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## Will Argentina explode in 2024?

Identification with a humanistic social ethic and with a behavior consistent with it can be the basis for orienting the collective dream towards the future. Because it is said that hope is the last thing to be lost. But it is also true that it is the first thing to recover



Between 2019 and 2020, massive social uprisings rocked the political scene in Chile, Ecuador, and Colombia. The straws that broke the camel's back of popular (im)patience were the increase in the cost of public transport, the price of fuel and a tax reform.

Beyond the cathartic explosion of the moment, widespread anger was unleashed against the continuity of neoliberal policies sustained for decades in Chile and Colombia and adopted by the electoral betrayal of Lenín Moreno in Ecuador. It's not thirty pesos but 30 years, read one of the main slogans of the Chilean "goats", who, like their Colombian and

Ecuadorian generational peers, formed the "front line" of the stampede, to which social, indigenous and trade union movements later conferred organic solidity.



Faced with the arrival of the liberal ultra-right in Argentina, the brutality of the package of economic measures, the anti-people presidential mega decree of "necessity and urgency" and a repressive protocol against protest, all in the span of just two weeks, many wonder if something similar will happen in the country in the year about to begin.

An immediate initial reaction was shown through a march of Trotskyist and piquetero groups, together with successive spontaneous pot-banging in various cities of the country and the public rejection of grassroots trade union and social organizations. For its part, a broad political spectrum, mostly in the opposition, expressed – in a tone of institutional political correctness – the unconstitutionality of the mammoth that violates the separation of powers, accusing the new executive of arrogating to itself monarchical or dictatorial powers.

Are these the indications of a collective uprising in the face of the declared intention of the new government to minimize the state and eliminate rights acquired in long struggles? Or are they just a faint and predictable sign of resistance in the face of the unbridled onslaught of big capital on the national patrimony and the particular situation of millions of people?

Puppets, intermediaries and puppeteers



Enraged by a broad electoral victory, the (dis)government has just taken office and embarked on a policy of shock, unequivocally showing its privatizing and mercantilist vocation. Despite the tactical onslaught of trying to impose quickly, without any consensus or debate, a profound restructuring of the role of the State, the current president has already announced "that there will be more" of the same potion, administered with similar cruelty by the military regimes, the neoliberal Neanderthals of the last decades of the twentieth century and, more recently, the Communist Party. by the Macri government. Strictly speaking, this first volley aims to return favors or simply show servile disposition to the banks and the multinational business community, creating a potable "scorched earth" scheme for the social expropriation of natural resources and juicy businesses derived from the regulatory inhibition of the State and the collective submission to private rules.

The supposed legitimacy wielded by the defenders of this impoverished and antiquated version of "freedom" from the seventeenth century is that of having obtained support through popular vote. A vote that, without a doubt, was based more on the rejection of the inefficiency of the previous government to significantly improve the lives of the large

groups than on the endorsement of the program that the new administration is now deploying in a superb and omnipotent way.

The term "administration" is a sincerity granted by U.S. political jargon to replace the word "government" to which the now anointed with the presidential sash honors. In this scheme, the president is just a puppet of the establishment. But the puppeteer is not Macri's godfather, but rather he fulfills the function of being only an intermediary with real economic power, geopolitically aligned with the side opposed to a new multipolar order.



The plan of this government of the governed seeks to revalidate the adhesion achieved at the polls of the millions of refugees in the "entrepreneurship of precariousness", a mostly young sector excluded from the formal economy and exploited, among other variants, by business modalities of work through digital platforms.

Individualism, nourished and re-nourished by these forms of production and social relations, is a fertile breeding ground for the fallacies of libertarian ideology. You could even say that it is its daily and structural seat. By taking the reins of public policy and promoting itself as the only way out, this ideology only fuels the rupture of the social fabric and the law of the jungle. It thus exercises a new type of state terrorism, stigmatizing social leadership and all kinds of organic forms.

The strategic objective of this social jibarization is to atomize the collective fabric and weaken its capacities for joint action in the achievement of new rights.

Resist, insist, exist, never give up

Against this backdrop, there is agreement among the opposition political sectors (and some even closer to the current government) that the effective application of the decree should be prevented through legal submissions and demands that it be passed through Congress.



Although these actions are of undeniable validity from the tactical-legal point of view, they can only put a brake on liberal barbarism if they are accompanied by an intense and determined popular mobilization, whose engine will not be institutional argumentation at all, but the excessive and abusive increases in the cost of living.

The trade union confederations have communicated their intention to mobilise in Congress in the middle of next week and the formalisation of an action plan that could include a general strike, a measure that for now is reserved for demands on digital platforms.

The difficulty of this necessary resistance lies in the relative weakness of the opposition leaderships, whose position will be reviled by the now ruling caste as a simple reaction of the outgoing caste not to lose its privileges.

It remains to be seen whether the most unprotected and vulnerable sectors, who today are more concerned with their immediate survival and whose resentment has not dissipated at all, will bow to the demands. It remains to be seen whether the students, always protagonists at the beginning of any popular revolt, anticipate the impact that the cuts and the foreseeable trend of privatization of public education will have.



It remains to be seen whether retirees and pensioners, a sector whose social protection is threatened in the very short term due to the decline in their purchasing power, the high cost of medicines and prepaid coverage, and in the medium term, the predictable collapse of public health – to facilitate their conversion into a business – begin to loudly demand the reversal of the policies of the bad government. These could be necessary signals for the formation of a critical mass that is essential to stop and finally prevent the auction of Argentina, with its people inside.

However, a social outburst of these characteristics would be nothing more than a critique of the abuses of the system and not of its uses. In the context of the evident systemic crisis, an essential change, a revolution, can only take place when there is a profound change in beliefs and values, in the way of seeing the world, in the representation that a human group has of reality.



Judging by the current indicators, these transformations seem unlikely in the immediate future, despite the fact that the historical process shows sufficient factors of disorder to

amply justify the urgent need for such changes. The problem lies in the fact that today, as in other historical periods, the reactionary factions set themselves up as a false loudspeaker for these modifications with simple and easily assimilated radical proclamations. Proclamations and characters that are also amplified by traditional and digital channels for the mass consumption of disinformation, at the service of the elites. This manipulation, which keeps the large groups in a daze, is in turn facilitated by the lack of exchange, of comparing opinions, of the growing dissolution of the links that make direct communication possible in the same social base.



The horizon makes it clear that political regeneration can only be done from the neighborhoods, the places of residence and work, from social roots. Today's revolutionaries are surely busy promoting the recomposition of human bonds, a precondition for the emergence of new social utopias and the creation of shelter from the social inclement weather of loneliness and violence propagated by the usual barbarians. Identification with a humanistic social ethic and with a behavior consistent with it can be the basis for orienting the collective dream towards the future. Because it is said that hope is the last thing to be lost. But it is also true that it is the first thing to recover.

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