

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Juan J. Paz and Miño Cepeda

01.02.2024

Under the magnifying glass: U.S. "offers" Ecuador a "security plan"

Monroism lives, the struggle continues!



Between 1775 and 1783, the Thirteen Colonies of North America fought a war with Great Britain for independence, which was anticipated with the Declaration of July 4, 1776. Once obtained, the United States went on to build a federal state, with republican, presidential, democratic, and constitutional government. Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), a French liberal thinker, wrote two volumes with the title "Democracy in America", highlighting the rise of that country, under a pioneering historical and sociological approach, which delved into the social bases of what he considered an admirable nation.



Until the beginning of the 20th century, the U.S. conducted itself under the diplomacy of isolation from the conflictive Europe and protectionism in the economic sphere, considering that free trade was not convenient to achieve the industrial development of the country. But, with the proclamation of the *Monroe Doctrine* ("America for the Americans") in 1823, aimed at curbing any neo-colonialist attempt by Europe on the continent, the U.S. ensured increasing interventionism over Latin America and the Caribbean. Simón Bolívar (1783-1830) warned, with impressive clairvoyance, of this expansionism. He was confident that the Republic of Colombia (1819) could counteract him and lead to the integration of the entire Spanish-American region, alienating the U.S. In a letter dated August 5, 1829, from Guayaquil, he wrote to Colonel Patricio Campbell: "*The United States seems destined by Providence to plague America with misery, in the name of freedom.*"

If one studies the relations between the United States and Latin America during the nineteenth century, one can gauge the prophetic meaning that these words acquired. Interventionism and expansive actions were directly experienced by Central American countries and in the Caribbean, particularly by Cuba. That record led Ecuadorian liberal president and caudillo Eloy Alfaro (1842-1912) to convene an International American Congress that met in Mexico on August 10, 1896, despite a U.S. boycott. But that did not prevent the eight attending countries from approving a forceful Declaration, which supported Cuba's independence struggle, Venezuela's claim to Esequiva Guiana and, above all, postulated the need to subject the Monroe Doctrine to public international law, which should be agreed upon by all the American republics.

During the 20th century, the U.S., in the midst of imperialist expansion, abandoned its old isolationism, became the first country to concentrate economic relations with Latin America, displacing Europe, and its numerous interventionisms on a global scale had the purpose of guaranteeing both its geostrategic interests of hegemony and those of its companies and investors. Monroist Americanism was reimposed with World War II (1939-1945). Ecuador was a victim of this situation, because it was forced to sign the Protocol of Rio de Janeiro (1942) derived from the war with Peru, in the face of the proclaimed continental unity against the Nazi-fascist Axis. Foreign Minister Julio Tobar Donoso testified to this in his book. Behind the curtain was also the oil dispute between British and American companies in the Ecuadorian-Peruvian Amazon, highlighted by a book by Manuel Medina Castro. The Cold War, aimed at halting any advance of "communism" in the world, dragged Latin America down in the wake of the Cuban Revolution (1959). The cruel and inhumane repercussions in Latin America have gone down in history in all the countries where the doctrine of "National Security" and the persecution of all leftists was installed, as well as in the terrorist military regimes of the Southern Cone in the 1970s.

After the collapse of Soviet-style socialism and the "end" of the Cold War, so far in the 21st century the U.S. has moved on to another level or type of international confrontation with China, Russia and the BRICS. The rise of these countries has determined a new multipolar and multi-central world, continuously analyzed by the CLACSO Working Group "[China and the World Power Map](#)". At the same time, geostrategies are being outlined in the U.S. that are not limited to the field of "cooperation" with the armed forces, but have multiple mechanisms of action in the economy, politics, education, culture, propaganda, the media, and civil society organizations, whose purpose is to prevent the loss of Monroist hegemonism.

Against this backdrop, Latin American governments should not fail to consider the lessons of history. But that is almost impossible to obtain when there are governments identified with those right-wingers and bourgeoisies that benefit from the neoliberal, libertarian model or that achieve power with business presidents. They are elites culturally captivated by the "American way of life" and by the trips, studies, apartments, investments, purchases or businesses they carry out in the U.S. and who would be at risk if they assumed categorically patriotic positions. Thus, the historical experience of the region knows that in

such cases subordination to "dollar diplomacy" and the inability to notice the various ways in which the sovereignty and dignity of their own nations may be affected.



Richardson and Noboa

History now points to Ecuador. The institutional disaster with a reduced State, inherited from the government of Lenín Moreno (2017-2021), has been joined by the explosion of narco-crime "holdings" with that of Guillermo Lasso (2021-2023) (<https://t.ly/lvrzw>), who, in addition, has left a harmful [military cooperation agreement with the US](#), which updates and modernizes the lines of the old TIAR (https://fb.watch/pwfDJ_f8ej/). It is true that the country cannot fight an isolated battle. A number of Governments have expressed their desire to collaborate. But the U.S. has been more powerful, interested in covering the entire continent with its national security strategies, as General [Laura Richardson](#), commander of the Southern Command, a member of the delegation that arrived in Ecuador a few days ago and that has offered a ["five-year plan" for security in this country](#). The Constitutional Court issued a questionable ruling that, while preventing the agreement from passing through the National Assembly, leaves the ultimate responsibility in the hands of President Daniel Noboa. The military agreement includes inconvenient provisions, unrelated to the central matter, that exempt U.S. civilian or military personnel from *Ecuadorian legal jurisdiction within the national territory* (<https://t.ly/f8ifS>), as has been well observed from abroad (<https://shorturl.at/cALX5>).

The problem goes beyond the strictly legal and juridical. It has to do with the confrontation between Latin Americanism and Monroism, with the play of forces in global

geostrategies and, without a doubt, with the political calculations within Ecuador. All this does not prevent us from stressing that, instead of subordinating foreign cooperation to national interests, the agreement signed by Lasso implies doing it the other way around. That is why in Ecuador the question is, what will President Daniel Noboa finally do?

Juan J. Paz and Miño Cepeda for La Pluma, Ecuador January 29, 2024

Edited by [Fausto Giudice](#)

Published by [Blog History & Present](#)

Visit the network of the collective Ruta Crítica, the new blog for the dissemination of alternative thought and communication

La Pluma. net 30.01.2024