argument that what is sought is "a social pact" with all political forces, mainly with those who radically oppose his mandate, sabotage him and seek to give him a [coup d'état](#) , as warned by the Jesuit Javier Giraldo, a recognized defender of human rights in Colombia. So if what the government seeks is to break the siege in which the oligarchy has encircled it, making use of all forms and means of political struggle, the only thing guaranteed is that more attacks will come from which we know little how, what or when they will come.

That is why we must be extremely alert, the popular movement, the free citizens and the mobilized people to immediately recover the streets and return to the popular and extra-parliamentary struggle, as was done during the national strike of #28A 2021, which soon became the most feared social outbreak in Colombia in decades.

The profiles of the [new members of the cabinet](#) are characterized by having impeccable academic resumes, experience and specialization in topics related to the positions they were appointed, but above all most are part of the president's circle of trust, having already worked with him in the mayor's office of Bogotá or during his period as senator. But there is also the quota of converts from traditional parties such as the interior min, a liberal, former senator (Luis Fernando Velasco) who has been in the dissident tents of that traditional party for a few years; an ICT minister (Mauricio Lizcano) son of a corrupt liberal political leader from Caldas, heir to a major political tradition; to a Minister of Health (Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo) by profession a doctor, pediatric heart surgeon and former governor of Tolima during the government of Virgilio Barco.

Undoubtedly, having handed over on a silver platter the head of Health Minister Carolina Corcho to the right that sabotages the urgent reforms that the country needs, is more of the old strategy of one step forward and two steps back, with the idea of generating conditions for a new class alliance or social pact looking for an ally that, Perhaps, it is not in Parliament but in the streets and fields.

This shift in the helm without a clear north is surely the product of the cornering in which the government is trying to urgently promote a broad and deep reform that, due to the need to create agreements with the opposition to be approved, is already lame.

Here the question is valid: what is the difference between the new cabinet and the old one? It gives the impression that it is more formal than substantive. The social pact proposed by the government today is not defined by a cabinet shake-up, this proposed new class alliance is defined concretely by a relationship of forces which, under current conditions, is outside the bourgeois parliament. Parliament that, due to the fragile and uncertain majorities to which it is exposed, does not offer real guarantees to form a solid and cohesive government that generates the long-awaited change.

With this helm, President Gustavo Petro distances himself from the political subject, the only real factor of power, among others, that can break the state of inertia and stagnation of the process in which Colombia is immersed. Perhaps he is convinced that it is from the parliament, however worn out and illegitimate it may be, that it must continue to insist on seeking a relative majority in favor of reform, even if this class alliance is not really a guarantee to achieve it, and on the contrary, it is one more strategy to continue weakening it.

It is not by putting different guasca to the same dog that the changes will be achieved. This class alliance will always depend on the sum of all the real factors of power, and the concrete and existing ones, with the exception of the people factor and the mobilized popular movement, are not on the side of change but of oligarchic continuity that only seeks to put an end to the new government, even if it has the legitimacy of the votes that elected it. but not enough parliamentary majority to defeat the forces that have governed Colombia with the policy of death.

It also remains to be seen if the forecast of some cadres of the oligarchy is fulfilled, who have maintained that Petro is the best firefighter in Colombia to put out the boiling volcano that is Colombian society. That will only be possible if people's patience endures and does not burst at any time, in the face of an unexpected or consciously provoked event.

Already some youth sectors, especially the students, begin to disbelieve a government that has made changes but has left them alone and forgotten (except for the debts with ICETEX and the promise of more universities and financing), a government that has undoubtedly made decisions that favor popular sectors (the bonus or income for the 3 million women heads of household), It has handed over assets confiscated from the mafia

to families victims of displacement and expropriation, which has shown determination and results in the fight against drug trafficking, but which continues to fail to comply with other important issues of the change program.

Dozens of young people who were in the social outbreak of #28A 2021 are still in prison. It is just one example that the discontent in the sectors that helped generate change from the popular and extra-parliamentary struggle, increases and begins to doubt the capacity for maneuver and decision of a government that is weak and distances itself from the sectors and the social movement. The so-called total peace advances with great setbacks, while the daily extermination of social leaders continues. And the issue of land to fulfill the unfulfilled peace agreement with the former FARC, continues to get bogged down because the right is entrenched, armed and determined to prevent there being a true agrarian reform in Colombia, while the government is advancing like a turtle, the paramilitary and landowner right does it uncontrollably.

After the colossal and historic triumph, it seems as if we have been anesthetized by the belief that everything was going to be solved with a new government for change and for life; when what has been seen is that exercising governance from a decomposed state and an illegitimate parliament that, moreover, represents the majority of the interests of a bloodthirsty class, is, simply, more of the same.

Oto Higueta for La Pluma

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

Available translations: Français

Read in the pen:

[Political progress in Colombia: Petro manages to get rid of the infiltrated ministers of the extreme right and characterizes the progresista mood of his Government](#)

La Pluma.net 02.05.2023