Life and the People Have Never Let Us Down: The Twenty-Third Newsletter (2019).

celina · Thursday, June 6th, 2019
Dear Friends,

Greetings from the desk of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

There was a time not long ago when "Venezuela" referred to the epicentre of a new revolutionary dynamic. Election after election – all validated by international authorities – showed that the people of the country wanted to take control of their resources and build a country for themselves and not for big corporations. Hugo Chávez, with his immense charisma, understood that it was not enough to build socialism inside one country; the region had to be drawn into the new dynamic.

Building from the legacy of Simón Bolívar (1783-1830), Chávez inspired millions of people across Latin America – what is called Patria Grande ("The Great Homeland") or Nuestra América ("Our America") – to join in the Bolivarian Revolution. There could be no solution to the immense problems of Latin America if each country in the region remained beholden to and dependent on the United States of America, Europe, and Canada. If each country remained isolated, every country would remain weak. Unity was the central theme, which is why hemispheric regionalism was essential. Caracas was the capital of this Nuestra América, a phrase made famous by the Cuban poet and radical José Martí (1853-1895).

The Bolivarian Revolution, with its promise of radical social and development transformation, threatened the owners of multinational corporations, those who saw themselves as the rightful inheritors of the earth. Canadian billionaire Peter Munk, who owned Barrick Gold, wrote of Chávez that he was a "dangerous dictator." Munk compared Chávez to Hitler and called for Chávez to be overthrown. This was in 2007. That was twelve years ago. The plot to overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution does not emerge from any particular crisis inside Venezuela nor from any problem created by current President Nicolás Maduro. The real problem with Venezuela was – and is – the threat posed by a leadership that stands firmly against the suffocation of the country by multinational corporations; it is the problem posed by a country that attempts to produce a new path for a population that has long been mired in poverty despite its resource wealth – the problems of "Venezuelan oil" had to change. It could no longer mean the promise of revolution. It could only mean dangerous chaos.

George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, and Donald Trump – the three US presidents in the White House during the time of the Bolivarian Revolution – have in their own way attempted to overthrow Chávez and then Maduro. None of them have succeeded. The rearguard that these crises necessitated for the past forty years before the 1973 coup in Santiago (Chile), when US Ambassador Edward Kerry wrote scathingly about Chile’s right-wing, that blindly and grossly pursued its interests, wading in a mystic of arrogant stupidity. This defines the current Venezuelan Right. Then, Kerry wrote, because the Right is so "implodent", lamentably the US will have to move faster – the US will have to do what the US was never able to do on behalf of the United States.

Warmly, Vijay.

Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

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5 September 1970

The US will have to move faster. That is the essence of US operations in Venezuela over the course of the past twenty years. It has always been the United States that has given the weak-limbed Venezuelan Right its marching orders and its guns. But the US is not alone in this operation. It has been joined – as I detailed in my columns – by Canada, whose mining interests, represented by companies like Barrick Gold, are eager for the spoils of regime change.

Attempts to overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution by coup and by delegitimization have failed. Now, more sophisticated methods had to be devised. These methods go by the name Hybrid War — “a combination of unconventional and conventional means using a range of state and non-state actors that runs across the spate of social and political life.”

Our dossier, our seventeenth, is one of our richest studies of the mechanisms of power in our region. It is time to identify all the monsters. It is time to pull out their teeth.

— The Mouth

Castillo – along with his comrades Nova Paris Carcino (1944-1967) – was captured in March of 1967, taken to the Zacapa barracks, tortured and then burned alive. Along with them, the army killed thirteen peasants, clothed them in someone else’s uniform and led them to their deaths – pretending that they had been killed in combat (a familiar ploy in today’s Colombia, as we discuss in our latest dossier). Such things had occurred. All this had been massacred in the military base of Las Palmas. This is the way of the camp of the coup. It wants to steal the soul of the people so as to reduce them into zombies who must bow their heads down and work, putting their precious labour towards the accumulation of capital in the hands of the tyrants of the economy.

It is not for nothing that Latin America has produced so many hundreds of great poets, most of them people of the Left and many of them militants of various movements. They are needed to expand our imagination, to give us courage for those who have fought and to shine a light into the future. Amongst them is Otto René Castillo (1934-1967), one of Guatemala’s great voices. Castillo took his notebooks with him to Guatemala’s jungles, where he picked up the gun and joined the Puesta Armaizan Revolutionary (Rebel Armed Forces), his faith in the capacity of people to overcome the counterrevolutionary waves of his day danced into his poetry.

Exhumación

—Lamarque García

— Carranza

— Cortés

— Arroyo

— Munk

— Washington’s allies, all of reality must conform to the victory of oligarchy and the destruction of the people.

It is time to arrive at the end and say; We have never let you down.

It is the role of a people to arrive at the end and say; We have never let you down.

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[Image 68x81 to 256x269]

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