

Clash of interests within the American bourgeoisie

Marxists know that historical events do not happen by the act and will of that one or another individual, therefore, in following the statements and performances of the tragicomedy of the elections in the United States, we must not lose sight of the fact that the participants are mere puppets or buffoons whose wills express the impelling material forces and that the results that produce these puppets' acts seldom coincide with what is desired or foreseen by them. Let's make this point clear before starting with the following quotes from Engels, collected in the Party text "The individual as a puppet in history" (1953):

*«In nature there are unconscious agents... on the contrary, in the history of society those who act are obviously endowed with conscience, men who act with reflection or passion who tend to certain objectives... But this intention, however important it may be for historical inquiry, especially of given epochs and events, nothing can detract from the fact that the course of history is dominated by intimate general laws... **Only rarely does what has been desired... all the clashes of the innumerable individual wills and actions lead to a state of affairs which is absolutely analogous to that prevailing in the unconscious nature. The objectives of the actions are desired, but the results produced by these actions are not the desired ones, or, as soon as they seem to correspond to the desired objective, they actually have consequences different than those desired... Men make their own history, but as it turns out, while each one pursues his own ends ... the results of these multiple wills that act in different directions and of their multiple actions over the external world, are precisely history ... But if it is a question of investigating the impelling forces that - consciously or unconsciously, and indeed very often unconsciously - are behind the motives of the men who act in history, and constitute the true and last propellants of history, it cannot so much be a question of individual determining motives, even if they are eminent men, but rather those who set in motion large masses, entire peoples, entire classes; and even these not momentarily, as a fleeting straw fire, quick to ignite and extinguish, but as a way of lasting action that crowns a great historical transformation».*** (...) " (The individual as a puppet in history, II Programma Comunista, no. 7-1953).

On November 3, 2020, elections were held in the USA. Formally they were won by Democrats, but the one who has won these elections and defends the victory is the majority current of the American bourgeoisie, made up of both Democrats and Republicans, who months ago made the decision to put an end to the isolationist and defeatist policy (exit from international treaties, withdrawal of troops abroad...) carried out by the Trump current that had broken with the previous warlike policy of the American bourgeoisie.

Chinese capitalism relentlessly advances economically while American capitalism retreats. On the political-military level, one part of the bourgeoisie is pushed to try to maintain positions and fight a battle while another feels the need to give up the ground and shut themselves up at home, boarding up doors and windows so that no one can enter.

These two currents are the reflection of the needs of the different sectors of US capital. Do not forget that in capitalism the anarchy of production reigns. The shaping of a general trend

in the needs of sectors of US capitalism and US capitalism itself is also imposed through a blind and anarchic process. The "thinking brains" of the bourgeoisie delude themselves of directing and controlling it when they are nothing more than the reflection of this anarchic process that operates behind their back and is inexorably imposed on them.

As we have recalled in the article "Chinese imperialism fills the void left by American imperialism" in this issue of the review, the determination of whether the US will continue against China-Asia the same strategy of gradual transfer of dominance that England followed against the US itself or whether, on the contrary, it will prepare and reach the military clash, cannot be answered without a scientific analysis of the entire past and present course (yesterday and today), of the economic, political, diplomatic and military history of the worldwide capitalist system, dialectically posing the hypotheses and conditions of the different possible developments.

The advance of China in the material facts of production is what determines the withdrawal of the United States, which, with each passing day, deepens its retreat from its former position of world primacy and is in a worse position to face an open war against China or against the world. At the same time, the losing contender has to try to survive by all means, even by means that end up hurting it, as it has been pushed to do with tariffs or could be forced to do with an unwinnable war. As we said in The Internationalist Proletarian no. 5: *"It is not about its awareness of the facts, not even its subjective will, this would not be Marxism. It is about what acts the American bourgeoisie (or fractions of it) is forced to carry out, due to the effect of their material situation. And in the current situation of imperialism, **the US can only choose among loser moves.**"*

The bulk of the US big bourgeoisie has seen with horror the effects of the abandonment of what had been its State policy and is forced to try to turn the wheel again in the other direction.

What the American bourgeoisie cannot see is that the effects it sees with horror are not only or not so much the result of the policy of walled-in withdrawal. They are above all the result of the displacement of production towards Asia, of the tendential fall in the rate of profit in general and more markedly in the countries of older capitalism, of the material impossibility of continuing to impose their parasitic conditions on the rest of the bourgeoisies of the world. **The fantastic formulation of "America first" is no more illusory than the "Yes we can" was, the development of capitalism does not allow neither one nor the other.**

For this reason, another thing will be what the laws of the economy allow or impose American capitalism to do. This will be what determines whether it can effectively return to its previous policy and partially recover the abandoned positions of influence, whether it will be forced to follow the current withdrawal dynamics or whether it can even reach a situation of collapse and internal implosion.

Elections in the US: a matter of state

The arrest in August 2020 of Steve Bannon, architect of Trump's electoral victory, accused of having kept the money that Republican voters had donated to build the wall in Mexico and have their name engraved on the bricks, it was already a demonstration that an important current of the American

bourgeoisie (Republican and Democratic) had decided to liquidate Trump.

During the electoral campaign, part of the Republican party asked to vote directly for the Democratic candidate. The heavyweights of the Republican party such as former President Bush (Jr.) did not take even five days from the elections to make it clear that the previous period had to be closed and accept the electoral results: *"President Trump has the right to request a recount and file objections in court, and any unresolved issues will be decided appropriately. People can trust that this election has been fundamentally fair, its integrity will be upheld, and the outcome is clear."* (El País, 09-11-2020).

The Republican attorney general himself and the Supreme Court without any vote against (it was useless to put an akin judge at the last moment) have totally rejected practically all the electoral fraud claims: *"The Attorney General of the United States, William Barr, said Tuesday that the Department of Justice has not found evidence of any case of irregularity of sufficient importance to reverse the victory of Democrat Joe Biden. Barr, often criticized for serving the president's interests, shuts off the Trump campaign, which still fails to recognize President-elect Biden, despite crashing in every court so far."* (El País, 02-12-2020). Two weeks later, on December 15, following confirmation by the Electoral College of Biden's victory, this attorney general resigned from his post.

Let us remember that the elections won by George Bush in 2000 were the result precisely of the intervention of the Supreme Court that validated his victory in Florida; at that time, the American bourgeoisie was interested in the Republicans winning and carrying out the self-attack on the twin towers, the invasion of Iraq and the intervention in Afghanistan, in an attempt to avoid the crisis, raise the price of oil and block China's expansion. This is how the bourgeoisie decides who manages its business!

"In a democratic republic, Engels continues, "wealth exercises its power indirectly, but all the more surely", first, by means of the "direct corruption of officials" (America); secondly, by means of an "alliance of the government and the Stock Exchange" (France and America). (...) and since later on Mr. Palchinsky, upon resigning from the Cabinet (and being, of course, replaced by another quite similar Palchinsky), was "rewarded" by the capitalists with a lucrative job with a salary of 120,000 rubles per annum — what would you call that? Direct or indirect bribery? An alliance of the government and the syndicates, or "merely" friendly relations? What role do the Chernovs, Tseretelis, Avksentyevs and Skobelevs play? Are they the "direct" or only the indirect allies of the millionaire treasury-looters?" (The State and Revolution, Lenin, 1917).

It is very illustrative to see how each and every one of the individuals handpicked by the buffoon Trump are actually puppets of economic interests that force them to act in the opposite direction to which they were supposed to act. The attorney general has not been the only one who has left the government after the elections, the current of Trump has dedicated himself to purging the high positions with the intention of putting at the head of the Pentagon and the Department of Security akin elements that try to block the change of government: on November 9, 2020, the Secretary of Defense was fired, and later several senior Pentagon officials resigned, including the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the main

intelligence official; this was followed by the dismissal of the director of the Cybersecurity Agency belonging to the Department of Security and of other senior officials of this department for denying electoral fraud.

In the previous issue of the review, we said that *"The American bourgeoisie finds itself in a very complicated historical impasse, from which it cannot get out victoriously. But this is not going to prevent it to fight — and if necessary — to die killing. With the coming elections getting closer and the inflammation of the struggle among the various fractions, we can expect whatever maneuver from now to the last moment. Any desperate attempt to avoid the elections can also not be discarded."* (The Internationalist Proletarian no. 5, September 2020). As we will see, desperate attempts cannot be discarded even after the elections.

The fraction of the bourgeoisie represented by the puppet Trump has entrenched itself by refusing to make the transition of government and trying to block the 6 million dollars aimed to it. He had to stop the sabotage (which lasted almost a month after the elections) after pressure received by the business elite and by senators from both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party itself who made public statements pointing to Trump's blockade directly as a threat national security. (El País, 14-11-2020). *"Republican senators and other Republican Party figures, national security experts, and more than 160 business leaders have asked the president to stop blocking a process aimed at avoiding shocks in the change from one Administration to another."* (El País, 24-11-2020).

On December 15, 2020, the Electoral College certified Biden's victory but the resistance of the fraction of the bourgeoisie that wants to stay in government does not easily give in and they tried to block the extension of unemployment benefits that ended on December 27, the extension of the ban on evictions, the injection of 900 million dollars, the 1.4 trillion dollars to finance the executive and the check for the unemployed on the pretext that they wanted this check (which is delivered in a single pay and not all unemployed) to be of \$2,000 and not \$600. This attempt to block the budgets made by one part of the Republicans was blocked in turn by the other part of the Republicans (the majority) forcing Trump to sign the decree: *"In a meeting on Thursday, Republicans blocked the president's request in the House of Representatives."* (La Vanguardia, 28-12-2020).

The confrontation within the Republican party in relation to US foreign policy was reflected in the vote on the Defense Budgets: *"In addition, McConell announced that Republican senators will vote today against the veto imposed by Trump on the bill that contains the annual Defense budget. Everything indicates that McConell's decision may be the beginning of a series of clashes that engulfs the activity of the Senate, at least for the next few days (...) Two would be the most important points that Trump opposes. The fact that the Pentagon is forced to rename military sites named after Confederate leaders during the Civil War period (...) and that foreign troops do not return: 'I oppose endless wars, as the American public opposes. 'In his opinion, "the law seeks to restrict the ability of the president to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, Germany and South Korea."'* (El País, 30-12-2020). The former Secretary of Defense and head of the Pentagon resigned in December 2018 precisely because of his opposition to the withdrawal of troops and in fact his replacement has been beheaded for the same reason.

In September 2020 the buffoon Trump declared that: *"I'm not saying the military is in love with me, but the soldiers are. The*

top people in the Pentagon probably aren't, because they want to do nothing but fight wars so that all of those wonderful companies that make the bombs and make the planes and make everything else stay happy." (El País, 09-09-2020). The attack on the military industry, albeit in word, shows that the **Trump current has come into contradiction with the general interests of the mainstream American bourgeoisie**, regardless of whether it had previously promoted arms sales to Saudi Arabia, even bypassing the congressional veto, or it would have increased the Pentagon's budget and put someone in a direct line with the arms industry as the new Pentagon chief, now fired.

In the same month of September 2020, the US decided to withdraw more troops from the Middle East and Afghanistan: *"The Pentagon announced yesterday the withdrawal of 2,200 soldiers currently present in Iraq, a decision that will be accompanied by a new departure of its military contingent in Afghanistan until it is limited to levels not seen since the first years of the war. (...) Between the end of 2019 and the beginning of this year, the Pentagon had sent an additional 20,000 troops to the Middle East region, some 3,500 immediately after the assassination of General Soleimani.*

Regarding Afghanistan, after the signing of the peace agreement with the Taliban insurgency in February, the US reduced its troops in the country from 13,000 to 8,600, a figure that Trump plans to drop to around 4,500 this fall, although the decision is not official yet. The Republican leader has also announced the departure of 25% of his troops from Germany, that will go progressively from 34,600 to 25,000." (El País, 10-09-2020).

This partial withdrawal of soldiers from Afghanistan, Iraq and Germany highlights not so much or not only Trump's line of withdrawal but **also the inability of the US to keep its army deployed, receiving blows all over the place.**

During 2020 the purchase of weapons within the US has skyrocketed: *"Only in the first 6 months of this year, 19 million weapons were sold, almost two times that of the same period of the previous year (...). The US has 46% of all civilians who own at least one weapon."* (El País, 02-11-2020). After the elections there were violent clashes in the street (with stabbings and gunshot wounds) as a continuation of the clashes that had already been taking place during the summer and that had caused several deaths, such as in the city of Kenosha in the State of Wisconsin where armed civilian militias began to appear in the streets such as the so-called "Proud Boys", defenders of the Trump current who staged clashes in other cities and states. This group had joined the call for a demonstration in Washington in January 6, 2021 in favor of Trump. However, *"The United States authorities have arrested the leader of the far-right group Proud Boys, the Cuban-American Enrique Tarrio, in the capital, Washington, two days before this supremacist group holds a demonstration in the city in support of the president, Donald Trump."* (ABC, 05-01-2021).

The opposing interests of the different currents of the bourgeoisie are also manifested in the pro-independence movements in Texas or California that promote the "Texit" or the "Calexit". The possibility of a territorial rupture cannot be ruled out in absolute terms as the crisis imposes contradictions on the American bourgeoisie (or bourgeoisies), but this

hypothesis would only make sense if the material possibility of survival of at least one of the resulting parties and if there were a division within the Army that for the moment has not been verified.

On November 26, 2020, Trump pardoned his former National Security Advisor (retired Lieutenant General) who had been convicted of having lied to the FBI in the investigation into Russian interference in the US elections. Shortly after the pardon, this same character publicly declared that the elections should be repeated under the control of the army, that the president should suspend the Constitution and declare martial law, and called what had happened with the elections a coup.

But after the dismissal of the Secretary of Defense in early November, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General of the Army took a position against an Army intervention: *"We do not take an oath to an individual. (...) We take an oath to the Constitution."* (El Periódico, 13-11-2020).

All living former US Defense Secretaries have expressed the same line, signing a joint statement in The Washington Post. The declaration was promoted by Dick Cheney, secretary of defense with Bush Sr. and vice president in the Bush Jr. administration, directly related to the arms and oil industry, the architect of the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. The ten criminals close ranks in his declaration, demonstrating the unity of the position of the American bourgeoisie above the Democratic or Republican parties. The statement denotes a certain concern that there might not be absolute unanimity in the army on the issue, recalling the Civil War and issuing a warning to the current secretary of defense and his subordinates to refrain from intervening and to make the transfer of powers or will face criminal penalties:

"Ashton Carter, Dick Cheney, William Cohen, Mark Esper, Robert Gates, Chuck Hagel, James Mattis, Leon Panetta, William Perry and Donald Rumsfeld are the 10 living former US defense secretaries. (...) Each of us swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We did not swear it to an individual or a party. American elections and the peaceful transfers of power that result are hallmarks of our democracy.

With one singular and tragic exception that cost the lives of more Americans than all of our other wars combined, the United States has had an unbroken record of such transitions since 1789, including in times of partisan strife, war, epidemics and economic depression.

This year should be no exception. Our elections have occurred. Recounts and audits have been conducted. Appropriate challenges have been addressed by the courts. Governors have certified the results. And the electoral college has voted. The time for questioning the results has passed; the time for the formal counting of the electoral college votes, as prescribed in the Constitution and statute, has arrived.

As senior Defense Department leaders have noted, "there's no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of a U.S. election."

Efforts to involve the U.S. armed forces in resolving election disputes would take us into dangerous, unlawful and unconstitutional territory.

Civilian and military officials who direct or carry out such measures would be accountable, including potentially facing

criminal penalties, for the grave consequences of their actions on our republic. (...)

They often occur at times of international uncertainty about U.S. national security policy and posture. They can be a moment when the nation is vulnerable to actions by adversaries seeking to take advantage of the situation. (...)

Acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller and his subordinates — political appointees, officers and civil servants — are each bound by oath, law and precedent to facilitate the entry into office of the incoming administration, and to do so wholeheartedly. They must also refrain from any political actions that undermine the results of the election or hinder the success of the new team. (...)" (The Washington Post, 03-01-2021)

These statements were published a few days before the votes were to be validated in the House of Representatives with a more than likely boycott by some Republicans. Conveniently, came to light the conversation between Trump and the Georgia Secretary of State in which Trump tells him to *"find 11.780 votes"*.

The big American bourgeoisie also positioned itself in favor of the change of government: *"Almost two hundred prominent representatives of the American business world have urged Congress to certify the results of the November 3 elections and the victory of Joe Biden (...) includes a broad representation of executives from the companies of the exclusive Fortune 500 club (...) banks, investment funds, airlines, large pharmaceuticals (...) At the request of the Partnership for New York City, which groups together some 300 CEOs of the main companies in the city, representatives of sectors that are not keen to express themselves politically, or even initial Trumpists in some cases, have decided to break their silence to prevent the questioning of the electoral result from causing serious damage."* (El País, 06-01-2021).

The penultimate episode of the tragicomedy so far has been the carnival irruption into the Capitol by pro-Trump protesters to try to prevent the confirmation of the victory of the Democrats as the culmination of the demonstration called for January 6, 2021. The Stock Exchange from New York was unfazed by the show's lack of seriousness.

The Capitol security officials (now resigned) did everything necessary to NOT prevent the protesters from entering, rejecting the offers of reinforcement made by the FBI and the Pentagon, the latter through members of the National Guard. Whether this is due to the intention of favoring the protesters' plan to actually stop the ratification of the electoral result or to the intention of allowing them to partially carry out their action to have the possibility after pressuring the puppet Trump with charges of sedition, the result is the same: the carnival of the assailants did not stop the ratification process and the assault on the Capitol with 5 dead will allow the prosecution of the puppet in question. Despite the absence of the President's order, the National Guard mobilized and intervened, which highlights the disconnection between the Army and the puppet Trump.

The attempt to force the situation has produced, for a change, effects contrary to those desired, that is, that his deputy (the vice president) had to call for the eviction of the protesters by the National Guard, that Trump himself had to issue a message asking his followers to abandon the action to which he had pushed them, that all his social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) that he used to mobilize such followers were canceled and that he ended up having to state that he

would carry out the transfer of powers without putting more obstacles (which does not mean that he does not put them, but it is a humiliation in front of his own).

In issue 59 of "El Comunista" we said: *"The individual-puppet Donald Trump has to bow to the state policy of US capitalism, under menace of ending up in jail along with his clique."* (El Comunista nº59, April 2017). This last resistance to being deposed is explained by this prospect of ending up in jail and simultaneously reinforces it by further condemning himself with the latest acts.

On January 13, 2021, the start of the second impeachment against Trump was approved, with the vote of 222 Democrats and 10 Republicans.

The situation of the working class in the USA

While the tragicomic circus that we have exposed unfolds, the American working class is increasingly sunk in a situation of misery: in the month of May 2020 the peak of 40 million unemployed was reached, the number of long-term unemployed increases each month, more than 32% of the tenants could not pay the rent in the month of July, there are 40 million tenants pending to be evicted; 26.4% of those surveyed by the Census Bureau stated that they had not made mortgage or rent payments in the last month or are sure that they will not be able to pay the next due date on time, 26 million surveyed say they have been hungry (out of them about 17 million children), food banks distributed approximately 4.2 billion meals throughout the country between March and October, about 26 and a half million people receive charities to eat through the so-called SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), to this more than 20 million who receive charity through other channels, food banks and schools, can be added.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan announced by Biden, pending approval by Congress, would add \$1 trillion to the \$900 billion approved last month. But with these injections of capitalism in a drugged economy they will not be able to overcome the contradictions, nor will they achieve relief from the suffering and exploitation of the American proletariat.

Conclusions

From everything presented in this and other articles in this review, we conclude that:

- American capitalism is being hit by the crisis of overproduction of capital that it cannot overcome.
- American capitalism has lagged and is increasingly lagging behind in all areas of production, which has to be reflected and is reflected in technology, trade, finance capital, and so on.
- American capitalism needs to fight to try to regain lost positions or keep the ones it has left, regardless of whether it succeed, it is forced to try.
- In this process, the puppet-Trump and his clique have become increasingly isolated from the state machinery that serves American capital.
- The decision to rectify the isolationist line and remove the individual Trump as its representative is a State decision.

- The small and medium bourgeoisie, as well as the labor aristocracy, are rapidly being impoverished and proletarianized (the breeding ground for the illusion of protectionism and nationalism) and the situation of the American proletariat is increasingly difficult.
- There is a tangible division between currents of the bourgeoisie within the United States, as a result of all these contradictions.
- All this leads to an increase in the exploitation of the proletariat within the United States, an intensification of the trade war with the rest of imperialisms, an intensification of the military efforts of the United States in the world to try to unleash the 3rd world war to discharge its crisis, without ruling out the possibility of the outbreak of war within itself if it does not succeed.

Given all this, the American working class will only be able to get out of the mud in which it is submerged if it does not allow itself to be carried away by one or another fraction of the bourgeoisie and completely rejects being led to fight for the interests of the petty bourgeoisie.

For this, it is necessary that in the daily struggles in the work centers, it breaks the corset of subsidized, corrupt and institutionalized unionism that prevails today in the United States as in the rest of the world, and it breaks with the defense of the homeland, of the nation and of national production (*"The working men have no country. We cannot take from them what they have not got."*, Manifesto of the Communist Party, 1848) and the classist methods of struggle of the working class are recovered: the indefinite strike without minimum services and its

extension to all companies and sectors. Organizing the independent class union, not subsidized neither by the employer nor by the state. Only in this way will it be possible to fight for the defense of the job, against layoffs, for the reduction of working hours without a salary reduction, and thus absorb unemployment, for salary increases; to extract improvements in working conditions from the bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie, while we expand the organization and prepare the conditions that allow us to fight for the abolition of wage labor.

The bourgeoisie starves us and impoverishes us with each passing day and tries to avoid class social clashes through charity, interclass movements and through electoral opium, making us embrace our own exploiters from one side or the other: **Neither Republicans nor Democrats!** The only civil war that is in the interest of the proletariat and for which we must be willing to die is the **REVOLUTIONARY CIVIL WAR** of the entire working class (without distinction of sex, race, origin) against the entire bourgeois class: for the abolition of private property, of wage labor, social classes and the capitalist mercantile system of production.

This bourgeois world is sinking and threatens to drag us along with it, we do not have mends or patches to put on it but a new society to fight and live for. And not a caricature of this current society with changed names (as in Russia, China or Venezuela), but a truly communist society: without wage labor, without money, without market, without anarchy of production, without private property, without State neither crisis nor wars... in which *"the free development of each will be the premise of the free development of all."* (Manifesto of the Communist Party, 1848).

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