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Hatred and fear



Sources: Página/12 - Image: The threat to the radical leader Agustín Rombolá, who called to vote for Massa (the green Falcón was the vehicle used by the paramilitaries to kidnap opponents of the dictatorship; it is a symbol of state terrorism).

An election campaign is over, where the broadest choice is between those who will vote out of hatred or fear. Only a more politicized part of society will vote between two antagonistic models of the country.

It has been a campaign with many ambushes, with advisers advising lying to candidates who affirm one thing in the first round and retract it in the second. Between the first round and the debate and the support of the third-place finisher and the second-place finisher, there is an indecipherable picture for diagnosis. Above all, it has been a campaign that led

a less politicized majority to base their vote on two emotional issues: those who vote out of anger and those who vote out of fear.

Advisors of low morality and without any media responsibility advise their clients to use hateful, exalted, contemptuous and insulting speech. It is the discourse that fits with the hegemonic media, accustomed to the language of the intelligence services and the operations of fake news.

It is the brutal tone and slogans that capture attention and allow an unknown person to quickly become a contestant for the presidency. This is not because it is a democratic mechanism, but quite the opposite, because it obstructs the dynamics of the debate on proposals. This public confrontation of projects should be the most honest and participatory process because it allows us to decide on real information based on the interests or ideas of each person.

Hate speech is the one that has most clearly expressed the politicking that society rejects, although it is disguised in other vices of the political system that are also repudiated. **Hate speech is cloaked in an illusionist's trick because it is used to criticize politics and not its dishonest aspects.**

In this way, the only one who qualifies is the one who criticizes and all the others are left in the pigsty of the deceivers. But the main deceiver, the dirtiest of all, is the one who avoids the debate because he can't face it and hides behind hate speech.

The anti-political discourse constructed in this way is essentially politicking because at that point it is already a construction of advisers and supposed specialists who are not morally interested in the end or the means. And then the same specialists are the ones who advise: "now we have to say that he is not going to do anything of what he promised, that those were ideas that are proposed to mark a long-term path."

A society with real problems in the economy due to inflation and in its own freedom of movement due to the pandemic, is especially sensitive to these hate speeches that capture the frustration and hopelessness of the lack of visibility of a better possible future.

Hate speech has several consequences that would also be undesirable for the one who engages in it. First, it spreads hatred and tunes in to fact-taking groups that are difficult to control. At that very moment, the person responsible for what these groups do is the one who fueled the hatred to use it as a political emblem. And if they are investigated and punished in the courts, the same should be done with those responsible for masterminds.

They are groups similar to those that in other campaigns paraded with pitchforks with dolls hanging, or those that threw consortium bags with the names of their opponents to

those who threatened to turn them into corpses. **Failure to punish these performative incursions and naturalize them led to the climate that led to the assassination attempt on Vice President Cristina Kirchner.**

The justice system had a responsibility that it did not assume, and even less so when the judges in charge of investigating the assassination attempt did not want to incorporate the hate speech that promoted it as part of the attack. For the judge in question, it was a loose group of marginals despite the fact that they are sustained by an identifiable discourse and it is proven that they were supported by identified companies as well.

If they were "crazy people on the loose," the electoral campaign would not have had the level of verbal violence that it did, nor would there have been a cascade of threats. Chef Paulina Cocina, actress Dolores Fonzi, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Cecilia Moreau, and the leader of the radical youth, Agustín Rombolá, among many others, were threatened for having expressed their electoral preferences.

"The Green Falcon passes by next week," they wrote to Rombolá. Several of the threats that circulated had that connotation, because it is not an imaginary, phantasmic terror, but a possible terror. State terrorism is not in the realm of the oneiric but is part of the Argentine historical experience.

The dictatorship was the other way around at the beginning, with a discourse of normality – almost like a family man – all the atrocities were practiced. But when cruelty and bestiality were laid bare by the trials, formless fear became embodied, discourse stripped its disguise and became a threat. Hate speech in politics and in Argentina is inevitably related to the dictatorship. That is why so many genocidal prisoners felt represented by that diatribe.

At the same time, the tiles on the door of the schools bearing the names of the missing students were vandalized. And the National University of Cuyo was also vandalized. It is no coincidence that the targets of these attacks are schools. Education is the antithesis of this preaching of hate. Diatribe and hatred as a political strategy seek to hide what education exposes by rationalizing knowledge.

Another consequence of hate speech is that in addition to capturing and amplifying latent anger, it generates fear, which appears as rejection in the face of the threat. It is not part of the disease, but a health reaction to a real, not imaginary, threat. **Hatred generates fear and also resistance, and not as isolated one-off reactions, but as antibodies to an infection that threatens to spread.**

The final consequence is a society that is torn between fear and hatred as happens in extreme situations of dictatorships or wars, when this is not the case in today's Argentina. The campaign that ended yesterday shifted towards options more akin to a context of war or terminal crisis. There is a real crisis, which cannot be denied and which is at the basis of this hate speech. But it is not terminal, it is a crisis with solutions and the great challenge would have been to discuss and confront them in a reasonable framework.

The hate-filled diatribe does not seek to clarify, but to confuse. The campaign showed a country that did not finish the primary school of democracy. For those who were closer to politics, it was clear that two national projects were at stake, but for most it was divided between anger and fear. It was a campaign that should not be repeated, no matter how antagonistic the proposals may be. There is no absolute consensus, there are even differences between the two people who form a marriage. There are always contradictions and competing interests. But it is a question of confrontation and debate within a reasonable framework as part of the democratic game.

Source: <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/617898-odio-y-miedo>

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