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The Journey

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Essequibo: imperialist dispossession

That the events in progress are not a confrontation between two South American nations, but a corporate operation backed by U.S. guns, is proven from the moment that the expenses of the international litigation filed by Guyana are defrayed by Exxon... Until a final solution is reached, Georgetown must refrain from handing over to the plunderers riches and territories that do not belong to it.



Washington has decided to embark fully on a new episode of its imperialist interference against the peoples of Latin America. In the midst of growing tensions between Guyana and Venezuela over the Essequibo territory, controlled by Georgetown but legally and historically an indivisible part of the Venezuelan state, the U.S. Southern Command carried out flight operations inside Guyana last Thursday, December 7. The sending of U.S. Military Forces was described by the government of Nicolás Maduro as an "unfortunate provocation," and the Guyanese Vice President announced that it could be

the prelude to the installation of military bases of the superpower on Venezuelan soil under the control of its neighbor.

It should be remembered that the dispute over Guyana Essequiba dates back to the 19th century, when the United Kingdom "bought" from the Netherlands a strip of South America that did not belong to any of these empires. The treaty signed by London and Amsterdam did not establish the western boundaries of the property, and between the 1840s and 1880s the British claimed increasing portions of land, declaring theirs 160,000 square kilometers west of the Essequibo River that belong to Venezuela. In 1899, they had a Parisian court issue an award declaring them owners of that territory, in an operation so fraudulent that the United Kingdom itself signed the Geneva Agreement of 1966 with Caracas, in which they recognized the Essequibo as a disputed area and agreed to resolve differences by peaceful means. Three months later, London "granted" independence to the country, which was renamed the Republic of Guyana, whose governments admitted the validity of the Geneva Agreement until 2015, when gigantic oil reserves were discovered in the Guyanese-controlled portion of Venezuela. Since then, transnational companies, in particular ExxonMobil, have taken over blocks in the region that have allowed them to skyrocket their revenues. As is typical, Guyana perceives a paltry percentage of that bonanza, and what reaches the majority is a drop of water in the ocean of wealth extracted by corporations.



Here is the great paradox: in 1895, Washington invoked the Monroe Doctrine, in which it rejects any attempt by the European powers to interfere in the affairs of the American continent (and arrogates to itself such a prerogative), to reject the illegal enlargement of British Guiana. Already in the middle of the 20th century, a memorandum was revealed in which an American lawyer denounced the Paris award of 1899 as a compromise with biased judges. Now, reviving his tradition of treating the interests of U.S.-owned companies as a matter of military competence, he proclaims the British robbery against

Venezuela valid, stimulates Georgetown's obsequiousness to predatory multinationals and threatens Caracas to desist in the defense of its inalienable sovereignty.



That the events in progress are not a confrontation between two South American nations, but a corporate operation backed by U.S. guns, is proven from the moment that the expenses of the international litigation filed by Guyana are borne by Exxon. The White House, the oil companies (as well as those that exploit or intend to extract the gold, forestry and water resources of the Essequibo) and other foreign actors must take their hands off the conflict and let Venezuela and Guyana resolve it within the framework of the Geneva Agreement. Until a final solution is reached, Georgetown must refrain from handing over to the plunderers riches and territories that do not belong to it.

Source: [La Jornada](#), Mexico, [Chronicle](#) December 8 and 9, 2023

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