

VENEZUELA: PARLIAMENTARISM ALWAYS LEADS THE WORKING CLASS, LIKE CATTLE TO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE, TO BLEED TO DEATH IN FAVOR OF THE CAPITAL GOD

Back in the thirties of the twentieth century, the first demonstrations of discontent of the oil workers were carried out to demand that they be provided with water in the workplaces, these being driven by European immigrant workers, struggles and organizational experiences that did not overcome trade unionism, since these movements and struggles of the Venezuelan workers were captured first by the Stalinist party, PCV (Communist Party of Venezuela) and then by the Acción Democrática (AD) and the Social Christian Party (COPEI). This is the origin of all the trade unionists, all the divisions that these parliamentary parties have suffered. The present trade unionists are the natural children, cousins, grandchildren and nephews of the party of the bourgeoisie, be it Causa R, Bandera Roja, Vanguardia Popular, Izquierda Diario, Conciencia por la Unidad, the PSL, Trotskyists and Gramscians, to name a few.

During the 1930s there existed the Caribbean bureau, an organism that was part of the degenerated Communist International and whose function was to organize, coordinate and help to the Stalinist parties in the Caribbean countries. At the beginning of 1931 the Caribbean bureau gathered in Caracas the first cell of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), as part of the policy of Stalinist Russia for its expansion, forming this type of organizations for the development of the counterrevolutionary policy of the construction of socialism in one country, the inter-class fronts, and workers' government. That is what comes to Venezuela, calling it Marxism. In this sense, no organization of the so-called left has been based on the theoretical weapon of Marxism as a science.

When parliamentarism reaches its ceiling, and the proletarian masses lose confidence in parliament, ultra-nationalist movements emerge, like the one that manifested itself in Venezuela with the "coup d'état" attempts in 1992 and 1994, which to take root sought contact with the ultra-nationalism of the Stalinists of the PCV (pro-Russian), Bandera Roja (pro-Chinese), the PRV group of Douglas Bravo, Causa R, etc. From these currents the party of the officers of the capitalist army was co-opting and organizing its militants and propagandists within the so-called civil society. With these ex-enemies of the bourgeois army the great electoral network was assembled which led the military coup plotters to win the presidential elections of the republic without cannon shots, without tanks or war planes, without bombs, but with the ideological-political force of the votes, of the "peaceful" ultranationalist and patriotic parliamentarism... they presented a moderate nationalist project economically supported by the gringo company Coca Cola, the Spanish banks BBV, Santander, etc. and the Army Party won the elections forming the government since February 1999.

This ragged capitalist state is destined to explode. If it has not exploded, it is because of the ideological attraction instilled by Chavist patriotism, linked to the crumbs distributed, together with the ideological attraction, by religious FAITH, cultivated by the Chavist governments. It should be recalled that the Chavist army party came to government after another long crisis from 1983 to 1999, with the massacre of the "Sacudón" or "Caracazo" of 1989. This human carnage imposed an iron barracks discipline on the proletariat in general. Discipline that continued to grow with the defeat of the failed coups d'état (1992-1994). The 1998 elections soaked the barracks disciplinarianism of the neighborhoods. The companies and the very young working-class neighborhoods were influenced and

controlled by the activist groups, including the delinquent drug dealers, which had been formed under the aegis of the clandestinity and the guerrillas and their support groups. When almost all these groups or movements passed to the Party of the Army-Chavismo, the Venezuelan working class was momentarily orphaned even to organize at least a minimal defense of its living and working conditions, it was delivered bound hand and foot by those who had been using it until then. In order to be able to defend ourselves even on the immediate plane, it is necessary to unmask the Army-Chavismo Party as a Mussolinian party, parafascist and not "of the left" (an ambiguous expression if ever there was one), but anti-communist and anti-worker, the same as the party of the Adecos, Copeyanos, Causa R, Bandera Roja and all its splits and the guerrillas: all French-style chauvinism or Venezuelan-style patriotism. The working class is anti-patriotic, it is international and internationalist and that is how its struggle should be.

With the arrival of the crisis, what normally happens between creditor and debtor in the buying and selling activity takes place: the Venezuelan State becomes insolvent, its creditors demand payment. So, how does the government of the day seek a way out of the crisis? By drastically reducing the working and living conditions of the wage earners.

Parliamentarism always presents itself as docile and peaceful, and history has shown that it is violent and bloodthirsty when it comes to defending the interests of the capitalists, and this is valid for Venezuela and the rest of the world.

"The bourgeois parliamentary regimes in their origins opposed with all their energy the right of workers' coalition and strikes, with ferocious criminal laws. Only in 1871 the English parliament, which had centuries of life, suppressed the laws that considered crimes the constitution of workers' unions, trade unions, without ceasing to be, as Marx says, a trade union of capitalists. The French Revolution with a law of 1791 prohibits and punishes workers' associations. In classical liberal thought these make reborn feudal corporations eliminated by the bourgeois revolution.

The terms union and strike with respect to the terms freedom and democracy are on the opposite side of the barricades. In the perfect liberal-democratic state as defined by bourgeois thought any citizen is protected by the laws and by the state being the common father of all, and must on the contrary be condemned as harmful to unlimited personal freedom, of which the most important, according to the bourgeois, is that of selling oneself in the conditions of the free labor market to the capitalist exploiter.

As the workers' organization is subjugated to the state, as is today the general tendency in all countries, whether in the form of coercion or in the form of subordination of the trade union leaders to the bourgeois parties, of which the latter is evidently worse, the problem of the development of economic struggles and strikes in a revolutionary sense becomes more complex and arduous". (Following the Thread of Time, January 19th to 26th of 1949).

In Venezuela, the parliament decreed memorandum 2792 issued by the ministry with labor competence on October 11th, 2018, which set the guidelines for negotiations or discussions of collective bargaining agreements within the framework of the program of recovery, growth and economic prosperity. This document authorizes disregarding contractual and wage rights,

setting a minimum wage that in reality is a maximum to which any higher wage, the result of agreements or previous struggles, can be legally reduced. History has shown that the capitalism of 1848, at Marx and Engels' time, and the capitalism of the XXI century, in the year 2021, is the same: when the crisis arrives, the parliament, at each moment of the capitalist economic cycle, votes laws tailored to the needs or the vices of the packs of the steppe wolves of the bosses. And so, today the real situation of the working class is that the cost of the basic basket is around \$600, the food basket is around \$300, the economy is totally dollarized with a salary paid in bolivars, being the minimum wage of 7,000,000 Bs monthly, and 3,000,000 Bs of the cesta ticket (equivalent to less than \$2.5, at the dollar price of 02-09-2021), which every time is lowered with the daily rise of the dollar in relation to the bolivar. And, together with this, a health system in detriment and a growing deterioration of public services.

This anti-worker policy of continuous attack on the different sectors of the proletariat has been carried out with the active or passive support of all the subsidized trade unions, these trade unionists of yesterday and today in Venezuela, have organized the disorganization of the Venezuelan working class in exchange for political and administrative posts in the different state dependencies. As an example: the former Minister of Education Aristóbulo Isturiz, an old trade unionist who has lived subsidized by all governments, is not remembered with a piece of chalk or an eraser in a classroom. When the education workers, out of necessity of not starving to death because of low salaries, go on strike, it is Aristóbulo, this trade union minister, who meets and reads the primer to his former colleagues in the subsidized education unions, declaring that all those workers who do not fall into his line, he fires them and forces them to resign with persecution, repression and low salaries. And this policy of state terror, has allowed the current government to maintain itself without any independent workers' resistance from this sector of workers that in previous years was a combative sector to defend their salaries and collective contracts. This is what has happened with the struggle that since 2017 health workers undertook, for better working conditions and wages. The state imprisoned doctors and nurses while the movement was out of control. The national executive secretary of the health workers Pablo Zambrano took control of the conflict, placing himself at the forefront of such demonstrations, deluding especially the nurses who remained in the street protesting to later betray them. His objective was to win a space for himself and thus go to the elections as a member of parliament. Today he is already a member of parliament. The usual story, parliamentarism uses the proletarian struggle to reach the institutional seats.

The struggle and combativeness of the working class of the basic enterprises of Guayana have been absorbed by parliamentarism, yesterday, when those so-called ultra-left, anarchist, Trotskyist and Gramscian parties were at the forefront of this struggle, Andrés Velásquez, one of the most emblematic unionists in the struggle in the basic enterprises, representing the Causa R party, was elected governor for the state of Bolívar. Today, the struggles undertaken by the workers of these basic enterprises for wage improvements are doomed to failure, they are drowning and will drown in the warm or boiling waters of the militant trade unionists of the parliamentary political parties. Trade unionist Rubén González has declared that: "*it is up to all Venezuelans at this time to step forward in defense of the popular mandate (...) that seeks a democratic and peaceful solution to the serious crisis that the country is going through.*"

(Primicia, 11-03-2021). He refers to the "*agreement of 37 political parties and more than 100 organizations of the civil society with the signing of the pact for freedom and free and transparent elections*" (Primicia, 11-03-2021). Another trade unionist adds: "*this act was a true call to the unity of the country, the only party where we must be a militant is Venezuela*" (Primicia, 11-03-2021). So, nothing new in the panorama in the struggles of the workers of the basic enterprises.

With the constant repression by the capitalist state, they use delinquency, and they have figures like the famous Koki, as an entity of distraction, and to control any attempt of organization of the proletariat in the neighborhoods, giving them the distribution of the CLAP bags (Comité Local de Abastecimiento y Producción [Supply and Production Local Committee]), sales of domestic gas bottles, drinking water. And when the state foresees that a social explosion may arise, (like the 1989 Caracazo), it takes over the neighborhoods with all its security agencies under the pretext of looking for the name they themselves have created (Bambi, Wilexi, Koki, el Picuri, el Conejo, and others), killing workers, raiding their homes, locating them as part of the gangs. On the other hand, when workers organize independently of the unions, they are persecuted and imprisoned, such is the case of the nurses of Anzoátegui state, the teachers of Sucre state, whose only crime was to demand better salaries. This confirms the politics of yesterday's and today's parliamentarism.

This is the reality that the working class and the Venezuelan proletariat live and face, theoretically disarmed without a class organization to serve as an instrument for the struggle for better working conditions and wages.

Proletarian class brothers, we need to recover class unionism, our indications are not new, nor easy or magical. The working class will not be able to fight even for its immediate demands if it does not break with the bourgeois policy that influences and directs the entire trade union apparatus, breaking with its organizational control, tending to form its own economic struggle organizations independent of the parliamentary political parties, fighting the policy of submission or solidarity to the national or corporate economy, fighting and unmasking the democratic-parliamentary regime as a classic instrument of domination of the dictatorship of capital. Only in this way will we be able to fight for better labor and social conditions at the same time that we prepare the conditions to abolish in a moment of history the slavery of wage labor.

**FOR THE LIBERATION OF IMPRISONED WORKERS!
FOR THE ABOLITION OF WAGE LABOR!
IF CAPITALISM SURVIVES EXPLOITING THE WORKING
CLASS, LET'S MAKE CAPITALISM EXPLODE, WITH ALL
ITS VIRUSES AND WARS!**