

Dispute for power at the top

By Julio C. Gambina

There is an important political crisis at the top to settle the leadership of the bloc in power while the popular dynamic builds resistance to the austerity offensive of the government of Milei and its allies, beyond the disputes.

The power bloc is reorganized in the context of the capitalist crisis. The slowdown with the prospect of a global recession has its local specificity driven by Milei's austerity policy.

The inflation deliberately elevated by the government's devaluation at source (dollar from 400 to 800 pesos) plus price liberalization contributes to the generation of fear among the impoverished population and to accept, for now, the restrictions of a brutal adjustment on popular incomes. Added to inflation is the recession with an impact on unemployment, a drop in economic activity and consumption. More fear and conditions to exacerbate adjustment and regressive restructuring.

The confrontation between the governor of Chubut and the president is a discussion within the government, it is not only a political question between the right wing of the LLA or the PRO, but also of the interests behind the political labels. A dispute that drags social sectors behind alien, regressive projects, under the banner of the sovereignty of the provinces, restored by the constitutional reform of 1994, a product of the PJ-UCR pact.

The oil companies decided not to continue with investments in conventional hydrocarbons, the basis of production and export from Chubut, and they oriented themselves to the new mecca of profits in Neuquén and the Vaca Muerta deposit. The objective is to strengthen the primary export bias of the hegemonic accumulation model in the country. Profit and its accumulation take precedence in the decisions of capital.

Milei knows that his success lies in a discourse critical of traditional politics and that is why he insists that the problem is caste. What is caste? Anything that hinders the objective of extreme liberalization, in favor of private property and the freedom of the market, that is, of private investors.

That was the axis of his campaign, of his inaugural speech and reiterated in every interview and possibility of communication; in Davos at the WEF and recently at the conservative political action summit in the US, hugging and engaging with Donald Trump.

Milei plays all or nothing, she doesn't know how to act differently. It recognises its absence of a party and of institutional or territorial power, so it forces the machine to hegemonise the reactionary reconversion of local capitalism, beyond right-wing bureaucracies, in the parties or in the media.

So far it seems to work and leaves his allies speechless, whom he wants to subordinate, as he already did with those co-opted to his administration, as in the case of the presidential ticket of Cambiemos, or prominent officials of the Frente de Todos.

People's Bloc

The problem is in society and a political consensus beyond the votes won in August, October or November 2023. The popular movement has been developing various initiatives of confrontation, since the beginning of the Milei government, with the national strike and mobilization of 24E and the multiplicity of days of struggles that have followed since then to the union conflicts unleashed in the present, of teachers, state workers, dockers, among others. But also in inter-union, multi-sectoral, neighbourhood assemblies and various forms of articulation to stop the adjustment and the regressive structural reforms in terms of labour, social security or privatisations.

What must be recognized is that, just as in the power bloc there is a political debate about who leads and in that sense, Milei takes the political ideological initiative to a paroxysm, in the popular movement there is an absence of a political alternative.

There are different political projects in this regroupment of the popular movement and it acts from Peronism and its different fractions (in that sense there is Cristina Fernández's document), as well as on the left, which involves the parties with institutional representation and a wide range of political constructions that articulate with them, with differences and nuances and the will to build a new identity of the left for the dispute for power. even with a willingness to expand institutional participation. The range of the left is included in social, trade union, territorial, cultural and intellectual movements, in a broad spectrum of anti-capitalist perspective, traversed by popular feminisms and environmentalism in its diversity, especially those that fight against the regime of capital and its logic of plunder.

Regroupings in the power struggle

These are times of political challenges in the restructuring of the blocs that dispute power.

From above, it is clear who are the subjects who give a name to the discussion for hegemony.

The question from below is pending, which is defined in the dynamics of organization and struggle of the people, as well as in the critique of current capitalism and the orientation of a strategy of power against the regime of capital, an absence of epoch in the current stage of capitalism.

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