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Politics, a lucrative investment

A purpose that could greatly simplify the institutional bureaucracy and the large fiscal expenditure to finance those who often occupy the different positions for four years or more without even being known by the public.



It is well known that the left is always divided, just as the right also tends to express itself in very belligerent alternatives, even if they finally unite and converge to participate in elections or overthrow governments.

In the past, the different partisan strands represented divergent ideological and programmatic positions, but now, in reality, these are fundamentally groupings under the tutelage of different caudillos, whose fundamental concern is to reach or remain in power.

When it came to fighting the dictatorship, in which the main objective was to shake off the authoritarian regime, there were already dozens of parties in Chile committed to the same thing and whose divisions, in truth, greatly delayed the democratic outcome.

So, too, from the right-wing world that united in support of the de facto regime, over the years parties and referents emerged that marked, rather, the different leaderships that began to dispute the succession of Pinochet and the military.



The governments of the Concertación, the New Majority and the two right-wing administrations had to be forced to reconcile positions among their supporters, as well as to share the cake of power between them. As soon as they arrived at La Moneda, the presidents had to serve the demands or appetites of the different expressions of the ruling party of the day.

That is to say, both from the parties with the most votes and those with very little representation in Parliament, where the general tie between right and left forces the heads of state to be condescending to them. Because those who barely have two or three parliamentarians are usually crucial in getting laws passed, rejected or amended.

The number of ministries, undersecretaries, governorships, embassies and other departments serve fundamentally to share the governmental cake as harmoniously as possible, in order to grant positions to all co-religionists. The same happens with the numerous parliamentary seats, so that with just a few votes they can all be installed in the Legislative Power. Incidentally, they are in positions paid at least seven times higher than what most Chilean workers earn.

At the same time, the political class has sought to raise the salaries of the judiciary and military and police officers, achieving a balance in terms of income that would ward off any new attempt at insubordination. So that everyone is happy with their "public service" task. Trying to equalize, too, the income of the public administration with that of private activity, so that managers are not tempted by politics.



It is not the ideas and programs of government that animate the political debate. If we look at the last few years, the truth is that controversies have been marked by personal ambitions and power struggles. Not even the traditional parties of the so-called left maintain their ideological profile, so that being socialist, social-Christian, communist, PDP, for example, no longer indicates anything about the purposes of those who subscribe to these denominations.

In the same way that Pinochetism blossomed into parties that could very weakly display the conservatism and liberalism of yesteryear, so that expressions such as the Independent Democratic Union, National Renewal and the Republican Party usually mean exactly the opposite of what their names or acronyms indicate.

Likewise, if the color red, blue or black reaffirmed the character of those who carried them on their flags and banners, today we see that yellow, orange and others constitute the nothing more than chromatic diversity of the Chilean political spectrum.

To the above, let us add that corruption scandals, embezzlement from the treasury, bribery and other bad practices that allow politicians to enrich themselves illicitly have had a lot of explanation in the corporate defense of the political class when facing the complaints.

The two recently aborted constitutional experiments attempted to reduce the number of parties. The idea was that the floor of voters or the number of their elected deputies would mark their electoral solvency, decreeing the dissolution of those who do not reach a minimum number of votes. It was estimated that at least fifteen or twenty parties would be

forced to dissolve or join the most popular groups, among the more than 35 registered with the Electoral Service or in the process of being formed.

Without a new Constitution, we already know that we will continue to be governed by the 1980 Constitution dictated by Pinochet and somewhat revamped later. In this way, it would now have to be the current authorities of La Moneda and the Legislative Branch who agree on an electoral reform that would stop and reduce the excessive proliferation of parties that rather barely represent "political sensitivities" as many say.

A purpose that could greatly simplify the institutional bureaucracy and the large fiscal expenditure to finance those who often occupy the different positions for four years or more without even being known by the public.

But this reform will now be little less than an impossible task if those who have to legislate on it are part of the parties and movements entrenched in the institutions of the State. Thriving, of course, from the resources of all Chileans.

It is well known that, in relation to our population, we have an inordinate number of representatives, as well as their stipends are very large compared to what the politicians of the richest countries on Earth receive.

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