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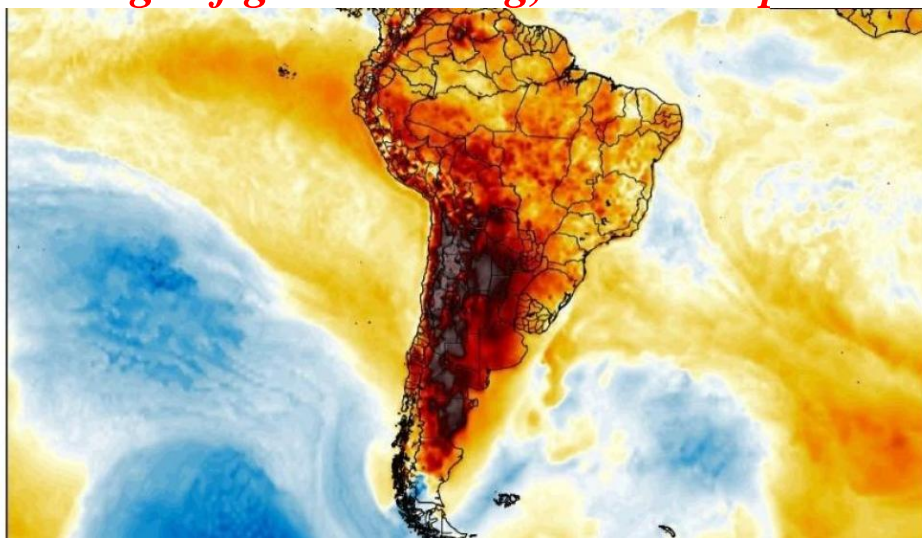
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زبانهای اروپایی

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## *In the age of global boiling, who is responsible?*



**Sources:** Rebellion [Image: One of the most extreme heat waves of 2023 is occurring in the middle of the austral winter. MetDesk]

*The heat wave in the middle of winter recorded in recent days in the south central region of South America is a warning to our peoples of what is happening in the northern hemisphere, globally and about what is to come.*

. Almost a month ago, in the [first article of this series](#), we pointed out these climatic anomalies that already aroused the concerns of scientists and activists: record surface temperature in the North Atlantic, in that of the oceans globally, in the retraction of the growth of Antarctic ice in the middle of the cold season, in that of the earth's surface. And we also referred to the traces of droughts and fires that were unfolding in different parts of the world.

In this short time, the problem has only worsened. With a historic heat wave sweeping part of the northern hemisphere, on July 27 the World Meteorological Organization and the Copernicus Climate Change Service of the European Commission confirmed that the month of July was the hottest ever recorded in the history of humanity and it is estimated that, in annual terms, 2023 will reach a similar record. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, at a press conference said: "**the era of global warming is over; The era of global boiling has arrived** [...] Climate change is here. It's terrifying. And it's just the beginning [...] The only surprise is the speed of change [...] The consequences are clear and tragic" (Guterres, 2023, translation is ours). And addressing world leaders he exclaimed, "No more hesitation. No more excuses. Stop waiting for others to act first. There's no time for that anymore. It is still possible [...] to avoid the worst of climate change [...] But only with drastic and immediate climate action [...] No more *green washing*. No more deception" (idem). An interpellation that recalls the tone of the warnings made by Greta Thunberg and so many activists and movements over the past years.

These statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations take place when, at the same time, the persecution of these movements in the South and also in the North advances. Recall that only a month and a half ago, on June 21, the Macron Government in France, under the accusation of terrorism, outlawed and decreed the dissolution of the socio-environmental organization *Les Soulèvements de la Terre*, a collective founded in 2021 that has more than 180 local committees throughout the country, and that, last March, he promoted a massive action for water in the town of Sainte-Soline with the participation of more than 30,000 demonstrators. And that in Spain and the rest of Europe the judicial processes of activists are increasing, in a context of environmental emergency where these movements grow and advance, more and more, with forms of civil disobedience and direct action. In Our America and the global South we know well these persecutions and the tragic mark of murders and threats, and of brutal repression of the protests that strike our peoples; particularly, those who face extractivist dispossession, as is happening today in the province of Jujuy in Argentina.

Meanwhile, "extreme weather is becoming the new normal," as Guterres defined it at the aforementioned conference, stating that "all countries must respond to and protect their populations from the scorching heat, deadly floods, storms, droughts and raging fires that result [it is necessary] to save millions of lives from climate *carnage*. in the original]"

(idem). And it is only a verbatim quote from what the Secretary-General of the United Nations himself said a few days ago.

Now, knowing the causes, the probable evolution and consequences of this disaster; knowing perfectly well what it must be done to prevent or mitigate it; How is it possible that we have arrived to this situation? Who has led us to this so-called "new normality"? Who is responsible for us now thinking about survival? in the "era of global boiling"?

Global warming is the result of increased noun in the atmosphere of the so-called "greenhouse gases" (GHG), particularly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and the obvious solution is to reduce or Eliminate its issuance. Let's briefly review the available scientific data about it. If we analyze the distribution of these GHG emissions by country, we know that the 20 richest and most industrialized countries are responsible for 80% (Guterres, 2023). Only the US, the European Union, China, India, Russia and Japan emit more 65% of CO<sub>2</sub> (Marchini, 2022). Although, considering the total by country, the the main emitter today is China; The distribution is completely different if We examine the issue in relation to population, being that the countries with The highest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are the Persian Gulf States, USA, Australia and Canada (idem). Clearly, those responsible for climate change They are mainly the richest countries, in the North and, in particular, those of the Old center of industrial capitalism. So much so, that the Convention and the The first UN agreements on this issue explicitly recognized these differentiated responsibilities. Inequality that widens even more if we consider the contribution per country to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in terms of historical, an area where only U.S. and European Union emissions represent 47% (idem). Being that carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, increased emissions since the First Industrial Revolution, by England first, on the basis of the steam engine and the consumption of coal, constitute a significant climate debt owed by the North to the South.

Let us examine the social aspect of climate change. The 50% of the world's population with the lowest income is only responsible for 7% of emissions while the richest 10% is to blame for almost 50% of emissions. annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Chancel and Piketty, 2022). Unquestionably, climate change It is linked to an imperial way of life of which it enjoys only a small portion. of society (Brand and Wissen, 2021) and its resolution entails questioning this pattern of distribution and consumption where climate justice inevitably and The social march intimately united. The injustice is of such magnitude that the Countries and populations that have contributed least and contribute to change The poorest

and least industrialized suffer the most. They will suffer the effects of this catastrophe in progress.

Finally, we can consider CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector of economic activity and energy matrix. Considering all the Greenhouse gases, according to 2019 measurements, 34% of emissions comes from industry, 22% from agriculture, and 16% from transport and of building infrastructure (Marchini, 2022). It is clear that a Radical reduction of emissions implies a profound transformation of forms of production and life. With regard to energy sources, the data they are even more eloquent; By 2019 more than 84% of emissions correspond to the consumption of so-called fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) that, Paradoxically, it continues to increase globally (idem).

It's not just a problem of resolution Technological, it is not solved simply with the development of energies renewable and less if the transition is under corporate control. In his excellent book, Andreas Malm (2020) demonstrates, with substantial evidence empirical, that the option for an industrialization based on the steam engine and the use of coal in nineteenth-century England was not based on a calculation of profitability or technological efficiency but in the fact that it resulted in the Best option for English industrialists in the aim of weakening the demands and strength of the workers. A capital option against the work. Also, at the beginning of the twentieth century, electric cars were manufactured -the famous Detroit Model D, among others-, but socially the engine was imposed of gasoline. Technological choices are based on social interests.

When heat waves overwhelm us, or rains flood the lives of urban populations, or droughts cause desertification and rising food prices and fires make the air unbreathable, when what is already happening intensifies, We know well who is responsible, who defends their scandalous profits and their super-well-being at the expense of the majority of the world's population. Confronting those sectors and interests, that is the challenge that climate change it imposes on our peoples and on the mankind.

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