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Cruelty and misogyny, keys to contempt for citizens' rights

One of the features of fascism is its cruelty as a policy. The ultra-stalk is not interested in diminishing or abolishing it, or even imagining attenuations. Its purpose is to remove all restraint from it, to invest power with an unlimited expansion of cruelty. And it's only been 60 days of government.



Argentina, Women vs. Milei

Javier Milei came to power showing his contempt for the expansion of rights in general, and the agenda of the women's movement in particular ("violence has no gender", "there is no wage gap"). His critiques of what he often calls "gender ideology" are among the concerns of radical neo-rightists around the globe: it's no business pitting women against each other.



On his social media, Milei redoubled his attacks against singer Lali Espósito. Just as Donald Trump did before him in the United States and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, the far-right La Libertad Avanza knew how to take advantage of the radicalization of the language of the networks and raise the floodgates to political incorrectness to let "the thought of the common man" pass, contained, apparently gagged, says Dolores Curia. It uncovered the pot of racist, homophobic, misogynistic ideas that were already circulating on the deepweb, but also in the forums of the most widely read news portals in the country.

Cruelty

Cruelty, an emotional response of "indifference or enjoyment" in the face of the suffering of others – as defined by the Royal Spanish Academy – landed at the heliport of the Casa Rosada. The writer Martín Kohan pointed out in a radio interview that "cruelty is fashionable," summarizing the moments when the President's public gestures spread cruelty... or its variants.

Synonyms for the adjective cruel range from "violent, bloody, heartless, ruthless, insensitive, and inhumane," to "brutal, barbaric, ferocious, atrocious, sadistic, and savage." The president mocks a teenager who faints on the side at a school event and insults a teacher who dares to criticize the pension adjustment. Its spokesperson celebrates the closure of the state news agency Télam, which implies layoffs and disinformation. The Ministry of Human Capital blames "irregularities" in the previous administration for the interruption in the delivery of oncological medicines.



The examples are multiplying, but they continue to be addressed as news in the mainstream media, where the replication of the attacks gains ground over the coverage of the socio-economic effects of the government." If those who exercise the most important public powers have these aggressive, intimidating messages, obviously the call is for citizens to be intimidated, to be afraid of them. More than fear, terror. Provoking terror is the strategic objective of this type of discourse exercised by the highest political authorities," says researcher Ezequiel Ipar.

Bullying

Beyond his exasperating personality, the far-right Argentine president Javier Milei feels obliged to harass and harass the public: by carrying out systematic bullying he tries to empathize with that portion of the population that inhabits disenchantment and waits, anguished. Maybe it's in the political nature of his character, or just in the plans of his writers.

If the previous president, the forgettable Alberto Fernández, was the *meme president* for his absolute ability to summon mockery, Javier Milei is the bullying president. If the first symbolically condensed the state's ineffectiveness in the face of a country in decline, the second concentrates anger at the persistence of the crisis. Rage catalyzed into hatred and contempt for others; impotent fury vomited in shouts and insults.



Alberto Fernandez, memes: Don't wake me up, I'm working

While 46 million Argentines are trying to overcome a tremendous economic adjustment, hunger is rampant in the cities and even more so in the interior of the country. Sometimes it's hard to tell whether the president is going forward or backward. Milei ignored a decree he signed a week ago that gave members of the executive branch (and himself) a 48% salary increase.

And since he has no qualms about lying, he pointed out that it was "the product of a decree signed by Cristina Kirchner" (who, by the way, left the presidency in 2015).

Milei continued with the confrontations: he had a series of outbursts in a private meeting with businessmen, within the framework of the ExpoAgro. "I'm going to piss on them," he said. At the meeting, he harshly attacked the governors, hours after the announcement of the so-called May Pact, in which provincial leaders and the president must reach a national agreement on governability.



MILEI AGAINST THE GOVERNORS: "I'M GOING TO PISS ON THEM" AND "IF THEY KEEP SCREWING UP, I'LL SHUT DOWN CONGRESS"

Perhaps he can't contain his rage: he's still angry about the fall of the Omnibus Law, which he says was derailed in Congress by the governors." Who do they think they are?" , he told the agricultural businessmen and warned: "If they continue to screw around, I will close the Congress," he said.

Among the businessmen present were executives of the oil company YPF, Banco Nación and Exponenciador, the firm that organizes the meeting of ruralism, as well as the Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Francos, and the sister and secretary of the Presidency, Karina Milei.

Misogyny?

In Argentina, a government that openly proclaims itself anti-feminist came to power. In less than three months, it applied a 33% pruning in public policy spending to reduce gender inequality. In May 2022, at the Book Fair, he said that he had no reason to "feel ashamed of being a white, blond, blue-eyed man" and announced that if he became president, he would close the Ministry of Women.

Misogyny is the aversion, contempt, or hatred of women. On International Women's Day, Karina Milei, sister of the president and secretary general of the Presidency, left the Hall of Heroes of the Casa Rosada without a single woman.

The decision erased 17 portraits in one fell swoop, including some heroines of the Independence such as Juana Azurduy, María Remedios del Valle, Mariquita Sánchez de

Thompson, the first doctor in the country Cecilia Grierson, Lola Mora, the sculptor from Tucumán, famous for the Fountain of the Nereids.



Other figures linked to the political rights that women conquered in the twentieth century, such as Alicia Moreau de Justo, Eva Perón and Florentina Gómez Miranda, literary figures such as Victoria Ocampo, Alfonsina Storni, María Elena Walsh, and entertainment such as the singers Mercedes Sosa, Tita Merello, and the Mapuche Aimé Painé.

"I thought that the pope had given him a class of greatness and love for his neighbor, and that he governed for everyone, not just for the applauders of the day, who in the long run hurt you and you don't know how much. I only hope that the misogyny of some can be cured with intelligence and nobility," said provincial deputy Amalia Granata

Colophon

Cruelty is a language of war. When Milei takes the food to the soup kitchens, she is not thinking about the fact that it is humans who are suffering. He doesn't care that millions of people can't afford to buy medicine or feed themselves: pensioners are the first victims of the adjustment because they are in a defenseless situation.

Dehumanized, Milei has lost human nature by "taking refuge in his abstract mathematical formulas." "And if millions have to die, millions will die, it doesn't affect him. Just think about your equation," says Patricia Chaina. Cruelty is implemented from power and is socially transmitted.

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Edited by [Maria Piedad Ossaba](#)

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