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"Long live fucking freedom!"

Neoliberals and libertarians are convinced that "freedom" refers exclusively to the capitalist economy and business competition. His labor ideas involve founding the slavery of the twentieth century... Latin American neoliberalism, on the other hand, has demonstrated its historical failure and anarcho-capitalist libertarianism has become a "theory" of the capitalist periphery, typical of underdevelopment.



In the post-Covid-19 pandemic era, Latin America is both a region in dispute and involved in the change from a unipolar world to a multipolar and multi-central one, as well as the region in which power *blocs* headed by *business elites* are constituted, which have set out to dominate and prevent progressive alternatives from coming to power.



Corporate governments have taken up the neoliberal slogans of the final decades of the twentieth century, they are clear in attacking the legacies of the progressive past, which they consider to be the cause of the economic, social and institutional difficulties of the present; they respond to the formation of right-wing power blocs; And, in the exercise of power, they have privileged the interests of their class, regardless of the disastrous conditions that Latin American neoliberalism has generated everywhere and on which there are abundant studies and reports and, above all, the lived experience of the peoples. In this general framework, Javier Milei's presidential triumph in Argentina should arouse the attention of scholars throughout Latin America. He is the first *libertarian* and *anarcho-capitalist* president in the world, whose professional career and his ideas during the electoral campaign demonstrated the purposes of overcoming traditional neoliberalism to advance to a new level: the *disappearance of the State*, which begins with its radical shrinking; the privatization of everything public; the complete liberalization of markets and, above all, the external market; dismantling the tax system; the questioning of any redistribution of wealth, the desire for justice and state attention to the population; the overvaluation of private enterprise as the sole provider of goods and services; deeper labor flexibility to favor investors; alignment with the Western world and Americanism; and the re-founding of the democracy of the capitalists. As Milei himself shouted in his well-known slogan: "Long live freedom, dammit!"



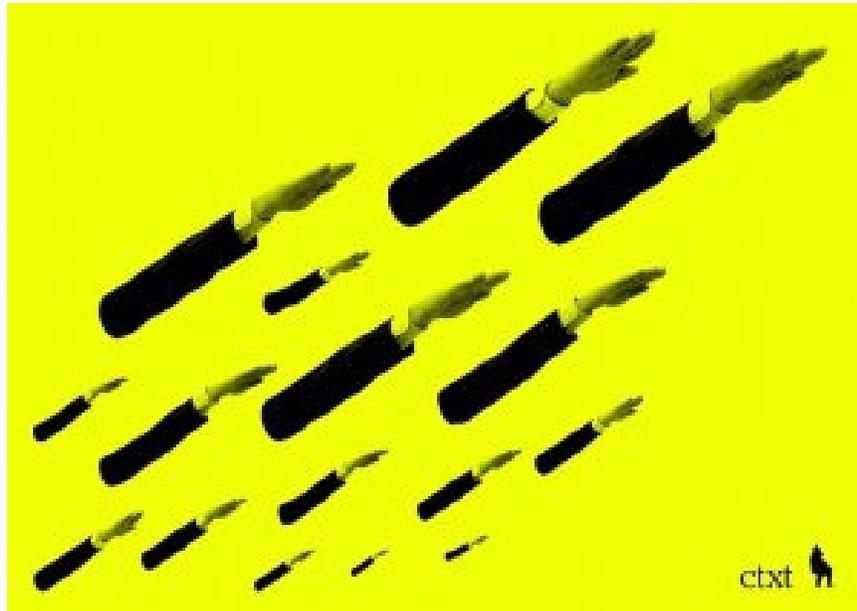
As a result of this electoral success, Milei's followers have become enthusiastic or, soon, they will become visible in every Latin American country, where their respective power bloc will aspire to reissue the libertarian utopias of the business class in power. It is symptomatic that an editorial in the Brazilian newspaper [O Globo](#) defends the first measures of the government-Milei, who openly pointed out: *"There is no room for discussion between shock and gradualism. Naturally, this will have a negative impact on the level of activity, employment, real wages, the number of poor and indigent people."*



Argentina's President Javier Milei addresses his supporters from the balcony of the Casa Rosada, while his sister Karina Milei and her partner Fatima Flórez look on. Photo: Reuters. [LT THE THIRD](#)

In the "libertarian" camp we have, for the moment, the ruinous experience of the Ecuadorians. Guillermo Lasso came from and presides over "[Ecuador Libre](#)", [a libertarian think tank](#) linked to [Atlas Network](#), and [RELIAL](#), from which several ministers and close collaborators joined, highlighting [Pablo Arosemena](#), mediocre Minister of Economy. The disaster to which they led the country, demonstrable in economic figures, collapse of

living and working conditions in popular and middle sectors, state deinstitutionalization and, in addition, the penetration of mafias and expansion of organized crime groups, a phenomenon never before experienced in national history, was of such magnitude that even the right-wing business power bloc (unified during the government of Lenín Moreno) was fractured. to the point that the impeachment of the president was proposed in the Assembly, who, in order to avoid it, resorted to the "death of the cross", being forced to finish his term after two and a half years, without fulfilling the planned four.



But Ecuador is not the same as Argentina, a huge country and always a benchmark in Latin American studies as well as in the international arena. Lasso and the picturesque Ecuadorian "libertarians" have no importance compared to what Milei is going to have, to such an extent that in all the news programs and programs of the major world communication networks his triumph has been followed, his "controversial" figure is opined upon, he is identified as "ultra-right". Analyses are carried out to understand the scope of his political project, destined to achieve, at last, the dreamed paradise of Latin American private enterprise, so far removed from the social concepts that motivated the European Welfare States, incapable of imagining a program like Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and anchored to traditional oligarchic visions. that prevent the region from emerging from underdevelopment.

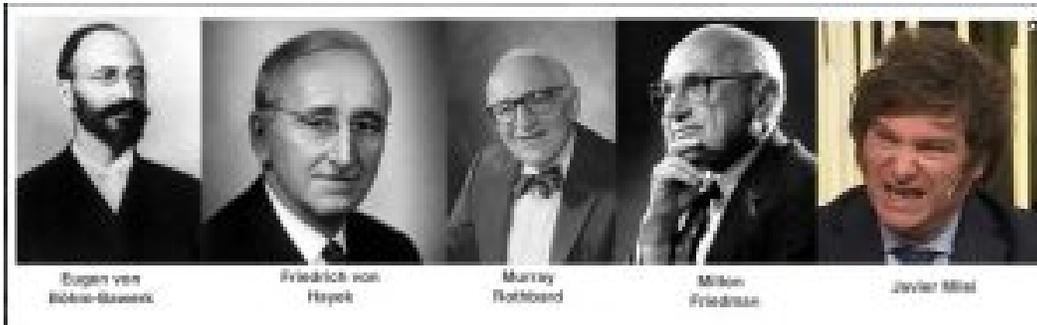
Milei's shock-chainsaw has been lightning fast in its beginnings and was announced by [Luis Caputo, its Minister of Economy](#). In order not to fall behind in Latin America, the IMF immediately welcomed *"the courageous first steps"*

(DW: <https://t.ly/Eel5p> // https://t.ly/_B0aX). But ultra-entrepreneurial and anarcho-capitalist ideals are also beginning to clash with reality. Milei had to retract not negotiating with China because it was "*a communist country*" [to ask for its financial support](#). Nor will the Central Bank close and dollarization is frozen. Reality versus utopia.



Right-winger's letter to Xi Jinping: [Milei moves away from his anti-communist preaching and asks China for money](#)

Libertarian ideas, as Milei consistently emphasized, come from [a number of economic thinkers](#). At the head are two: [Eugen von Bohm-Bawerk](#) (1851-1914), a rabid nineteenth-century anti-Marxist who questioned the labour theory of value, deserving the forceful response of the Austrian Marxist [Rudolf Hilferding](#) (1877-1941); and the other, [Friedrich von Hayek](#) (1889-1992), also a convinced anti-Marxist, who questioned the theories of [John M. Keynes](#) (1883-1946) as "socialists", who had to dismantle Hayek. The latest in fashion are [Murray Rothbard](#) (1926-1995), founder of what he called "anarcho-capitalism" and (1912-2006), contemporary neoliberal, another anti-Marxist, anti-socialist and anti-Keynesian, advisor [to Ronald Reagan](#) and [Margaret Thatcher](#) and, unfortunately for Latin America, the inspirer of the "[Chicago Boys](#)", which guided the Chilean neoliberalism of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. But all these theorists were unaware of the economic history and realities of Latin America.



Neoliberals and libertarians are convinced that "freedom" refers exclusively to the capitalist economy and business competition. Their labor ideas involve founding *the slavery of the 21st century*. His speculations about the withdrawal of the state are possible rhetoric in Latin America, but not in Europe or the US, despite the neoliberal policies promoted by Reagan and Thatcher. Both European countries and the U.S. The U.S. has powerful states, with enormous economic capacities. In Europe, the foundations of welfare states, such as public and universal social security, are still preserved. Latin American neoliberalism, on the other hand, has demonstrated its historical failure and anarcho-capitalist libertarianism has become a "theory" of the capitalist periphery, typical of underdevelopment. It can only deepen the *class struggle* and, when necessary, will use open repression against those who oppose it. The warning has been issued (see this document: <https://shorturl.at/cqwCF> // <https://shorturl.at/dnxAH>). And the danger of imposing the "freedom" of capital, considered "unique" and "true," is now real. There is no single proposal for economic development with social well-being and human happiness.

Juan J. Paz and Miño Cepeda for La Pluma. Ecuador, December 18, 2023

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