

Il Piano Oasi e la proposta per Gaza di un ex consigliere di Rabin

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Lo Schiller Institute e la Coalizione Internazionale per la Pace (IPC) hanno lanciato una mobilitazione straordinaria per inserire il Piano Oasi per la ricostruzione e lo sviluppo della Palestina nell'agenda della conferenza straordinaria delle Nazioni Unite a New York dedicata alla soluzione dei due Stati per Israele e Palestina. In programma dal 2 al 4 giugno, la conferenza è organizzata congiuntamente da Francia e Arabia Saudita. Come ha spiegato Helga Zepp-LaRouche alla riunione dell'IPC del 2 maggio, il Piano Oasi dello Schiller Institute, ben noto ai nostri lettori, è "l'ingrediente assolutamente necessario" non solo per risolvere il problema immediato di Gaza, ma anche per creare le condizioni per una pace e una cooperazione durature nella regione.

All'inizio di marzo, l'Egitto ha presentato una proposta più limitata per la ricostruzione di Gaza, che è stata prima approvata dalle nazioni arabe e successivamente dai BRICS e che si integrerebbe con l'approccio più completo delineato nel Piano Oasi. Ma la proposta araba non può funzionare se Israele caccia effettivamente tutti i palestinesi dalla Striscia di Gaza.

Anche Ofer Bronchstein, inviato francese per gli affari israelo-palestinesi, ha presentato un piano a Macron. Bronchstein è stato ospite speciale alla riunione dell'IPC del 2 maggio. Ex consigliere del Primo Ministro israeliano Yitzhak Rabin e instancabile attivista per la pace con passaporti francese, israeliano e palestinese, Bronchstein è anche presidente del Forum internazionale per la pace. Egli ritiene che, in questo momento, l'iniziativa franco-saudita per una soluzione a due Stati abbia buone possibilità di successo. Alla domanda specifica sul Piano Oasi, ha sottolineato che, proprio come aveva capito Rabin, la questione dell'acqua è cruciale per la regione e senza un accordo su di essa "non ci sarà pace".

Nel maggio del 2024, Ofer Bronchstein ha consegnato a Emmanuel Macron un piano di 67 pagine intitolato Peace Differently. Il piano è rimasto confidenziale fino ad alcuni giorni fa. Il 5 maggio, l'autore l'ha reso accessibile a pochi. Tra le caratteristiche più importanti, il piano include i seguenti elementi:

“Da un lato, in termini di infrastrutture: un porto marittimo, la ricostruzione dell’aeroporto, una ferrovia di 40 km per collegare il sud e il nord di Gaza, un’altra linea di 70 km tra il nord di Gaza e il sud della Cisgiordania, impianti di dissalazione e centrali elettriche. Sarà necessario ricostruire ospedali e scuole. Una zona industriale al confine tra Gaza e Israele potrebbe dare lavoro a migliaia di palestinesi. In accordo con l’Egitto, lo sfruttamento dei giacimenti di gas e petrolio al largo dell’enclave potrebbe fornire una significativa rendita finanziaria. Si potrebbe negoziare un’espansione territoriale di Gaza (45 km²) verso il Sinai (60.000 km²) in cambio della cancellazione di parte del debito dell’Egitto.

“D’altra parte, in termini di sviluppo umano: 2 milioni di abitanti di Gaza sono vittime di trauma. Privati del proprio Stato, avranno bisogno di un sostegno solido e continuo per riprendersi e diventare cittadini piuttosto che rifugiati. Si potrebbe concedere un reddito di base di emergenza per garantire l’autonomia economica. Per un anno, la popolazione potrebbe ricevere un reddito mensile fino a quando non sarà in grado di reintegrarsi in modo produttivo. Questo piano richiederebbe ovviamente aiuti internazionali, che possiamo permetterci. I giovani di Gaza devono svolgere un ruolo centrale nella costruzione di una società resiliente, inclusiva e sostenibile.”

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“The Oasis Plan, key to future Israeli-Palestinian peace”

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The Schiller Institute has organized in Paris an international conference titled “Water for Peace”. Various speakers from different countries participated on the conference held in January 9, 2024.

As United World International, we consider the conference of strategic value and will publish in two parts the notes of Odile Mojon, one of the organizers.

Below is the first part.

In a packed room, twelve speakers, including seven experts from think tanks and public and private associations, addressed a passionate audience on January 9, including representatives from embassies in Central Asia, Africa and South America. All spoke of how water, all too often used as a tool in many conflicts, is par excellence one of the main vectors of a policy of peace and mutual development.

Indeed, the particularly grave situation facing the world today – starting with the Ukraine and the Middle East – where the risk of a drift towards world war cannot be ruled out, makes peace the subject that must be at the center of all concerns.

The Schiller Institute’s conference took this perspective by reminding us that, for anyone serious about peace, water is a major lever. However, water will only be an instrument of peace if we cease to regard it as a scarce resource to be allocated according to necessarily arbitrary criteria.

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This was the aim: to provide a positive vision of a subject that presents itself as a concentration of vital issues. Above all, to reassure people: no, there is no need to adapt to a supposed scarcity; yes, it is urgent to do everything possible to build adequate infrastructures wherever they are lacking. Let's repeat: access to water – like access to energy or access to food – is an eminently strategic issue; its technical dimension, however important, is ultimately only secondary.

However, it was essential to place this issue in the very concrete context of the current tragic situation in the Middle East, in the knowledge that even if the causes of the horror unfolding before our eyes cannot be reduced to the problem of water alone, it undeniably plays a decisive role.

South-West Asia is one of the regions of the world that illustrates how natural conditions can pose considerable challenges, but it is also an example of how inability to act, or lack of will, can lead to disaster. This was demonstrated by the first presentation of the first session, on the Middle East, highlighting the crucial role given to water by Lyndon LaRouche in any genuine peace process, when he presented his "Oasis Plan for South-West Asia" back in 1975. The aim was to avert the danger of war, which a lack of water could only fuel in an East already plagued by bloody conflicts.

Indeed, isn't it a certain paradox that this region of the world known as the "Fertile Crescent" is today emblematic of systemic drought? Of course, geography and climatic changes have played a decisive role. However, it was worth asking how ancient societies, with only rudimentary technical means at their disposal, managed to transform desert areas into fruit and vegetable-producing gardens; how our ancestors knew how to put water at the service of all; how ancient civilizations managed to develop particularly efficient water conveyance systems?

Water is also an issue in terms of transportation and storage. Canals have shaped the physical and economic geography of our countries since time immemorial. More recently, dams have completed the range of hydraulic infrastructures without which no civilization can flourish. Here again, the question of political will is absolutely crucial, as illustrated by the case of the Three Gorges Dam in China, an ambitious project that was difficult to implement and met with strong resistance and criticism, but which is now proving so important that the authorities are planning to widen the sluices of the gigantic staircase of locks that allow ships to transit.

Dams, like canals, are among the infrastructures targeted by radical environmentalists; quite wrongly so. But it's important to recognize that certain infrastructures, when built without conceiving them in a living relation with their environment, can create problems – which then has to be corrected – as in the case of the new Rhine route designed by German engineer Johan Gottfried Tulla.

In fact, the modern technologies we now have at our disposal enable us not only to work miracles, but also to have a positive impact on the environment. The case of Xinjiang, a region particularly affected by water shortages and which today produces water-hungry fruit and vegetables, is a striking example. The immense potential represented by genuine land reclamation through the intelligent use of water is a source of optimism that consigns eco-anxiety to the shelf of infantile fears.

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Odile Mojon: the Oasis Plan, key to future Israeli-Palestinian peace

Odile Mojon, editor-in-chief of the Schiller Institute's website, addressed the central theme of the seminar, and then opened the session on the theme of "Water, the key to peace".

Today, a third of the world's population suffers from a drastic reduction in water resources, and according to international security institutions, far more than oil, *"water has become the primary source of conflict in the world"*.

With the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Near and Middle East are at the heart of these risks. Ms Mojon recalled that, in 1992, Yitzhak Rabin declared: *"If we solve all our problems in the Middle East, but not the sharing of water, our region will explode"*. In 1975, following talks with the leaders of the Iraqi Baath Party and the Israeli Labor Party, the American economist Lyndon LaRouche (1922-2019) came to precisely the same conclusion when he proposed his *"Oasis Plan for Peace and Development in the Middle East"*. But this plan, like other proposals along similar lines, was blocked on the Israeli side, and we know only too well what happened to Yitzak Rabin, who was assassinated after signing the Oslo Accords, ousting Shimon Peres and demonizing Yasser Arafat.

Mr. LaRouche's Oasis plan included three major axes:

- 1) Israel's relinquishment of exclusive control over water resources;
- 2) economic development of the Gaza Strip;
- 3) construction of the Gulf of Aqaba-Dead Sea and Dead Sea-Mediterranean canals, going beyond the Peres plan which combined canals and tunnels to bring water through the mountain ranges between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

Lyndon LaRouche proposed the use of nuclear energy to generate the electricity needed for economic development and desalinate seawater to obtain drinking water in the quantities needed.

For him, this was not a proposal from "experts" dropping from on high, but an illustration of what could be done with existing technologies, if peace through mutual development was indeed the goal. He believed that political negotiations could only succeed on the basis of such a dynamic, opposed in principle to geopolitical considerations and prevailing religious prejudices.

Today, more than ever, this vision is indispensable for reorienting the currently dominant financial and monetary system, incapable of ensuring mutual development, towards a

physical economy producing the resources of peace, notably through the creation and management of water resources.

The current development of China and India shows that anything that goes in this direction and is put into practice becomes a success factor. Of course, the Oasis Plan alone cannot bring peace to the Middle East, but such a perspective is essential to its foundation and inspiration.

Utopian? No, because if we don't change our policies to give every human being the means to exercise his or her creative abilities, we are condemning humanity to war through the headlong rush to oligarchic financial disorder and permanent rearmament.

The UN Water Conference in March 2023 in New York acknowledged the growing tensions in the water sector and called for greater cooperation between states. Management of water circulation (rivers, canals, etc.), management of water tables and aquifers, irrigation techniques, desalination, wastewater treatment, exploitation of glacial resources (icebergs, etc.), cloud seeding: all of this is water, on a global scale. In many ways, that's what we're going to talk about here.

“Water management, as I have shown, using the decisive case of the Middle East to launch the debate, is a political, economic and social issue, and ultimately a vital one, which must be managed for the public good and in the general interest, recognizing the right of every country in the world to technological progress and development. The collective South is calling for this, and it's up to our European countries to respond and rediscover their raison d'être.”

Karel Vereycken: the ancient “Science” of Oases

Geo-economic expert Karel Vereycken presented the “Science of Oases”, with examples from the Indus Valley and Persian Qanats.

Archaeological sites testifying to agricultural activity can be found in the Indus Valley and in the “Fertile Crescent” stretching from Egypt via Mesopotamia to Sumer. The earliest irrigation techniques involved capturing rainwater and transporting it to the land to be irrigated.

The case of Mehrgarh (Pakistani Baluchistan) is particularly interesting. Traces have been found here dating back to 7000 BC, attesting to an already highly advanced form of agriculture, with reservoirs and rudimentary drainage canals demonstrating an understanding of the principles involved. Later, still in the Indus Valley, this knowledge led to the construction of great cities such as Harappa and, above all, Mohenjo Daro, a city of 40,000 inhabitants with a public bath at its center, rather than a royal palace or a religious temple. No fewer than 700 brick wells, houses equipped with bathrooms and individual and collective latrines have been discovered here.

Many of the city's buildings have two or more floors. Water came down from cisterns installed on the roofs and was channeled through closed clay pipes that emptied into

covered sewers under the street. To lift the water from where it could flow by gravity, man invented machines such as the chadouf, the “Persian wheel” and then the “Archimedean screw”.

In or even before the Achaemenid era (500 BC), Persia introduced underground qanats or “drainage tunnels” to prevent rainwater from disappearing into the sands and carry it to areas where people decided to irrigate and live. Oases, symbols par excellence of desert zones, are not a natural phenomenon at all. Behind each one, a man-made qanat ensures what seems to us to be magic. In North Africa and other arid regions, urban expansion followed that of qanats. Today, if we consider that the average length of each qanat is 6 km, the total length of the world’s 30,000 qanat systems is around 310,800 km! With high population concentrations and wells being dug indiscriminately without any overall plan, the old qanats, some of which are still providing good services, are drying up and therefore doomed. In fact, what the ancients learn us that hydraulic and sanitary problem can only be solved collectively. Their know-how passed on to the Minoan civilization in Crete and then to Greece, before being implemented on a large scale by Etruscan hydrologists in the service of the Romans. It fell into oblivion with the collapse of the Roman Empire, before making a small comeback during the Renaissance. Responsible water management is therefore an old science. Are we old enough up to make it work for everyone.

<https://unitedworldint.com/26230-are-the-russians-approaching-the-warm-waters/>

Jean-Marc Deplaix: the importance of navigable canals

Jean-Marc Deplaix, member of the International Navigation Association (PIANC/PIANC), stressed the importance of waterways for development and peace.

“River navigation can only exist if there is peace, and if a peace agreement has been signed”, he recalled, giving the example of the agreement signed in 1804 for the creation of the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine.

Mr. Deplaix gave Chinese examples to show how massive investment in China’s waterways, including the Three Gorges Dam, has led to a massive increase in traffic and economic growth. Investment has risen from 5.33 billion yuan in 1999 to 86.7 billion yuan in 2022. At the same time, overall traffic has risen from 739 million tonnes in 1999 to 4,402 million tonnes in 2022. And today, the Three Gorges Dam, inaugurated in 2003, is so saturated that new, much larger locks will be built, doubling the capacity of this river basin, before 2030. The Yangtze basin accounts for 40% of China’s population, 46% of its GDP and 50% of its exports!

He also gave the example of the Qosh-Tepa canal in Afghanistan. Although designed as an irrigation canal, its size makes it more like a river, and it could be navigable by 3,000-ton boats. It’s a colossal undertaking: a 285-km canal crossing a semi-desert that could become Afghanistan’s granary! The first 108 km have just been completed; the canal is 100 m wide and 8 m deep, with a nominal flow rate of 668 m³.

Brice Lalonde: nature's challenge to us

The former French Minister for the Environment (1988-1992), Brice Lalonde, gave a brief overview of the challenges he faced as Minister. On November 1, 1986, a gigantic fire ravaged a chemical plant in Basel, Switzerland. The fire was extinguished, but the toxic waste had contaminated the entire Rhine valley, killing virtually all life in the river. The question then arose: "How can we bring the Rhine back to life? Mr. Lalonde studied the history of man's creation of the Rhine's course. Before man's intervention, the Rhine valley was more like a series of swamps, changing with the seasons and making navigation almost impossible.

It was at this time that one man, Johann Gottfried Tulla (1770-1828), set about straightening and thus shortening the Rhine by 80 km and eliminating 120 km² of flood-prone land. But, contrary to his predictions, the straightening of the Upper Rhine increased the speed of the current and even rendered some parts of the river unusable! To reverse the situation, France, in charge of the Rhine after the First World War, built the 50 km-long "Grand Canal d'Alsace", parallel to the Rhine at Tulla and enabling navigation and power generation for the industrial centers of both countries.

Since 1987, the members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) – Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the European Commission – have been cooperating successfully with Austria, Liechtenstein and the Belgian region of Wallonia, as well as with Italy, to harmonize the many interests of use and protection in the Rhine region, to the benefit of all. So things aren't always so simple: people can make mistakes, but they can also correct them.

<https://unitedworldint.com/10986-water-war-on-the-nile-can-sudan-bring-egypt-and-ethiopia-to-the-negotiating-table/>

Emmanuel Grenier: the role of dams in economic development

Emmanuel Grenier, in charge of public and institutional relations at the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), spoke of the crucial economic and social role played by large dams worldwide.

These include ensuring a reliable water supply for all, cheap electricity, flood control, and the development of tourism and aquaculture. And, of course, health! As a graph from Japan illustrates, there is a direct link between a reliable water supply, provided by the public sector, and health. Between 1870 and 1990, a sharp increase in the quantity of publicly supplied water in Japan led to a drastic drop in the number of patients suffering from infectious diseases, as well as infant mortality. The OIBC also encourages the construction of dams in developing countries.

What do dams represent in today's world? There are 60,000 large dams and one million small dams, with a total capacity of 4,000 km³. Founded in 1928, CGIB is a professional organization. It has 106 member countries and 10,000 individual members, including

design offices, builders, operators, scientists, researchers, engineers, academics, governments, financial institutions and associations.

Its aim? To advance global knowledge in dam design, construction, operation and safety. The ICOLD supports, validates and disseminates innovations in the field of dams. It publishes construction rules and standards to ensure that dams are built with respect for safety, the environment and other social and economic aspects. It is also a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, with 26 technical committees and 500 experts.

Bai Yungang: the secrets of Xinjiang's agricultural success story

Chinese water expert Bai Yungang, vice-president of the Xinjiang Academy of Water Sciences, has presented a detailed report on how China has made Xinjiang's agriculture a success story. Xinjiang, one-sixth the size of China, is made up of the Tarim Basin, an endoreic desert region (inland area where water cannot flow to the ocean) that is an area where "dry agriculture" (living solely on natural rainfall) has no chance of success and everything depends on intelligent irrigation. *"Xinjiang is one of the regions with the most severe structural shortages of water and resources."* Consequently, the development of an efficient agricultural water economy has become *"an inevitable choice."*

China has been improving its irrigation techniques for several decades. *"In the late 1970s, many districts introduced and promoted improved surface irrigation technologies. (...) At the same time, even more efficient and water-saving irrigation technologies, such as 'sprinkler irrigation' and micro-irrigation (aka 'drip irrigation'), were introduced. Finally, in the late 1980s, local technicians first proposed drip irrigation under plastic film, a technique known as 'membrane irrigation',"* which represented *"a major advance on traditional surface irrigation technology"*.

First, it enabled Xinjiang to produce 30% of China's cotton with very little water. Then, this same technique *"spread from a few crops like cotton, grapes and fruit trees to almost all crops, specialized economic crops like peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, sugar beets and melons for seeds, as well as cereal crops like wheat and rice"*. *"Today, the irrigation water use coefficient has risen from 0.506 in 2018 to 0.573 by the end of 2022, further improving the efficiency of water resource use and alleviating the significant problems of conflicts between agricultural water and soil resources."*

Next, fertilizers were added to the equation. By integrating technologies such as high-density cultivation and water-fertilizer coupling, a mode of application for fine water and fertilizer management technology is created. *"Compared to traditional technologies, this technology saves water and significantly increases yields."*

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By Geraldina Colotti

If history is not reduced to a museum, dates and anniversaries remind of the struggle of the oppressed classes, which have built or suffered its courses and resources. If history is not reduced to parody, it celebrates moments and figures who interpreted its meaning by anticipating leaps and ruptures and adds new pages to the book of the future. And new flags are raised.

If the history of revolutions or their attempts is not handed over to the courts or to specialists in conspiracy theories, as is the case in “very civilized” Europe, young people can raise new flags; even from defeats.

<https://unitedworldint.com/32608-from-bolivar-to-chavez-200-years-later-the-enemy-is-the-same/>

This is how, on the centenary of Lenin’s death, we can understand, follow and value the effort to remember history, as a teacher of struggle and life, that the Bolivarian revolution constantly makes, and even before that the Cuban revolution, inserted in the course of those that preceded it. Thus we can understand, each year, the tribute to a February marked by revolts, pride and victories. A tribute that is not a ritual, but a guide for action, a warning not to forget the days 2, 4 and 27 of February.

The calendar of the years would require reading them backwards, starting from that February 27, 1989 in which, with the Caracazo, the first cry of the people against neoliberalism arose, which had proclaimed itself as the only path after the fall of the Wall of Berlin; a fall that anticipated the end of 70 years of great fear experienced by the bourgeoisie. A date that germinated in the civil-military rebellion of February 4, 1992, and revealed to the world the man who would change the destiny of Venezuela, the then Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chávez Frías.

<https://unitedworldint.com/29003-chavez-the-light-that-still-shines-on-us/>

The commander who, once released from prison, knew how to gather all the healthy forces of the country, and win the elections of December 6, 1998. A president chosen not by Washington, but by popular enthusiasm that, according to all polls, today would be confirmed by even more than the 56.20% of the votes, obtained then compared to the 40% of the oligarchy candidate, Henrique Salas.

On February 2, 1999, Chávez assumed power. Upon receiving the presidential sash from Rafael Caldera, his predecessor; he gave a brief speech that went down in history: “I swear before God, I swear before the country, I swear before my people on this dying Constitution, that I will promote the democratic transformations necessary so that the new Republic has a Magna Carta adequate to the new Times. I swear!”.

That same day he set out to fulfill the main promise of his electoral campaign, issuing Decree No. 3, which called for a consultative referendum so that voters could decide on the need to convene a National Constituent Assembly (ANC). A decision that should be

made through new means, without going through a reform of the Constitution, as provided for in the Magna Carta of 1961 according to the criteria of representative democracy. For this reason, already during the month of January, before officially assuming the presidency, the commander had formed the Presidential Constituent Commission, which had the task of guiding the path towards the new ANC, refounding the republic and creating a new legal framework.

But was it legitimate to call for a constituent process without having first reformed the “moribund constitution” that did not contemplate the mechanism? Would the popular decision have more power than the established precedent? Article 3 of the consultative referendum provided for two questions that had to be answered with a “yes” or a “no”.

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The first said: “Do you convene a National Constituent Assembly with the purpose of transforming the State and creating a new legal system that allows the effective functioning of a Social and Participatory Democracy?” And the second asked: “Do you authorize the President of the Republic to establish, through an Act of Government, after hearing the opinion of the political, social and economic sectors, the bases of the electoral process in which the members of the the National Constituent Assembly?”

The first generation Chavistas remember how heated the discussion was, also about the interpretation that should be given to two rulings of the Political-Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice on the advisory referendum and its jurisdiction, issued on January 19, 1999. When announcing the style that would always characterize his policy, the commander used that part of the sentence that celebrated the importance of popular sovereignty in relation to constituent power, and exploded the collective force in this political-institutional conflict, which could not end in a simple legal dispute: it would have been enough, said Chávez, for the people to demonstrate in favor of the Constituent Assembly to convene it. And the National Constituent Assembly would have had plenipotentiary powers superior to those of all existing powers.

It was approved by 88% of citizens in the referendum of April 25, 1999, with the objective of drafting a new Magna Carta in 180 days. On that basis, Chávez called elections for July 25 of that same year that would elect the deputies of the new parliament. The Constitution was ratified by a second referendum on December 15, 1999, and presidential and parliamentary elections were held in July 2000 on the basis of the new Magna Carta.

Three seats, out of 131 parliamentarians, were reserved for indigenous delegates, who also obtained the votes for two more. Chávez had already paid tribute to the indigenous peoples in his presidential inauguration speech, remembering “the cry of the Caribbeans, the cry of the Indians of our race who knew how to defend their dignity with courage and bravery: “ana karina rote, aunicon itoto paparoto mantoro itoto manto”.

The redemption of the helpless above imperialist arrogance. The march of the *oppressed* on the palace of the powerful. In his memorable inauguration speech, the commander recalled Bolívar's path and thus announced another great axis of his policy, based on Latin American integration and anti-imperialism, clearly present in each of his speeches and in each event organized to bring together and multiply forces at the international level.

With his firm voice he proclaimed: *"We are a people of liberators and now we have to demonstrate it again before history and before the entire world. That is why I say that we have a way to accomplish the task, we have the strength that we bring from centuries; we have the accumulated courage of many years; and now I, aware of the strength that you have, that we Venezuelans have, call for all of us to vigorously apply our strength to save the Homeland, to rebuild it, so that a broad and solid democracy is truly born; so that lights and morals flourish in Venezuela. As Simón Bolívar said in Angostura: Morals and Lights are our first needs. Morals and Lights are the poles of the Republic ."*

Then, remembering the Bolivarian oath of Samán de Güere, which he repeated when he was a young officer: *"I will not give rest to my arm nor rest to my soul, until we see broken the chains that oppress our people: the chains of hunger, the chains of misery"*. Chávez promised that, as president, he would assume that commitment as another soldier: not for himself, but as an instrument of history; *"pushed by a hurricane, a beautiful hurricane, a hurricane that will build a new Venezuela, and that hurricane is none other than the people of Venezuela. So from today I become your instrument; I am only and I will fulfill the mandate that you have given me"* —he said.

After 25 years of obstacles and attacks, which began immediately after February 2, the revolution is still standing and has produced a collective leadership determined to follow in its footsteps, now headed by Nicolás Maduro

Listening to his words again today, we understand why, after 25 years of obstacles and attacks, which began immediately after that February 2, the revolution is still standing and has produced a collective leadership determined to follow in its footsteps, now led by Nicolás Maduro. And we understand where Nicolás found the strength to entrust the destiny of the revolution and his own life in the hands of the original power, when, in 2017, he appealed to a National Constituent Assembly to restore peace in the country.

Even then, like in 1999, there were those who tried to entangle the people in some legal technicality, which was not relevant; but then they evaporated, only to start barking again to follow their master's voice, always trying to bend the institutions to their personal interests. Throwing the stone and hiding the hand was also the hallmark of politics in the Fourth Republic, as it continues to be in European countries, where States and parliaments are business committees of the international bourgeoisie.

And this continues to be the figure of the Venezuelan extreme right, which also presents the same faces of the coup as before: throwing the stone and hiding the hand, attacking the institutions and then resorting to them, and delegitimizing them a moment later,

running to hide behind the American master. And, therefore, the people fully understood the “for now” pronounced by Chávez after the defeat of the February 4 rebellion. For this reason, he recognized and rewarded the sacrifice of those young officers who always knew how to assume their responsibilities, putting collective interests before individual ones.

Five years after the Caracazo massacre, while capitalism announced the “end of ideologies” and the end of a horizon of redemption for the popular classes, in the Venezuelan barracks a new revolutionary and patriotic movement began, which Chávez organized “around dreams and the Bolivarian utopia.” A vision that, as his older brother, Adan, then already trained in Marxism, recalled, had influenced him from a very young age, stimulating his sensitivity to social injustices, and leading him to listen to the stories of revolutionaries, and to study the history.

“*History will absolve me*”, he said, paraphrasing Fidel. And he always fulfilled the concepts expressed in his first speech as president, aware of being an instrument of a great story. Like Fidel, the commander always remembered the importance of having read, secretly, as a cadet, both Mao’s *Red Book* and Lenin’s *What to Do*. A book, he said, that he would have liked to give to Obama.

At the Military Academy he reflected on what had happened and was happening on the Latin American continent: from the coup d’état in Chile against Allende, to the national liberation processes led by Juan Velasco Alvarado in Peru; and Omar Torrijos in Panama. For this reason, together with his companions, he decisively fought the media’s attempt to assimilate them to the South American “gorillas” in the pay of Washington. And, for this reason, since February 4, he has built an anti-imperialist Armed Force in civil-military union, based on a new Military Doctrine and the concept of Comprehensive Defense of the Nation.

Although it was in 2004 when the anti-imperialist character of the Bolivarian revolution was decreed, as can be seen from his speech on February 2 and from all the statements he made previously, the commander was already a convinced anti-imperialist from his time at the Military Academy. And, in 1994, in Yare prison, when he wrote a first draft of the Programmatic Declaration of the MBR200, he stated: “*We contemplate a contradictory world, tripartite in the economy, unipolar in the military. How long can this contradiction exist? It is difficult to answer this, but the impossibility of knowing allows the diversification of contacts to stop any hypothesis. There is something that seems urgent to us. It is the search for popular allies in the developed countries of the world. In all of them there is a left in essence already, or potentially, that will sympathize and help the insurgent movements of Latin America ...*”

Regarding February 4, “*there is still a lot to remember and a lot to write,*” said Captain Diosdado Cabello when presenting, at Filven 2023, the book of interviews conducted with José Vicente Rangel. Not just anecdotes, but lessons to learn and books to write so that they can train other generations of revolutionaries.