

2010: Towards An Anti-Imperialist, Working Class Strategy

Unión del Barrio

La Verdad Publications (2009-2010)

www.uniondelbarrio.org - info@uniondelbarrio.org

As every year ends and the dawn of a new year begins there are comparisons of the past, the present and the future; leaving the majority of the people wishing each other hopes for better luck for the coming year; this, without any type of analysis of the past and present. Without an analysis of any kind, nor based on any theory, be it Marxist or any other; rather simply making this gesture based on individual or particular well wishings. This is how statements such as: "This will be a better year; this year I'll pay all my debts; this year I'll loose weight; god will help us make this year a fantastic year" etc., etc., etc. In other words, this is how some people hope and wait that out of nothing the great social, political and economic problems that afflict our families, our people and our society will be resolved.

At the end of 2009 there were opinions and analysis of the policies of the empire. These opinions were a reflection of protests that had occurred throughout the year. Not long ago, Rafael Correa of Ecuador denounced in an open and upfront fashion a military conspiracy to destabilize his government. Naturally this conspiracy was supported by an oligarchy that represents a minority from within Ecuador, who observes in obscurity how the Ecuadorian people, through their government, accelerate their pace towards total emancipation and total political integration with fraternal nations. They do this through the ALBA (The Bolivarian Alternative for the Américas) and other multinational organizations, such as, UNASUR and GRUPO DE RIO.

Speaking of rivers, in Brazil, a strong resistance movement by the military surges as investigations of torture, executions and disappearances perpetrated by elements of the armed forces during the military dictatorships of the past moves forward in that country. We must never forget that the Brazilian dictatorships of times past came to represent the political, economic and military model in the region where the application of state terrorism was refined, implemented, and expanded to places like Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia; in this region known as the "Southern Cone."

As the press refers to what is happening to Lula's Brazil as a "soft coup" it is important to recognize that today he governs with very high approval ratings. However, it is this very type of "soft coup" that was administered to the President of Honduras in June of 2009.

The military coup in Honduras was planned from beginning to end by the North American Empire, based on the history and trajectory of the empire throughout Latin America. We can also affirm with certainty that the military coup in this small Central American nation is not an isolated case, nor is it a solitary case. The political, economic and military evidence suggests that it is part of a much larger and greater plan of the North American Empire. This greater plan has as its objective, the elimination of the liberating process that has begun to emerge as the popular will of the people's of Latin America, or what we refer to as Nuestra América. This plan that the empire has, involves everything from small economic and political pressures to all out military violence.

Weren't we all shocked when the President of the United States was named the Nobel Peace Prize recipient of

2009? This prize was presented to respond for the military offensive that was and is to be unleashed by Obama; ultimately it was he, the highest representative of the North American empire, who proclaimed: "war [has] a role to preserving the peace," even if it means invasion and occupation. These were the words uttered in Oslo where he gave his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize. Probably what is most dangerous is that the President of the empire, in his 36-minute message of thanks, not only presented the concept of the necessity of war for peace, but he dedicated his time to the medieval religious philosophy of the "Just War." Naturally he mentioned nothing of how these philosophies transformed- or as he suggests, "evolved"- into the international world order we know today. No mention of the slavery of the African, the genocide of indigenous nations, the apartheid world of minority rule, or the fascist coups in support of capitalism. Rather he refers to the evolution of institutions that never mention "just wars or unjust wars"; only that war are times of war, and peace are times of peace.

Someone asked, and what is Europe's opinion of all this? It's a shame that the response is so simple: the right wing governments and those so called "social democratic" governments fall in line with the empire of the north. They fall into line with the empire because they play the role of the empire's lackey so as to obtain the kickbacks from the conquests of the third and fourth worlds.

One only has to observe the dangers that represent the military bases that are installed in Colombia, the ones in Panamá, and the reactivated IV Float by the Pentagon. With all of these military movements, the empire has not only surrounded Venezuela, but surrounded all of Nuestra América under the guise of combating drug trafficking.

Within Mexico we are witness how the rule of law is undermined as the "fight against drug trafficking" is waged. It is not unfamiliar to anyone how the right wing government has extended its military "invasion" throughout the entire republic, all under the premise of combating the drug cartels. Naturally Mexico's Imperial neighbor to the north delivers maximum military assistance to Calderón to conduct raids, check points, roving patrols in cities and neighborhoods by hooded military officials for so called detention and elimination of anyone of anyone involved in the drug business.

According to some sources, in the last three years until the present, there have been an estimated 15,000 people who have been assassinated. During this same period the number of disappeared in roughly 3,000. During this war on drug trafficking there have been an estimated loss of 725 police and soldiers combined. Which means that the civilian cost of this war, including the "criminal" elements and the innocent have suffered 14,275 losses. No one can estimate with certainty nor distinguish exactly which ones were "criminals" or which ones were innocent by standards that just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Nor can it be determined with exact clarity which ones were struck by bullets from the military patrols that travel the city streets of Mexico.

These are the consequences when a government turns over police roles over to the military. Simply speaking, this government of Mexico, Calderón's government, has placed the cities, streets and highways of Mexico under a no mans land; under a state where the rule of law disappears and martial law is imposed. This is to say that Calderón, directed by the boss of bosses of the north, has brushed aside the philosophy of internal security and has placed his military force to combat the internal enemy: Drug trafficking.

It is widely recognized that as much as the military moves to eliminate one drug cartel or the boss of bosses,

the problem of drug trafficking will continue to exist as long as the north has done nothing to end the consumerism of drugs on the one hand, and the trafficking of guns money and arms to Mexico, on the other. Since the problem has been known, we have heard of the many instances where marihuana, heroine and cocaine have been seized as its being transported into the United States. Yet, never or hardly ever do we hear or read of the confiscation of arms and money that has been intercepted entering México. As long as the economic umbilical cord remains in tact, drug trafficking will continue. We all know this, and so does the United States and Mexican governments. They also know that that if drug trafficking ceases to exist, they will suffer great financial losses and their excuse to militarize the nations of the south. Without this excuse it is impossible to justify Plan Colombia, or Plan Mérida. Without this excuse it is impossible to install seven military bases in Colombia. Without this excuse it is impossible to maintain Mexican society under state terror, as if we were the greatest criminals in history.

With this excuse, the collateral damage (dead innocent people) is justified. And the only ones that pay for this with their lives are the most vulnerable sectors of Mexican society: the poor. Moreover, this war, according to the empire, is a “just war”: the evildoers are those that are being eliminated by the military. No one will argue that by combating the “evildoers” there should not be such wide spread collateral damage. It is impossible to argue that the collateral damage inflicted were there to impose the desperately awaited peace.

With all of these military operations, and the illogical premise of “invasion to promote peace”, real conditions exist for the empire to halt the emancipating social and political movements of Nuestra América and gain control of a good portion, if not all of the nations of Latin America.

With this in mind we must have the ability to create a strategy for struggling against our principal enemy. From this point of view, we must understand the strategies and struggles of some political parties and social movements of Nuestra América who must close ranks and not permit that the right wing be allowed to assume power as in the case of Chile. There exists a real possibility that, due to the errors of the “conservative left” and some of its representatives, this 17th of January, in the run off elections, Mr. Piñera, fascist right winger and excellent friend, both politically and personally of Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, could win the presidential seat. For the left in Chile, the risk is too great for this to happen that they’ve decided to close ranks against the extreme right and vote for Eduardo Frei, the candidate of the Concertación Party. This move to call on the left to vote in this fashion does not signal that the left and the Communist Party of Chile is endorsing the “lesser of two evils”, rather it is to impede that the empire obtain a friend and ally in the “Southern Cone.” It is to impede that an enemy of the ALBA assume the Presidential seat to prevent the integration of Chile with its fraternal neighbors.

As anti-imperialists we must delineate our own strategies and tactics of political struggle. We must begin to demarcate our thoughts and ideas on how to deal with the migration of our brothers and sisters who day in and day out risk their necks to escape the political, military, economic and social attacks directed at them; faced with conditions imposed by the right wing politicians of their respective countries, crossing mountains, deserts and rivers in their attempt to enter the United States to sell the only thing they have to offer: their labor.

From an anti-imperialist perspective, we must define strategies to struggle for the rights of workers, the rights of students, the right to healthcare, and education. For the right to life guaranteed to each and every human

being. From an anti-imperialist position we must create the road that will lead us towards defending and prying our planet from the grips of the transnational corporations that day after day destroy and deplete her resources and her very existence. From an anti-imperialist perspective we must create the strategies that will achieve our self-determination and total liberation.