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## 2023: A year of sharpening political conflicts but shifts in power

This right of veto of the five victorious powers of the Second World War is not only undemocratic but anachronistic and has to end at some point with the creation of another body that really does promote and preserve peace in the world and not war (as it has been historically).



*O forest, wife of silence, mother of solitude  
and mist, what evil fate left me a prisoner  
in your green prison?*

José Eustasio Rivera (1888-1928)

*The Maelstrom*

Relative time is absolute in its historical and political failures, for all without exception. What is happening in different geographies in the world makes the *peoples* tremble, whose most progressive governments show their solidarity with great detachment. And what happens? Famines, wars, deforestation, media misinformation, advances in technological and scientific developments such as the so-called artificial intelligence, genocides, consolidation of Multipolar Powers, accelerated increase in climate change and many more events that force intelligent and humane action to stop such inhumane policies of planetary impact. Which one is more important? All of them, but for brevity's sake, I will only outline some of them, dramatic and decisive for the survival of the human species.



Here in Colombia, South America, for more than 200 years, we have survived multiple wars and, for five decades, an internal armed conflict with criminal and paramilitary groups. I could say that we are not only children of violence but direct and indirect protagonists.

The Colombian government, headed by President Gustavo Petro Urrego (2022-2026), little by little, despite the violent political and armed opposition, has dared to bring about a Political Change, with its reforms to health, pensions, education, labor and with its Total Peace Policy: peace agreements with the insurgency and submission to justice of armed

groups that have no political character. Health care reform is urgent and passed the House of Representatives. In February 2024, its debate begins in the Senate and, if approved, it will become a Law of the Republic. But the opposition will continue to oppose the reform because it defends with all fronts (unions, economic and political parties) the continuity of its lucrative but shameful business of the Health Promoting Companies, EPS, which was given life by Law 100 of 1993, whose rapporteur was Mr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, who was president for two terms. from 2002 to 2010. Experts have already analyzed this health system in different scenarios.

President Gustavo Petro Urrego, with his reformist plans, has marked a turning point in Colombian politics, even with mistakes such as in communications – he has barely been in power for a long year, which has been used by the oligarchies as a machine to enrich themselves and perpetuate themselves in it, that is, almost 200 years. Like it or not, he has managed in a short time, as a convinced and coherent Head of State, to reach areas of the country that have been forgotten for centuries, so that his government programs, at last, benefit vulnerable and marginalized populations such as the peripheries (Caribbean, Pacific, Orinoco and Amazon) black, peasant and indigenous, lacking public services, communications, internet, energy. And as a scholar of the thought of Simón Bolívar, he will persist as the Man of Difficulties and achieve a transformation that has just begun, of a Colombia that has been assaulted by the traditional political parties (liberal and conservative) and their new movements, camouflaged with their incendiary movements that instill terror and fear in the ignorant masses.

But in order to have a favorable impact on the Colombian people, it is not only necessary to read and study, which President Petro reiterates, but also to have an effective communicational pedagogy that informs and forms political subjects.

The enemies of the Homeland who proclaim themselves patriots and "good people" are intelligent and have powerful political, economic and military ties with armed groups of all kinds, who seek to replace Petro as constitutional President through a soft coup or Lawfare (legal war). But, with intelligence and popular mobilization, it is possible to prevent it, so that its Total Peace and different Reforms, do not become another titanic wasted effort, so that Colombia, a country with a great geostrategic position and with immense and rich biodiversity, is a more equitable social, political, cultural and environmental nation.

On the international stage, the hegemony of the United States continues to decline and its strategic partner, the European Union, its pawn, faces in all areas an increasingly powerful

bloc of political, economic and military consolidation, called [BRICS](#) (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), which at its 2023 meeting in South Africa admitted six new countries as members: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, as of January 1, 2024. That is, the Global South. It positions itself as another Power, which, in the coming years, will be the focus of many of the so-called underdeveloped countries, which have been colonized and neocolonized by the United States in Latin America, Africa and Asia, and plundered their immense common goods: water, fabulous and amazing biodiversity, and strategic minerals such as lithium and rare earths. I would go so far as to say that Colombia is a candidate to become a member of the BRICS in the future.

And the Gaza Strip? Once again, the obsolescence of the United Nations – which created the State of Israel – is demonstrated, and with the right of veto of the United States as a permanent member of the Security Council (the others are Russia, China, France and England), it prevents Israel's ceasefire against Palestine, continuing an atrocious genocide and violating all human rights and war. to continue appropriating their land that historically belongs to them. This right of veto of the five victorious powers of the Second World War is not only undemocratic but anachronistic and has to end at some point with the creation of another body that really does promote and preserve peace in the world and not war (as it has been historically).



There are other issues to remember that there is still time to act in defense of the only amazing home we have: Earth.

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