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EDITORIAL

This time we begin with an article by Colonel (r) Martínez, who, from Uruguay, enlightens us about the actions of criminal gangs that have migrated from Venezuela and now exert their harmful influence in other countries of the continent.

We immediately go to Somalia, hand in hand with Guadi Calvo, to learn about the complexities of its internal situation and the alleged interference of its neighbors. From there we went on to review what is happening in Afghanistan, and how this situation could force the new President of the United States to make changes to what Trump had previously agreed with the Taliban. Being a terrible scenario -and increasingly possible- that the Taliban return to power and re-impose the sharia on the inhabitants of that convulsed country.

Next, our analyst Ulises León Kandiko clarifies for us what is referred to as cyberespionage and cyberattacks, specifically elucidates if cyberespionage is a cyberattack.

Once again we have Guadi Calvo, to learn a little more about the intricate relations between the countries of North Africa, in particular between Algeria and Morocco.

We have an article by Juan Pablo Pardo Retortillo, an officer in the Spanish army and a doctor of history, who briefly clarifies many aspects of current political trends.

This issue ends with a critical analysis of the current situation and perspectives of the Colombian Army.

Thank you very much for reading us.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

TRIARIUS 087

Content:

Venezuelan Criminal Gangs. Deployment in Peru and Latin America, p.4
By Daniel Martinez (Uruguay)

Somalia Impossible Luxuries, p.7
By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Biden aimlessly in Afghanistan, p.9
By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Is cyber espionage a cyber-attack? p.11
By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)

Algeria-Morocco: words that the wind does not take away, p.14
By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Libya or the snake that bites its own tail, p.17
By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Political philosophy. Who's Who in the Political Landscape of the 21st Century, p.19
By Juan Pablo Pardo Retortillo (Spain)

Colombia. An Expeditionary Force to measure (from another Army), p.23
By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



TRIARIUS

Unprecedented phenomena have occurred in Venezuela, such as the cyclical shortage of certain products, or hyperinflation that makes them extremely expensive. Such is the case with medicines. Imagine that you urgently need medicine, you have money to buy it, but there is no pharmacy or, on the contrary, the product is in all pharmacies, but its price makes it inaccessible. Imagine a strict quarantine occurs and you can't leave your house for weeks, but you still need that medicine. Are you prepared for such scenarios, if this were to happen in your country? Realizing that all of this is possible, it would be highly irresponsible of us not to prepare. Two measures can be taken, the first, acquire a reserve of essential medicines, preparing a renewal plan prior to expiration, and, on the other hand, have a cultivation of medicinal plants in our patio or balcony, preparing a primer with its basic properties. and forms of preparation. Commercial medicines are based on chemicals (active agents), which are present in certain plants. By preparing ourselves we can reduce dependency and uncertainty. Don't waste any more time, act.

On the cover, **Saudi Arabian Special Forces** Commandos.
See more information at the end of the magazine.

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Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Venezuelan Criminal Gangs. Deployment in Peru and Latin America

By Daniel Martinez (Uruguay)



Criminal organizations in Latin America often have links with international terrorism and insurgent movements, outsourcing services for profit. The range of crimes is very wide (extortion, murder, money laundering, threats, kidnapping, corruption, etc.) with the direct or indirect participation of sectors of society, which due to the compartmentalization and chess of their actions cannot appreciate the whole of the crime scene or they don't know.

Beyond the different definitions of organized crime, terrorism and guerrilla warfare, the reality of the facts indicates that they frequently have relationships with each other, which translate into alliances but also into confrontations.

Terrorism and drug trafficking use virtual currencies (cryptocurrencies) for the advantages they present, but they differ in their use. Terrorists use them mainly to obtain funds, finance their activities and their structure, while drug traffickers' profit by moving their illicit money from one country to another without being detected.

The drug-producing countries (Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay), faced with the controls of drug trafficking routes in the northern hemisphere, have been looking for routes called "south effect" for some time and include southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

The pandemic, it is appreciated, would have caused a considerable volume of illicit substances in storage, to be transported when controls are relatively relaxed, with European contractors being the recipients mainly due to the greater purchasing power of the old continent and also for geographical reasons, to be forwarded to other markets.

The main criminal gangs from Venezuela that have entered Peru since 2016 (5,800 complaints against Venezuelans, a figure that represents 55% of complaints against foreign citizens), are the following:

- 1) Aragua Train. Leader. Hector "Niño" Guerrero. Present in 6 States of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and other Latin American countries.
- 2) The Gatilleros de la Guaira (their enemies are dismembered and burned to instill terror in them).
- 3) The Plains Revenge. Prostitution and drug mafia that also dismembers.
- 4) The Jockey Plaza Fuleros. For the robbery of a jewelry store (JUL2018). Leader: Robert Rodríguez Rivas, alias "Robert", Venezuelan
- 5) The Cursed Rolex. Gang dedicated to assaulting tourists and snatching luxury watches from them in the most exclusive areas of Lima

In Venezuela the illegal armed groups would be:

1) Cartel de los Soles 2) Former FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia 3) ELN, National Liberation Army – Colombia 4) Pranes (leaders of thugs) 5) Colectivos (paramilitaries) 6) Hezbollah and 7) Wagner Group-Russians (private company & secret squad of the Armed Forces) 8) Mercenaries from Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia to support the opposition 9) Gurimberos (covered face, armed with rubber bands, stones and shields with legends against the Nicolás Maduro regime).

Main Facts:

08 JAN 2021: 15 dead (13 criminals - Gang of Carlos Luis Revette “El Coqui” “Garbis”, “Vampi de la Cota 905” and 2 civilians). Combat with Special Forces. La Vega Parish – Caracas (Venezuela).

DEC 21, 2020: A sailor was killed and 3 wounded. Ambush of narco-terrorists from Sendero Luminoso (Peru) on 3 boats of the Navy, Puerto Palmeras district of Vizcatán del Ene, Province of Satipo Dept. of Junín - Río Mantaro

07DEC2020: The Police discovered a 180-meter tunnel from a premises in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima (Peru), to the Miguel Castro Castro prison. Drug trafficking would have financed tunnel for the escape of Serbian Zoran Jaksic. The criminal organization would have disbursed half a million dollars to make the escape possible

NOV 14, 2020: Olivio Iván Merchán Gómez Alias “Loco Iván” Colombian narco-terrorist (Bolívar State) dies, confrontation with Venezuelan military. Right hand of Ivan Marquez. FARC dissident (former eastern bloc)

16SET2020: Trump Administration designates Nicolás Maduro as the largest drug lord in Latin America. Includes Venezuela in a list of countries used by drug traffickers to move or produce drugs

09AUG2020: 6 drug traffickers from the Cartel de los Soles (3 Venezuelans, 2 Colombians and a Spaniard) were captured in Medellín (Colombia), for money laundering and cocaine trafficking from the plains (sending cocaine hydrochloride to Venezuela)

JUN 13, 2020: Mónica Ferrero, narcotics prosecutor from Uruguay, was threatened by drug traffickers from Peru. Received a message in which they made reference to the attack against the General Directorate for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (09MAY2020)

04MAY2020: The Spanish armed forces in collaboration with the DEA, Interpol and the Mexican security secretariat, seize 30 tons of cocaine (ship with a Venezuelan flag) from PDVSA in the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife

24APR2020: FANB Bolivarian National Armed Forces captured Juan Montero Buitrago, chief of Finance of the gang “Los Rastros” Boca de Grita (Táchira)

07APR2020: Mexican Sinaloa cartel appropriated the Venezuelan town of Machiques de Perijá in the northwestern state of Zulia to operate

09FEB2020: Carmen Alexandra Prato Sajer (31 years old, police officer) and Juan Carlos Carrillo Espinoza, arrested with war material, in a house in the San Camilo Parish Cemetery sector of the José Antonio Páez Municipality (Apuré State - Venezuela). Both members of “Los Rastros” or the RCP (Rondas Campesinas Populares narco paramilitaries of Colombia)

08SET2019: Abraham Alberto Perozo Borjas (28, Venezuelan), arrested for the murder and dismemberment (settling accounts for money and drugs), of Rubén Matamoros Delgado (22, Venezuelan) and Jafet Caleb Torrico Jara (24, Peruvian), in the fourth of a hotel in San Martín de Porres - Lima

06SET2019: Armed Groups Generating Violence (GAGV), members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), present in 8 states of Venezuela: Zulia, Táchira, Apure, Bolívar, Guárico, Barinas, Amazonas and Aragua.

NOV 29, 2019: José Luis Fonseca ‘Zé Luis’ (Brazilian fugitive from justice, Comando Vermelho) arrested with cocaine and false Peruvian identity in the capital Lima

21JUL2019: 7 dead and 3 injured (4 men and 3 women). Individuals armed with R-15 rifles and pistols fired at people who were at the Bus Stop at Mirador de San Félix (Avda Manuel Piar) Guayana, Bolívar State (Venezuela). Fights for the control of the payment of vaccines, would be the reason. Luis Medrano alias Zacarías, one of the leaders of the El Perú gang, in El Callao (Bolívar State), would be responsible for the attack

JUL 16, 2019: Brian Eugenio Alvarado Huari (23, Peruvian), a follower of the Islamic State, was arrested at his home (San Juan de Lurigancho), while learning to handle explosives. Capture occurs a few days before the opening of the Lima 2019 Pan American Games (JUL 26-AUG 11, 2019)

MAY 04, 2019: General Jackson Silva Zapata, Bolivarian National Guard and 3 other soldiers and 2 police officers were killed in an ambush by the Tren de Aragua Criminal Gang in La Guacamaya, in the Zamora municipality of the state of Aragua. Venezuela. Operative in response to a “terrorist attack” on a farm.

03AUG2018: Venezuelan criminal gang “Malditos del Tren de Aragua” arrested when trying to rob a bank agency inside a Shopping Center in Lima - Peru. Aragua Train (500 mafiosi, railroad union, Tocarón Prison Operations Center – Venezuela).

13MAR2017: 40 million bolívares (Venezuela) = US\$ 4 million dollars, seized by the police from drug traffickers, Caju favela in Rio de Janeiro.

27OCT2014: Arrested Muamad Amadar (Hezbollah terrorist) with explosives. Lima.

Analysis and Conclusions

- 1.- Organized crime in Latin America would try to keep a low profile, minimize violence, maximize corruption and avoid identification. They would seek to recruit immigrants and local youth with UBN (Unsatisfied Basic Needs), motivated by desperation and need.
- 2.- A greater number of agreements and flow of information between States is suggested to achieve an integrated transnational response to Organized Crime and to rectify the strategies of national governments in the face of the risks and threats of criminal gangs, including the will to fight corruption.
- 3.- Organized crime must be treated as terrorism when it has a similar "modus operandi" and verifiable links are established between the two.

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Image Source:

<https://elcomercio.pe/peru/crimen-organizado-principales-delitos-regiones-270257-noticia/>

Daniel Martinez

(Uruguay). Retired Colonel. Infantry Weapon. Diploma in General Staff. United Nations Peacekeeping Missions: Angola, Georgia, Haiti and DR Congo. Courses: Terrorism and Counterterrorism (USA), Strategy (Germany). Public and Private Security against Transnational Threats (Uruguay). He currently works as a security advisor and military analyst. Teacher in civil and military institutes



fuerzasmilitares.org
el portal militar colombiano

Somalia impossible luxuries

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

IGAD logo, a multinational organization that is an important regional actor.

While the Somali political "class" is lost in byzantine discussions, after the decision of President Mohamed "Farmajo" Abdullahi, to postpone for the second time, without a date, the presidential elections scheduled, in the first instance for the month of September 2020, but given the strong terrorist operations of al-Shabbab, the health crisis due to Covid-19 and the locust plague, which affected several countries in the region, they had been postponed for this past February 8. The discussions were based on the acceptance or not, of the requests by different international organizations, regarding changing the electoral system from the indirect vote, to the system of "one person one vote", which finally was not achieved, due to the clan pressure, so the two rebel regions, Puntland and Somaliland, managed to appoint the eight members of the electoral committee.

With this new government decision, the Union of Candidates has resolved to disregard the presidential command, whose cycle effectively ended last eight, and advocates the creation of a National Council of Legislators, opposition leaders and members of civil

society, to lead the transition, which will have to reverse the stagnation in which the country has been since last year, since it fails not only in the war against the fundamentalist Wahhabis, but also in economic development, which includes the completion of the first foreign debt cancellation phase, combat food insecurity and the consequences left by both the drought and the locust invasion, which also affected several countries in the region.

The discussions that erupted on Sunday, February 7, with the presidential announcement of the suspension of the elections, took place after mutual accusations between Mogadishu and the opposition leaders, from the three autonomous regions Puntland and Somaliland in the north and Jubaland in the north. south, near the border with Kenya. The two northern states at the beginning of the 1990s declared themselves independent, although they still do not have international recognition. Jubaland did so in 1998, although the following year it returned to the orbit of Mogadishu, which claims that the three rebellious states are heavily influenced by Nairobi.

While these discussions continue, the country continues to

be devastated by the violence of the fundamentalist group al-Shabbab, the local khatiba of al-Qaeda, which threatens to consume everything, which means that this fire continues to spread to other planes, so the new North American administration has already asked Farmajo and his opponents to "urgently" resolve the institutional vacuum.

As an example of the state of dissolution to which the country is subjected, it is to point out the clashes of last January 25, the forces of the Jubalandia region, clashed with the troops of the federal army, near the border with Kenya, a clash in which at least eleven civilians have died. Mogadishu has accused Kenya of being behind these attacks, and of having trained and led the Jubaland forces. On December 15, Somalia definitively broke off diplomatic relations with the Kenyan nation, due to its constant interference in internal affairs.

The crisis between Mogadishu and Nairobi goes back to last December, when Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta invited Muse Bihi, president of Somaliland, to an official visit, which was interpreted by Mogadishu as a new interference just as it does with Jubaland.

Therefore, after that visit, Somalia had asked the regional organization: Intergovernmental Development Authority (IGAD), an investigation into said interference by Nairobi in the rebel regions, which was carried out in January, with a negative result, after what Somalia, on January 27, threatened to abandon -nar, that regional bloc.

Although Kenya has maintained a close relationship with Somalia, on several levels, such as allowing some 3,000 Somali students to cross the border to study in their schools, to which are added some 8,000 cross-border workers. In addition, the 270 thousand Somalis, in different refugee camps and another 80 thousand, who live and work in different cities in Kenya. Although the greatest collaboration that Nairobi offers to Somalia is in the fight against al-Shabbab, for which reason, 3,500 of its soldiers together with troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti and Ethiopia make up AMISOM, (Mission of Peacekeeping of the African Union in Somalia), which has provoked in the Kenyan territory itself, important and numerous attacks by the Somali mujahideen, which have caused hundreds of deaths, such as the high-profile attacks against the Westgate Shopping Center, in the capital, to a university, a hotel and an office complex that have left hundreds of dead both locals and foreigners. Despite this assistance, Mogadishu, after the adverse result of the IGAD investigation, reported: "that it has no confidence in the Kenyan forces of the AMISOM mission", risking stripping the south

of the country, since Washington has decided to restrict its presence in the country, largely abandoning the fight against terrorism, particularly in Jubaland, so the presence of AMISOM is key to maintaining a certain level of security.

The actions of al-Shabbab, does not stop and takes advantage of every loophole to hit the state forces, on February 8 a military convoy that circulated in the vicinity of the city of Dhusamareeb, capital of the state of Galmudug in the center of the country, was attacked killing thirteen soldiers. On the thirteenth, a car bomb directed against the presidential palace in the capital detonated, killing two people and injuring ten others.

While on the last day of January, a typical terrorist assault, against the Afrik Hotel, nine people died of them four terrorists and ten others were injured. In combats that lasted more than eight hours.

The old acquaintances

In the northern Kenyan county of Mandera, which periodically suffers severe droughts and most of its population lives by herding, and of Muslim faith, it is one of the most backward territories in the country. Schools are closed due to attacks against teachers, and road trips are less frequent and there is a constant nervousness in the population, everything has a single explanation: the all-embracing presence of al-Shabbab, whose militants cross the porous border that separates Somalia and Kenya with absolute

security. So armed attacks and improvised explosive devices or IEDs (for its abbreviation of English) planted on roads and cell phone towers, are already part of the landscape, this presence has already caused the mujahideen to control sixty percent of the county from Mandera.

Last December an ambulance carrying a woman in labor overturned after stepping on a mine, seriously injuring her as well as killing the future father and injuring a nurse and the driver of the vehicle. And after the takeover of a village, its mayor was beheaded and a police post was attacked, while weapons and communication devices were stolen. In that same area in 2019, two Cuban doctors have been kidnapped and since then nothing has been heard from them.

Further south, in the forested Boni area of Lamu county, al-Shabbab is believed to have set up a camp from which he operates regularly, having attacked a military base used by US forces, where he three US soldiers died and several military planes and vehicles were destroyed.

Although the presence of al-Shabbab is not the only tragedy of the inhabitants of that region. Complex Somali politics, and friction with its southern neighbors, over interference in Jubaland, has led to fierce fighting between the SNA (Somali National Army) and the KDF (Kenya Defense Force), which could cause a spiral of even greater violence, so Somalia cannot afford impossible luxuries.

Image Source:

<https://www.iom.int/en/regional-consultative-process-on-migration-intergovernmental-authority-for-development-igad-pcr>

Guadi Calvo

(Argentina) Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.

Biden aimlessly in Afghanistan

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Time is short to find the definitive solution to the Afghan question, since in practical and strategic terms the first of May is just around the corner and for that month, according to the Doha agreement (Qatar) between the United States and the Taliban, there should no longer be any US troops left in Afghanistan, thus ending the longest war in US history.

Trump's urgency, to finalize that agreement, in addition to allowing him to close, with some dissimulation, one of the most notable military failures in American history, was in being able to exhibit that military defeat, as a political success, during the electoral campaign, which would lead to the elections of last November.

Finally, this agreement has not managed, until now, to placate the war in the least, but quite the opposite, since the agreements that at the end of February will be a year old, have only benefited the Taliban, whose full dimension has been recognized, its military importance and its political power.

Trump's clumsiness with Afghanistan, now among many others, will have to be saved by President Joe Biden, although he has already faced this stumbling block on other occasions. As Barack Obama's vice-president, he opposed the increase in US forces that the then president approved in 2009. Although today the situation in Afghanistan is perhaps more critical than it was that year. Biden is possibly still clinging to the idea of reducing US troops, although he knows that not only will he not reach that goal in May, but that by then the 2,500 men still remaining in Afghanistan will be too few. Since, if the current escalation of violence by the Taliban continues, it will need more than "good gestures" to comply with the agreements, and stop the attacks and attacks. The Afghan issue is of such magnitude that the new US president preferred to keep Zalmay Khalilzad, Trump's special envoy and the one who carried out the negotiations in Doha, in his post, and would have generated confidence in the mujahideen.

Washington, in order to comply with the agreement, must hope that the intra-Afghan negotiations, which began in Doha in September of last year, proceed at a good pace despite the reluctance of President Ashraf Ghani, who according to the Taliban is a mere "puppet" of the United States, managed to resolve issues as thorny as the exchange of prisoners, they are currently at a standstill, in addition to the significant and rapid reduction of the increasingly bloody operations against members of the National Army Afghan (ENA), government buildings and attacks on journalists, teachers, doctors, human rights activists, officials at all levels, religious, who were injured and killed in attacks like the one that cost the lives of two Supreme Court judges on last January. At the same time, there is a notable increase in the number of attacks against women for not adopting Sharia law.

Although it is true that the actions of the Taliban continue to be the great stumbling block for peace, it is no less true that another of the fundamental factors that are

preventing the realization of the agreements is the corruption of the Afghan political class, and the high command of the ENA, which has become scandalously enriched by diverting funds provided by the United States and its Western partners, to support the war and apply to infrastructure and the improvement of the living conditions of the civilian population . Therefore, the refusal of Ghani, and his political partners, to admit the reality, with the risk of being prosecuted for corruption and recognizing that if they do not reach a final agreement, their end could be tragically similar to that of former President Mohammed Najibula, assassinated by the Taliban in 1996, after the withdrawal of the Soviets and the country involved in a new stage of its internal war. The most foreseeable result of which would be that the Taliban returns to power as it was in 2001 and that these twenty years of war, with their corresponding expenses in lives and financial resources, have been absolutely useless, in addition to confirming that what for many is Now a reality, Afghanistan has been another Vietnam in North American history.

Faced with the constant accusations against the Taliban for their military actions, which they always assume with particular "nobility", they say they are not the only ones responsible for the violence and blame other groups that operate in the country such as Daesh Khorasan, an increasingly important player in this panorama and whom the Taliban, as part of the Doha agreement, must help combat. Although the most critical point to be fulfilled by the men of Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, is still to break the old and strong alliance with al-Qaeda.

Given the situation, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), with vast experience in the field for many years, in its latest report has recommended that the new US administration not carry out the withdrawal of troops, postpone May as the deadline for the withdrawal of US forces and instead of fixed deadlines, establish conditions.

Waiting for barbarians

As in the prodigious novel by the South African Nobel laureate John M. Coetzee, all Afghan cities are "waiting for the barbarians", the reports are more alarming every day and despite the extremely low temperatures, those indefinable shadows move agile around the cities, which have become only outposts, waiting for the assault day after day. The Taliban, this year after the offensive in the autumn, with which they captured large areas of territory, unlike other opportunities, they have not abandoned them, but most of them were maintained, despite the attempts of the ENA and the US air attacks , in order to put pressure, for when the frozen Doha negotiations are resumed. As is the case with the northern city of Khunduz, capital of the province of the same name, already taken on different occasions by the Taliban. At present, fundamentalists have established checkpoints and surveillance posts nearby and are attacking military bases with small artillery drones.

In the vicinity of Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province, not only have they taken different sections of the road, threatening communication with Kabul, but they are already besieging its inhabitants. In the south of the country, in the mythical city of Kandahar, the birthplace of the

Taliban movement and its founder, Mullah Omar, of great political and economic importance for the entire south of the country, and bordering Pakistan, the Mujahideen have made several neighboring villages, approaching that provincial capital as they had not done since they had to abandon it after the North American invasion.

Wherever it is pointed out, the same symptoms of the debacle always appear, the soldiers are increasingly poorly equipped, the dead are not even reported, so that their salaries are distributed among the bosses; the wounded must remain at their posts, while the commanders plunder military supplies, food and fuel, with which it is believed, quite certainly, they negotiate with the terrorists for money or other "perks" such as their own lives. These realities have prevented the handover to Afghan security forces of Kandahar airfield, once a major US base, for now guarded by a small number of US and NATO troops, in support of poorly trained ENA men. and no fighting spirit.

It is believed that in the coming weeks Biden's team of analysts will be able to present him with a detailed report on the true situation in Afghanistan, with which the president will be able to determine a plan to follow, although Mullah Akhundzada's men, who according to Indian sources would have died after an air attack in Queta, the capital of Balochistan (Pakistan), reported that any modification to the Doha agreement would be declared null, precipitating the United States and NATO, which still maintains about 10,000 men in the territory, to a war in which Biden has no direction.

Image Source:

<https://atalayar.com/content/el-punto-de-vista-de-los-talibanes-sobre-el-%E2%80%98compromiso-de-trato%E2%80%99-con-biden>

Is cyber espionage a cyber-attack?

By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)



Although it is true that I have been writing about Cyberspace issues for more than 15 years and that they have been of interest for more than 20 years in various fields, the truth is that today there are still doubts about some questions and interpretations and it makes people lose some degree of perspective on the subject. A case that may be illuminating is what has been happening in the United States of America (USA), in which it has been seen in multiple media outlets how a foreign actor, probably Russia, infected a widely used software program with malware that allowed him to access the accounts of US agencies that used the program. The goal appears to have been to collect (ie spy on) these organizations.

This cyberspace incident is a classic case of espionage through a system breach through compromising the software supply chain by Russian actors. Many US agencies were penetrated, clearly without their knowledge, and access to these systems reportedly continued for many months and it is unclear if and to what extent this activity persists today. If the Russians have this type of cyber-espionage art, we can -as they say here in Argentina- sleep without a blanket knowing that the Chinese will also have it, or will soon have it,

and just right, the friends of North Korea.

The so-called "cyberspace attack" is certainly not so, calling it or labeling it that way is to minimize the consequences of a true cyberspace attack, an event in which a real functional denial occurs in cyberspace or in one of the physical domains. If we limit ourselves to what the news has revealed, it was not an "armed attack" or even probably an example of "armed conflict". No "weapons" were used, unless Russia left behind code that would allow some sort of command to be executed later that would disrupt or destroy the infected computers; or if the malware left behind can be used to allow malicious code to be delivered at some point in the future that destroys or degrades these US computers, then if we could presume that such attack preparation malware left behind could allow an armed attack future. Ransomware events are examples of real attacks in cyberspace as they deny functionality.

Historically, no president has treated any act of espionage as an "act of war." We can all have opinions, but no one more than a President per se declares war and in agreement with Congress. Despite the years spent on the subject of cyberspace, there is no clear legal definition of when a

cyberattack would constitute an act of war. In the specific case of the USA, there is no fixed policy, doctrine or criteria to guide the President in making such a determination.

A case that was a cyberattack, was the one that in 2014 North Korea caused Sony Pictures, here there were not only denial effects, destruction of Sony computers and proprietary information, but also extortion was added through the threat of more destruction and physical violence for the spectators. Although it may have been justified, President Barack Obama refused to call it an act of war; he even refused to call it an attack, instead simply calling it a cyber nuisance. Such decisions are always political in nature, taken into consideration of many factors, only one of which is the actual effect on cyberspace.

Going back to the original case, clearly no American person or citizen has died as a consequence of the activity in cyberspace, no American computer (according to the press reports) has been damaged, destroyed or rendered inoperable. In other words, there was no functional denial of the systems, just exploitation and espionage. Calling these acts an "attack", "an act of armed conflict" or "an act of war" is inconsistent with the doctrines and

understanding of war and only serves to confuse and mislead.

This clarification is not intended to downplay the importance of espionage. It is noteworthy in scope, good art, intelligence and scale of this one. The Russians are now likely to be aware of many US programs, policies, plans, command and control issues, and technology, which can give them an enormous advantage in negotiations, defense planning, policy formation, foreign affairs, and the like. the intelligence.

Cyber-espionage activity is not something exclusive to Russia on the USA or any other Foreign Power that is of interest to it, the truth is that all powers and countries with capacity carry out espionage or cyber-espionage activities (according to their capabilities) for the same reasons, knowing the information that is not available and knowing it gives you an advantage. Many times we will see that politicians and legislators appear in the media asking for some kind of punishment or retaliation, with the belief that this will dissuade the opponent from carrying out further acts of espionage, something as useful as

having a totem and making daily offerings to not suffer from cyber-espionage.

Most likely, a Head of State will choose to return courtesies through cyberspace or by taking advantage of other elements of the power he has, but despite this, it is very unlikely that these actions will completely dissuade the opponent from continuing to carry out cyberespionage or espionage in general. In the best of cases, the executing state of cyberespionage becomes more "prudent" and at the same time more "sophisticated" in its techniques and procedures.

Russia and China are today almost equal powers in cyberspace. Russia is particularly stealthy; China overwhelms adversaries with superior numbers of forces and operations. Russia conducts espionage and influence operations through cyberspace. China conducts espionage operations, influences and steals US intellectual property through cyberspace.

Paraphrasing Flavio Vegecio Renato in his famous phrase "si vis pacem, para bellum", or how my grandmother would better say "you have to take care of your health",

the truth is that the issue of cyberspace or in this case cyberespionage, is not something exclusive to a single Government Agency, the security and defense of the national cyberspace is the subject of all the agencies and in a joint and coordinated manner. In fact, having strong security measures and internal defenses is by far the best deterrent to malicious activity in cyberspace. Today cyberspace has allowed or at least helped the unipolar world to collapse into a multipolar world, where authoritarianism now enjoys a semblance of global respect and comparable power. The Fifth Domain is a more complex and concrete reality every day, which requires a multi-dimensional look, without losing the axis in the human, since it is the factor that never changes, it is worth reading or rereading the "Return of the Antiquity" by Robert D. Kaplan and rethink what King Solomon said (Ecclesiastes 1:9) "What has been? The same that will be. What has been done? The same that will be done; and There is nothing new under the sun."

Image Source:

<https://www.cytomic.ai/en/alerts/vaccine-covid-cyberespionage/>

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Algeria -Morocco: words that do not go with the wind

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Last Thursday the 19th, in a televised speech to the nation, the Algerian president, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, recently arrived from Germany, where he was hospitalized for having suffered from Covid-19, announced a ministerial restructuring, the dissolution of parliament and the advancement of the elections for that legislative body, which would be before the end of 2021; in addition, and fundamentally, it decreed the pardon, for nearly a hundred prisoners, many of them with firm sentences, for having participated in the Hirak (movement), the 2019 protests, which ended with the sempiternal government President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in April of that same year, demonstrations that began after the presidential announcement to run for his fifth consecutive term (See:

Algeria. The delayed Algerian spring)

The protests did not end with the removal of Bouteflika, and much less with the December 2019 elections in which Tebboune prevailed, in an electoral process that the Hirak considered "a farce", but rather every week, in each city Algeria, new demonstrations continued to take place, which were recently suspended, due to the restrictions established after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Already prior to the anniversary of the riots, which on the twenty-second will be two years since the beginning of the riots that ended the Bouteflika regime, in commemoration of those days and as a warning to the government, once again the Hirak has taken to the streets, since its ultimate goal has not been achieved: to decapitate the corrupt leadership

entrenched in power, since the June 1965 military coup against the leader of the revolution, Ahmed Ben Bella. And since then it has obscured the triumph, and the embezzlement of the revolutionary principles, of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) that carried out the independence war against France between 1954 and 1962.

Already some five thousand people have taken to the streets of the city of Kherrata, cradle of the movement, to remember those days, a gesture that was again copied by many cities and towns in the country.

Undoubtedly, the Tebboune government has preferred to give in to something, faced with the risk of losing everything, giving rise to another spiral of violence that could end in a new civil war, like the one waged between 1991 and 2002, leaving more than 200 thousand

dead. Therefore, on Friday the 19th, the release of thirty-three of those detained in the Koléa prison was finalized, among them, the best known, Khaled Drareni, a journalist and correspondent for TV5 Monde, who had been sentenced to three years in prison. In the recent history of the North African country, the government announced that it is analyzing the situation of another thirty, who could be released in the coming days.

The government is in the grip of a crisis that extends from politics and the economy, to security and the health problem, with some 120,000 cases of Covid-19 and almost 3,000 deaths.

From cosmetics to major surgery

On Thursday, when President Tebboune was forced to go out on a national broadcast to quell, as much as possible, the winds that seemed to be raising the Hirak again, and announced his measures, actually cosmetic, where no one is going to pay a high political cost, although if, so that his rant is not considered as a simple defense of his government, he sought once again, as do all governments in a state of desperation, a cause that encompasses, in this case, the 43 million Algerians: Morocco, referring to the issue of Western Sahara, where Rabat keeps occupied important sectors that belong to the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), for which they fought a war in 1975 and since then periodically it threatens to restart. Quite rightly, although not very timely, Tebboune referred to "decolonization" and added: "Western Sahara is the last colony in Africa and the Saharawi people need to exercise their right to self-determination": Algeria has a long relationship with the SADR, and it is in Tindouf, in the south of the

country, where the Saharawi refugee camps have settled since 1975. In addition to giving support to the Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguía el Hamra and Río de Oro), the armed wing of the SADR, in all its claims at the regional and international level. Which certainly does not please the Moroccan monarchy at all. The recognition of the SADR, as an independent state in 1976, by Algeria, caused a rupture of diplomatic relations that were reestablished in 1988.

The statements of the Algerian president exploded in the Moroccan media like a real missile, where they have treated Tebboune as a hypocrite, which no one can deny, since it is true that the Algerian government uses the Saharawi cause as an element of pressure on its neighbors to the east. The Moroccan press recalled that Algeria has promised for decades to improve the conditions of the nearly 130,000 refugees in Tindouf, in addition to the fact that there are serious threats of violation of the human rights of the Saharawi by members of the Algerian army, although with -Let's come that in the hands of the henchmen of Mohamed VI, the Moroccan king, the Saharawis have a much worse time.

Although the Saharawi cause is not the only problem between the two nations that share almost 2 thousand kilometers of land border, in which Rabat has erected large fences in different sections of it, and which, with some exceptions, has been closed since 1994, after an attack by a fundamentalist group from Algeria against the Atlas Hasni hotel in Marrakech in which two Spanish tourists died. Although between Algiers and Rabat, there is a long post-colonial dispute, which has led them to face each other in October 1963 in what became known as "The War of the Sands",

since the Moroccans seek control over the rich mineral deposits and hydrocarbons in southern Algeria, where, as announced in May 2020, Rabat will build a large military base, practically on top of the border with Algeria in the province of Jerada.

The Majzén monarchy (the old name of Morocco and as the country's upper bourgeoisie is now known) today seeks the "reconstruction" of what it calls the Greater Morocco, made up of vast territories in the south of Algeria, the north of Mali and all the territories claimed by the SADR and Mauritania, which has led these two countries to an arms race, fueled by the constant specter of war, which both regimes promote to intimidate their peoples and benefit from those negotiated as a result of the multi-millionaire contracts for the purchase of weapons. While on both sides of the border they have exactly the same claims: freedom, work and respect.

Algeria, the largest country on the continent, has more than 6,500 kilometers of borders with seven countries, some of which are in civil war (Libya) or in the war against fundamentalist terrorism (Niger, Mali, Mauritania) and the eternal Moroccan conflict -Saharawi, has the largest military budget on the continent, which is spent mainly on crude supplies. Coincidentally, Morocco, depending on the year, tends to be the second in going to the North American market in a large percentage.

Between January 17 and 18, the Algerian army, in full escalation of the conflict between the SADR and Morocco, carried out important maneuvers, precisely in the area of Tindouf, a province bordering Western Sahara and Morocco, and the place where the Saharawi refugees, called al-Hazm-2021 (Resolution-2021), personally supervised by the Chief of the

General Staff of the National Popular Army (ANP), General Saïd Chanegriha. During the operation, it was possible to observe, even on television, the tactical exercise with the Russian Kornet anti-tank missile, as well as tanks, all-terrain vehicles, Mi28 helicopters, Sukhoi SU-30 MKA fighter planes and Illiushin IL-78 Midas refueling planes. and, quite a novelty, for the ANP, the North American electronic reconnaissance aircraft Beechcraft 1900 MMSA-Hissar. The Ministry of Defense reported that these maneuvers are the first phase of the "combat preparation program for the year 2020-2021."

In this framework of military competition and dissimilar strategic interests, saying words, may the wind not take away, sometimes sound like a declaration of war.

Image Source:
<https://fronterasblog.com/tag/morocco/>



Libya or the snake that bites its tail

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



While the domes of power, both national and foreign, celebrate the agreements of a ceasefire in the Libyan conflict, a war, which they not only promoted, but were active participants and from which they enriched themselves, using for themselves the "generous" contributions from Western governments, pseudo-democratic nations, Arab monarchies, international entities and different holdings, mainly from the oil area, which go for the rich natural resources of the country in dissection, the already so shaken oil and one that is even more important, for the times that comes: water, just like that, since Libya has one of the richest aquifers in the world.

Following the agreements reached in the Swiss city of Geneva on February 5, the 74 delegates from the different armed groups, with more or less firepower, chose the men who will have the difficult task of bringing to the country, a once again, to the elections scheduled for next December 24.

Undoubtedly in many cabinets of the "civilized" world, the same ones that with methodology and care raised the destruction of the nation more than a decade ago, which, until February 2011, was a model and example of the Third World countries, to dizzying speed, they must already be starting to draw up multimillion-dollar reconstruction plans, which the Libyan people will have to pay for.

The new government anointed in Geneva, made up of establishment men drawn from

politics, diplomacy and private business, such as Prime Minister Abdul al-Dbeibah, whose family owns construction companies and the media, the same as in Gaddafi's time led the state-owned construction company Libyan Investment and Development Company, his name appeared in the Panama Papers, Mohammad Menfi, former ambassador to Greece, as chairman of the Council of the Presidency, Mossa al-Koni tribal leader of the southern province of Fezan and Abdullah al-Lafi is a member of the Parliament of Tobruk, both in charge of the vice presidency.

Those who have followed the Libyan issue carefully since the beginning of the agreement that ended the government of Colonel Muhammad Gaddafi and continued in a civil war that continues to this day, do not have too many elements to trust that this process will lead to the scheduled election in December. since the ten months that must elapse until then, in Libyan times are geological eras, so any unforeseen event could happen or not so much.

As an example of what has been said, it is necessary to point out that the new Libyan authorities have already reached an agreement with the leaders of the many militias that operate either by their own or by someone who conspires with them. The vast majority of them are responsible for crimes against humanity, such as mass murders, kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, torture, rape, forced displacement and trafficking -among other "food"-of people, drugs, fuel and weapons.

After the NATO air operation, which ended the Jamahiriya (State of the Masses), advocated by Colonel Gaddafi, and in the heat of reigning anarchy, among the thousands of mercenaries provided by Saudi Arabia and the thousands of young Libyans who lost any chance of a future and thanks to the weapons that came from abroad, it is currently estimated that there are about 30 million weapons in the

country, hundreds of small armed organizations were set up, which were structured according to the needs of the The "lord of the war" who pays for them could well be General Khalifa Hafther, Daesh itself or politicians financed by the United Nations such as the hitherto head of government of Tripoli, Fayeze al Sarraj.

None of the governments that have risen up in the last ten years in Tripoli, Benghazi, Tobruk or Sabha (Fezan) has been able or willing to put an end to the always useful armed gangs. For a decade, accountability and justice have been sacrificed in Libya, and from what it seems this newly emerged government in Geneva does not seem very interested in disbanding these groups either, quite the contrary, since as soon as it was launched it was he knows that he has integrated real war criminals into his teams.

Violence is my job

The successive governments that have followed the fall of Colonel Gaddafi have incorporated into the official lists of Ministries such as Defense or the Interior, independent of the executive, proven murderers and criminals, leaders of armed gangs that are difficult to understand, if they are simple criminals or key players in the strange game of the Libyan war. The new rulers, despite knowing this reality very well, are going to keep them in their posts.

Last January, the Government of National Accord based in Tripoli, a tributary of the United Nations, integrated Abdel Ghani "Gheniwa" al-Kikli, head of the Central Security Forces militia of Abu Salim (one of the most populous neighborhoods and violent in the capital) as director in the *Stability Support Authority office*, the one who answers directly to the presidency, that is, the UN man, Fayeze al Sarraj. Gheniwa's deputy in his new position is Haitham al-Tajouri, leader of the *Tripoli Brigade of Revolutionaries*,

also with a long record of human rights violations.

Tripoli, already in 2018 had incorporated the Rada (*Special Deterrence Forces*) into the government establishment, they were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior in 2018 and, in September 2020, under the facade of being a military police unit, specialized in kidnappings , of a fundamentalist nature, is directed by Abdel Raouf Kara, a very active criminal since the fall of the Colonel. Amnesty International, like others and other organizations, have documented Rada's participation in kidnappings, forced disappearances, torture, murders, and attacks against freedom of expression and women, who do not submit to sharia. In September 2020, the al-Sarraj (UN) government promoted Emad al Trabulsi, who led the Public

Security militia, to the intelligence directorate despite the fact that he and his group are implicated in numerous criminal acts.

The members of the militias based in the city of Misrata, responsible for numerous war crimes, including the attacks on the city of Tawergha in 2011, today a city ghost, since they forced more than forty thousand civilians to flee their homes, for their support of Colonel Gaddafi, and to this day they have not been able to return to their homes, being forced to live in makeshift camps in the desert.

Another ally of the new government is Mahmoud al-Werfalli, leader of the al-Saiqa Brigade wanted by the *International Criminal Court* for the murder of more than 33 people, who has been managed by the *Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF)*, another criminal gang. with official coverage. As well

as the chiefs of the Ninth Brigade, belonging to the forces of Marshal Hafther, *Libyan National Army (LNA)* , also known as brigades or khatibas al-Kaniat", responsible for the Tarhuna massacre, whose victims have been buried in mass graves, during the failed advance of 2019, which were discovered in June of last year.

With the assassination attempt on the powerful Minister of the Interior, Fathi Bachagha, of Libya ruled by Tripoli, on Sunday the 21st, it is shown that, although the leadership has been able to reach an agreement, said attempt should be taken with a warning of that the hundreds of armed gangs, so often used by political power, are reclaiming their place and their share of the loot to which Colonel Gadaffi's country has been subjected since February 2011, when the snake took over Libya.

Political philosophy. Who's Who in the Political Landscape of the 21st Century

By Juan Pablo Pardo Retortillo (Spain)

SUMMARY: Twenty years into the 21st century, the original philosophical and political options, which were born several centuries or decades ago, among which anyone can choose, have been changed and metamorphosed in such a way that it is difficult for the knowledge of the increasingly alienated average citizen to discern, use and frame them correctly. This article will try to review and identify in a brief and illustrated way, the origins and attitudes of all the political tendencies of recent times, giving names and content to the different philosophical-political movements from which they derive and on which they are based. , in order to differentiate them and name them correctly and in their proper context.

KEYWORDS: Truth, Philosophy, Politics, XXI century, Progressivism, Conservatism, Traditionalism, Anarchism, Capitalism, Communism.

INTRODUCTION

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, Are you then a king? Jesus answered: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.

³⁸ Pilate said to him: What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, I find no crime in him. (St. John's Gospel, 18:37-38)

What is the truth? This phrase of Pontius Pilate continues to resonate with equal force in modern man, challenged by God himself to choose among all possible options of life and thought, those that are true, as it corresponds to being endowed with freedom of choice. or free will. This freedom of man is a distinction between good and evil, between the morality or not of an action based on its anthropological "duty to be" from which human and Christian morality derives. Man is obliged to exercise his freedom by choosing the Truth and the Good, not the lie and the evil.

If we were to classify men according to what the truth is for them, or where they believe the Truth to be, we would find that we would have the following three groups in Table 1, each corresponding primarily to the historical doctrine of a philosopher:

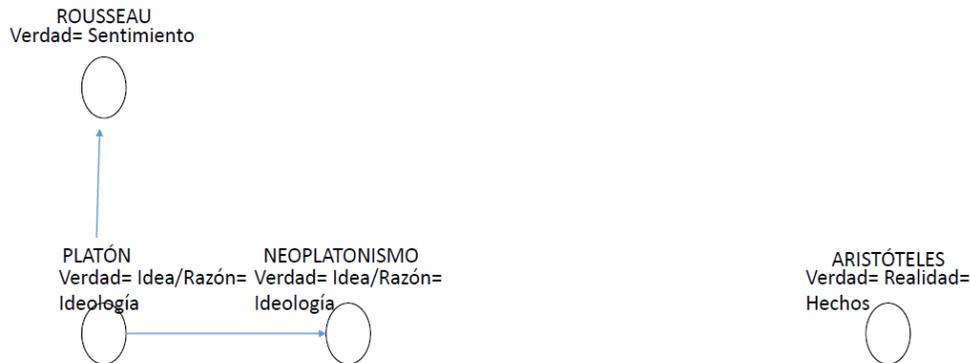


Table 1: Types of "truth" and their philosophers. Source: self-made.

1. The truth is in the idea or reason, in the ideology. This is the option that presents Plato as its main philosopher. It also includes the movement of the Neoplatonic philosophers.
2. The truth is or is in the feeling. What I feel as truth (which can change according to my mood or over time) becomes subjective truth but made mandatory by the laws of the State. It comes from Platonism and is the current political-philosophical option since the French Revolution (Liberalism), in fact, it presents Rousseau as its main philosopher.
3. The truth is in the reality, and the reality is the facts. It is identified with the scientific method, the truth will be objective and unique. Its main philosopher is Aristotle, although Saint Thomas Aquinas later picked it up and perfected it by showing that this conception of truth fully belongs to Christianity.

These three ways of understanding the world, it is obvious that, over time, they will generate very different philosophical-political movements, since the subjective "truth" of Plato/Rousseau is totally different and irreconcilable with the objective truth of Aristotle/Saint Thomas Aquinas.

So much so, that the founding current of current Liberalism (Plato/Rousseau), will consist of an unrelenting liberation of the truth. The truth becomes subjective, since the intelligence does not obtain the truth by submitting to reality, but rather by creating it, manufacturing it (by ideas-ideologies or by feeling). Freedom is not only the highest value, but is only possible when freed from the truth. Negative freedom or freedom to go against even human anthropology itself, is the only true freedom. Exactly the opposite of what the Gospel teaches, according to which, instead, "it is the truth that sets free". It supposes the triumph of relativism and skepticism, together with a total exaltation of the free man ("free" to sin and not be subject even to the truth of the natural order of the human being) as the center and axis of the universe, in a word: anthropocentrism.

On the contrary, for the other current of truth (called Traditionalism), the Truth is objective, absolute, immutable, it will be "the truth". To find it, one must start from what it is, but in the sense of what man and society are essentially, or by nature (natural law).

In Table 2, reducing the history of philosophy to the maximum, the main political movements that give rise to the two conceptions of truth-freedom can be observed:

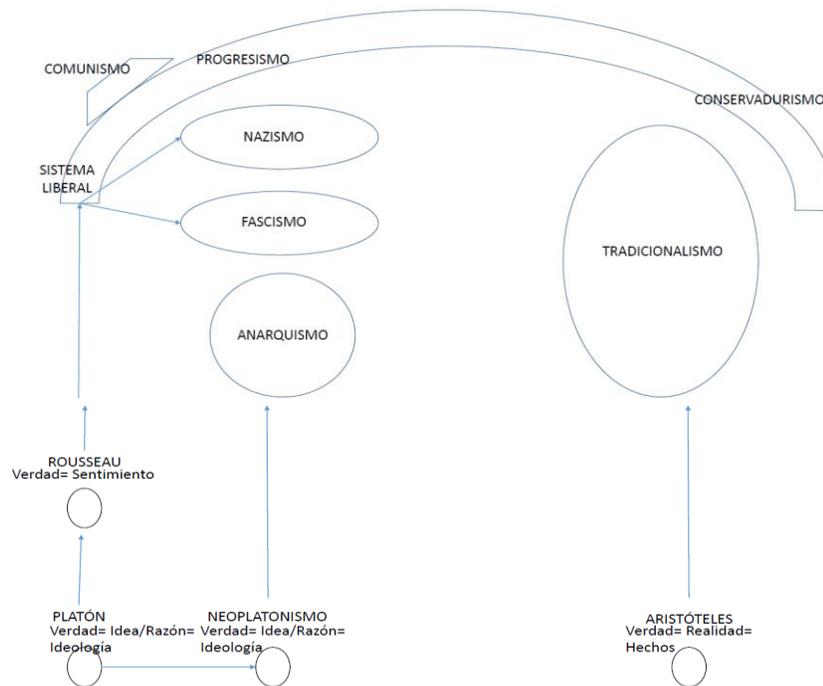


Table 2: Political movements and philosophical origin. Source: self-made.

Next, we will analyze each of the political options in Table 2, highlighting in a very special way their differences and similarities between them, given that not infrequently an improper use of names leads to confusion among the current population.

Thus, we have that, the philosophical system that identifies truth with ideology or feeling (Plato / Rousseau), originates the following political movements:

1. The Liberal System, with two differentiated movements:
 - a. Progressivism, whose strict compliance becomes Communism.
 - b. Conservatism, whose strict compliance becomes Capitalism.
2. Two third-positionist movements:
 - a. Nazism.
 - b. Fascism.
3. And, coming from the Neoplatonic philosophers, the movement of Anarchism.

Likewise, the philosophical system that identifies truth with reality, and reality with facts (Aristotle/St. Thomas Aquinas), gives rise to a third-position political movement called Traditionalism.

Definitions and Framing

The Liberal System or Liberalism (rejected in the encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*), with a government system of Inorganic or Partitocratic Democracy and universal suffrage, is characterized in practice by a bipartisan regime between two factions that, although they seem to be in conflict, are actually the two sides of the same liberal coin, with the same purpose of subverting the truth-freedom relationship according to the principles of Liberalism, already briefly discussed. These factions are:

- Progressivism, identified with political parties called "left" (according to the old division of the French parliament at the time of the French Revolution). They are the parties with socialism as a political doctrine (excluded as a remedy for the social question by the first social encyclical, the *Rerum Novarum*), they pursue an active subversion of the natural order of being, together with a maximum nationalization of social activities, and a minimal freedom of action of the individual. Real or pure socialism, up to its ultimate consequences, is what is known by the name of Communism (rejected in the encyclical *Divini Redemptoris*), presenting a totalitarian Single Party regime.
- Conservatism, which encompasses the so-called "right-wing" or "popular" parties. They are parties with liberal capitalism as a political principle (rejected in the encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*). Like the "left" parties, they basically pursue the same subversion of the freedom-truth order, but unlike these, they use a passive strategy, that is, they do not legislate against the natural order, but when they govern they do not change any of the unnatural laws that the leftist parties have approved, thus contributing to their definitive social acceptance. They are also characterized by advocating a maximum privatization of social services and by leaving free the economic forces of the market, which, together with minimal State intervention, ultimately leads to harm for the weakest or those with fewer resources.

In response to this Liberal System, and to this double enveloping "pincer" of "left-right" parties, in the 1930s, new mixed or third-position models between socialism/communism and capitalism emerged, they are the following:

Coming from the philosophical system that identifies truth with ideology or sentiment (Plato/Rousseau):

- Nazism, of German origin (and denounced in the encyclical *Mit brennender Sorge*), is a single-party totalitarian regime, with a mixed philosophy of socialism, nationalism and racism.
- Fascism, of Italian origin (and denounced in the encyclical *Non abbiamo bisogno*), is a single-party totalitarian regime, with a mixed philosophy of socialism and nationalism. It can be summed up with the phrase "Everything within the State/Party, nothing outside the State/Party".

Both are movements of a totalitarian, anti-liberal, anti-Marxist and liberal anti-democratic nature, opposed both to communist-Marxist totalitarianism and to the partisan liberal democracies of the West.

From the philosophical system that identifies truth with reality, and this with the facts (Aristotle / Saint Thomas Aquinas):

- Traditionalism, with an authoritarian regime in the formation of a system of organic Democracy (without political parties) and suffrage that is not universal but channeled through the intermediate and natural bodies of human society (municipality, guild/union and family) seeking reissue the old medieval custom of the *primus inter pares* and the *primus inter primus*, in application of the principles of the Catholic Social Doctrine (for this reason it strongly clings to the natural order of being as a source of Law). It guarantees private property and free individual initiative, although it reserves for the State the role of guarantor of redistributive social justice.

It is also anti-liberal, anti-Marxist and liberal anti-democratic. It is postulated as a third way to overcome socialism/communism and capitalism.

Finally, also coming from the philosophical system that identifies truth with ideology or sentiment (Plato/Rousseau), we have anti-system socialist Anarchism, a political doctrine that seeks the disappearance of the State and its representative bodies and institutions, including private property, and defends the absolute freedom of the individual above any authority, as well as some variant of stateless socialism (excluded as a remedy for the social question by the first social encyclical, the *Rerum Novarum*). They are forms of anarchism that are identified as part of the political left. "It is said that anarchism is not socialism. This is a mistake. Anarchism is voluntary socialism. There are two types of socialism: archist and anarchist, authoritarian and libertarian, state and free" (Joseph Labadie).

Differences and Similarities

We believe that the chosen criterion of "where is the truth" is the one that best serves to unequivocally identify the different political options, as well as that the diagram of political movements expressed in Table 2 is highly representative when it comes to explaining the different political options, different historical circumstances and the actions of these movements. Thus, we can explain the following behaviors, differences and similarities:

- Traditionalism is often identified as a "far right" movement, when we see in Table 2 that it is actually a center-right third position movement. In reality, the extreme right is Conservatism, since there is nothing more capitalist (right) than this movement. What happens is that, normally in a partitocratic liberal democracy, the Traditionalism vote has almost always been a captive vote of Conservatism, due to the lack of political options that represent it and for having a negative propaganda of the opposite liberal system. Likewise, the use of the term "fascist" should be reserved exclusively to refer to the Italian totalitarian regime, since the philosophical differences in substance and form with Traditionalism are abysmal and would lead to misconceptions.
- Table 2 also explains why during the Spanish Civil War and World War II the three third-positionist movements helped each other in various ways, although, despite their external similarities, the radical difference of philosophical origin marked them indelibly and, according to I think, it contributed to the different end of each of them.
- Also in Table 2 you can see the difference in origin between socialist Anarchism and socialism/communism, something that explains why in historical circumstances such as the Spanish Civil War, the initial alliance between them ended with the extermination of the anarchists at the hands of communism, as well as the continuing tensions between them to this day.
- It is also noteworthy that Traditionalism borders on the left with Socialist Anarchism. This explains the similarity of some of their proposals, as well as the (frustrated) attempt by the founder of the Spanish Falange José Antonio Primo de Rivera (the Falange flag is a transformed copy of the anarchist CNT flag), to achieve an alliance between traditionalism-anarchism and moderate socialism, in order to present a workers' front to the elections.

Conclusion

We are now in a position to fully understand the origin and characteristics of the political movements of our time, being able to name them unequivocally and correctly.

The correct use of political terms will clear the minds of people who are really interested in knowing the truth and will allow them to position themselves better in order to make decisions in support of one option or another (something in which many political movements are not very interested, preferring that people remain in error and confusion). It will be especially useful for those who have already discovered that the current struggle is not between the right and the left, both daughters of revolutionary modernity, but that the real battle is between Tradition vs. Revolution.

And you, dear reader, after reading this article... where do you think the Truth is? are you liberal? progressive? conservative? traditionalist? anarchist?

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Colombia. A tailor-made Expeditionary Force (from another Army)

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



Armored M-117 of American origin, in service with the Colombian cavalry. They are fitted with downgraded weapon stations, equipped with M2HB machine guns and Mk-19 grenade launchers.

US influence on Colombian military doctrine dates back many decades. Since World War II there has been a Permanent Military Mission in the country, and - as was common in almost all Latin American countries - the instruction manuals were a simple translation of US Army manuals. In addition, Mobile Training Teams come to the country constantly, and there are Colombian cadets and students who go to train at military schools in the United States, and more recently in other European NATO countries. Additionally, there are military cooperation agreements that involve the presence of on-site advisers, such as when the materials provided by the US have a conditioned use. Such was the case in the 1990s with the AN/TPS-43 radars of the "Green Clover" operation. Obviously, all this leads to the Colombian military developing ties with the United States Armed Forces, and being perceived as allies and role models, sometimes in a thoughtless manner and subordinating national interests to foreign interests.

All this is possible because in the political and economic spheres that relationship is even more intense. High officials in the Colombian government have usually studied at major universities in the United States, that is, they have immersed themselves in the intellectual, economic, political and cultural model of the elites of that country. This leads to the fact that the groups that lead both countries share interests. Unfortunately, the Colombian side always assumes a secondary role in the relationship.

In this order of ideas, the organization and equipment of the National Army (and of the Military Forces in general) seems to follow guidelines established by the United States of America, rather than strictly obeying national interests. The announcement by Juan Manuel Santos, being president of the country, to place 5,000 troops at the disposal of the UN, participation in international operations with the European Union, as well as Colombia's entry into the category of extra-NATO ally, is due to at least two causes, on the one hand, the desire of the Colombian elites to spend as little as possible on defense, sheltering under the mantle of Western powers, and on the other hand, the desire of the US elites to turn the Colombian Military Forces into "a small ally of convenience" that participates in certain international operations, legitimizing the interests of the powers, in particular the interests of the United States of America. Without really constituting a determining factor in terms of its contribution of military power in operations.

The Colombian Military Forces have been equipped with US (or Western in general) materials, and Colombian troops have been sent to international maneuvers and exercises, where they must follow NATO

doctrine and be certified in it, clearly this search for Interoperability is on the way to forming Expeditionary Forces that will support the achievement of objectives that are not those of Colombia as a people, but perhaps those of its political and economic elites.

Combined Arms Task Force

In January 2015, the Colombian National Army created and activated the first Combined Arms Task Force (FUTAM) in the La Guajira region. This is part of the so-called Minerva Plan for the modernization of the Army, preparing it for hybrid wars, urban warfare, transnational criminal threats, as well as conventional threats in the region.

According to official statements at the time, "its objective is to transform the Colombian Army from an infantry-led institution to a more dynamic force, based in part on the concepts used by the Chilean and United States Brigade Combat Teams." It is worth noting that a century later, Chileans return to Colombia to share their military doctrine. It must be remembered that at the beginning of the 20th century there was a Chilean military mission in Colombia, which brought the Prussian military doctrine to Colombia.

The Combined Arms Task Force integrates different military specialties and is highly mechanized. It includes EE-9 Cascavel, EE-11 Urutú, M-1117, LAV III, M-113 vehicles, as well as HMMWV vehicles, including armored versions equipped with TOW and Spike missile launchers. The FUTAM is also equipped with the best artillery weapons that the National Army possesses, the 155 mm howitzers. SBT APUs, 105mm LG-1 MK III light howitzers, and 120mm HY-12 rifled mortars.

Within this entire structure, the Cavalry plays a fundamental role. Not only because of the nature of their missions, but because of the constitution and staffing of their units. The Matamoros Medium Armored Cavalry Group is without a doubt the axis around which everything else is organized. This is how it will continue to be when the tanks arrive, if they ever arrive.

The FUTAM is, if you will, an experimental unit, in which the commanding officers of the Colombian Army can be trained and trained for a different type of war than the one they had been waging for the previous five decades. That involves a multidimensional theater (land, water, air, space and cyberspace), the use of high technology, joint, coordinated and interagency operations, and even multinational operations, which involve the achievement of interoperability in all fields, including language, logistics, tactics and practice of international law, in particular International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

The new acquisitions

The last decade was marked by a process of modernization of the Colombian Armed Forces, each of the weapons and services -specialties of the army- received new material. For example, the Infantry received the LAV-III, the Artillery SBT and LG-1 howitzers, the Engineers a lot of heavy machinery and war bridges, the Army Aviation received the Sikorsky S-70i. In the case of the Cavalry, we evidenced the acquisition of Spike anti-tank missiles and ASV M-1117 armored vehicles. It can be seen that all this material is modern and in use by NATO.

The M-1117 are a very good example of what is stated in previous paragraphs. These vehicles were in full production to meet the demands of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, so an exception was made to meet the request of the Colombian National Army. How can such deference be explained to provide a third world army to the (temporary) detriment of the Army's needs? Everything seems to suggest that this third world army has a role to play alongside the US Army and other Western allies.

Something more about the M-1117

Due to a strange craze for downgrading, the vehicles were purchased without the 40/50 Up Gunned Weapon Station (UGWS) automatic turret, and instead fitted with a single gun pod, either a .50 or instead a Mk-19. They operated in this way for several years, until the need for greater protection for the weapon system operator was seen.

A second batch of vehicles was eventually purchased, which came from the factory with the UGWS 40/50 automatic tower. In addition, there is an intention to replace the gondolas of the first batch with the closed turret, equipped with a machine gun and grenade launcher.

These M-1117 vehicles are locally called "Pegaso". The Defense Science and Technology Corporation - CODALTEC produced a simulator that allows all crew members to be trained. This simulator received the name of Markab, and is located in the Cavalry School of the National Army in the city of Bogotá.

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Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Audentes Fortuna Iuvat



Saudi Arabia Royal Saudi Land Army

The Saudi Ministry of Defense

It is responsible for the protection of national security, interests and sovereignty of the country, against external threats, working with all state ministries to achieve stability and national security.



Saudi Arabian Armed Forces

They consist of the Saudi Land Forces (or Army), the Royal Saudi Navy, the Royal Saudi Air Force, the Royal Saudi Air Defense, and the Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force. The King of Saudi Arabia is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and defines military policy with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of the Interior. The five armed forces are among eight military forces in Saudi Arabia. The other institutions are the National Guard (under the administrative control of the Ministry of the National Guard), the Saudi Royal Guard Regiment, and the Saudi Border Guards. On the other hand, there is also the General Intelligence Presidency, which is the country's main intelligence service.

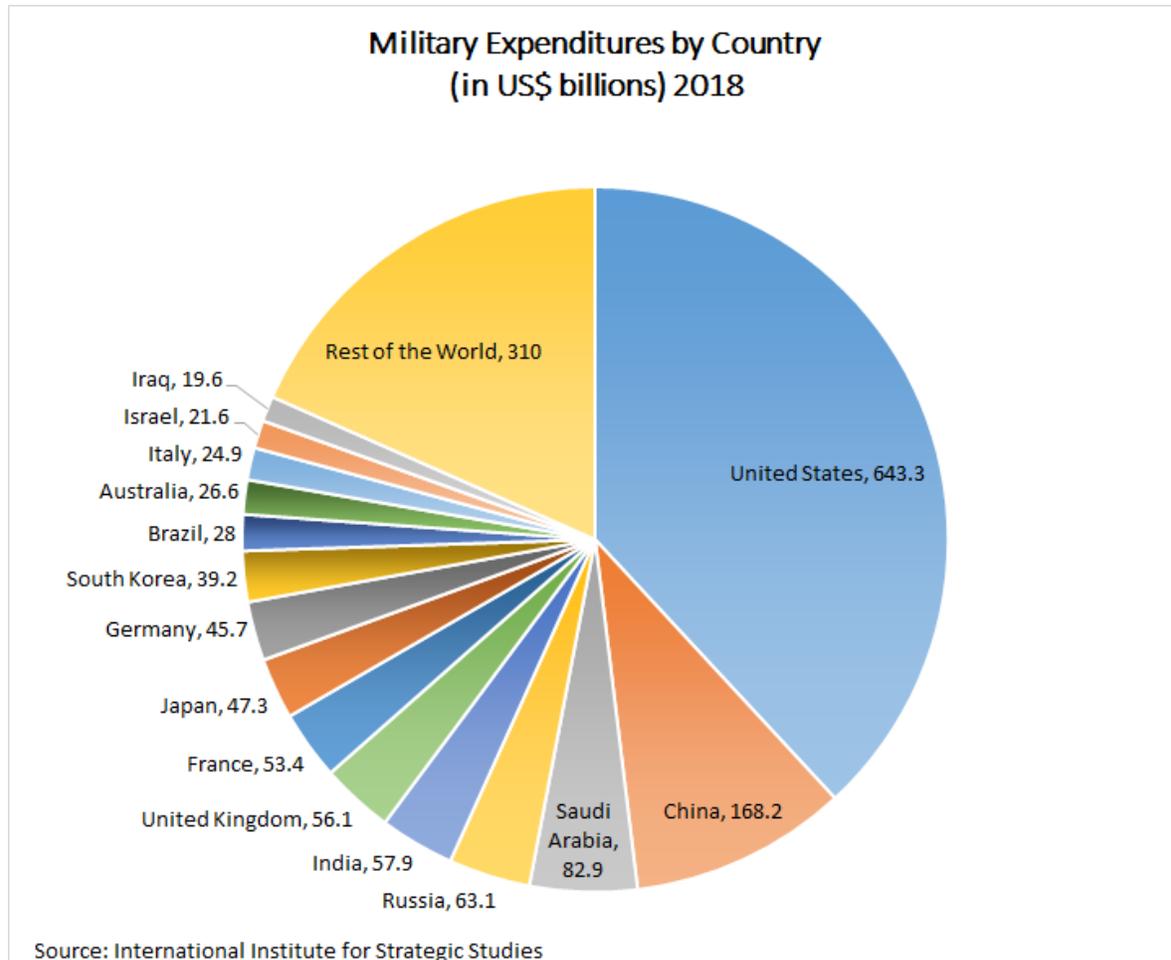
Estimates from the International Institute for Strategic Studies in 2017 listed a total of 127,000 personnel (75,000 in the Army; 13,500 in the Navy; 20,000 in the Air Force; 16,000 in Air Defense; and 2,500 in the Strategic Missile Force). The troops of the National Guard are estimated at about 100,000 troops, but many are tribal and only available on an occasional basis, in addition there are 24,500 paramilitaries that complement these figures. The IISS Military Balance does not list the reserve personnel available to Saudi Arabia. These Armed Forces are among the best financed. Saudi Arabia has the third largest defense budget in the world.

Defense spending

Defense and security spending have increased significantly since the mid-1990s and was approximately \$67 billion in 2013. Saudi Arabia is among the top five nations in the world for public spending for its armed forces,

accounting for around 9% of GDP in 2013. Its modern, high-tech arsenal places Saudi Arabia among the most heavily armed nations in the world. Its military equipment is mainly supplied by the United States, France and Great Britain.

The United States sold more than \$80 billion worth of military equipment between 1951 and 2006 to the Saudi army. By comparison, the Israel Defense Forces received \$53.6 billion in US military grants between 1949 and 2007.



On October 20, 2010, the US Department of State notified Congress of its intention to carry out the largest arms sale in US history, the purchase of 60.5 billion dollars by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The package represented a considerable improvement in the offensive capacity of the Saudi armed forces. The United States emphasized that the arms transfer would increase "interoperability" with US forces. In the Persian Gulf War, having US-trained Saudi Arabian forces coupled with military installations built to US specifications allowed the US military to deploy in a comfortable and familiar battle environment. A new bilateral agreement has augmented those capabilities, as an advanced US military infrastructure has been refined and expanded.

The UK has also been a major supplier of military equipment to Saudi Arabia since 1965. Canada won a contract worth at least \$10 billion to supply armored military vehicles to the Saudi army.

The Saudi Arabian Army

The Royal Saudi Ground Forces are composed of three armored brigades, five mechanized brigades, one airborne brigade, one Royal Guard brigade, and eight artillery battalions. The army also has an aviation command with two aviation brigades.

The army's main equipment consists of a mix of French and American-made armored vehicles: 315 M-1A2 Abrams tanks, 290 AMX-30 tanks, and 450 M60A3 tanks; 300 reconnaissance vehicles; 570+ AMX-10P and 400 M-2 Bradley armored infantry fighting vehicles; more than 3,000 M113 and 100 Al-Fahd armored personnel carriers, produced in Saudi Arabia; 200+ towed artillery pieces; 110 self-propelled artillery pieces; 60 multiple

rocket launchers; 400 mortars; 10 ground-to-ground missile systems; around 2,000 anti-tank guided weapons; about 200 rocket launchers; 450 recoilless launchers; 12 attack helicopters; 50+ transport helicopters; and 1,000 surface-to-air missile systems.

Considering air defense and deterrence as one of its priorities, Saudi Arabia has deployed 16 American Patriot anti-aircraft missile batteries, 17 Shahin missile batteries (the modified version of the US Hawk missile), 16 Hawk missiles and 73 units of Crotale / SHAHINE missiles.



Major Military Operations

Recovery of the Great Mosque

In 1979, Islamic extremists took control of the Great Mosque of Mecca. The extremists were led by Juhayman Al Otaiba, they held many worshiper's hostage for weeks. With the help of Pakistani and Western troops, the Saudi army captured the terrorists inside the Grand Mosque.

Gulf War

Desert Storm, the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 and the military invasion of Iraq, was launched from Saudi Arabian territory, and Saudi Arabian forces actively participated in the operation.

When Iraq invaded Saudi Arabia's northern neighbor Kuwait in 1990, Saudi Arabia immediately requested the deployment of US troops inside the country to deter further aggression. Saudi forces participated in the subsequent Operation Desert Storm: Saudi pilots flew more than 7,000 sorties, and Saudi troops took part in the battles around the Saudi city of Ras al-Khafji.

Operation Southern Watch

Since the Gulf War, the United States has stationed 5,000 troops in Saudi Arabia, a figure that rose to 10,000 during the 2003 conflict in Iraq. Operation Southern Watch enforced the no-fly zones over southern Iraq established after 1991, and the country's oil exports via the Persian Gulf shipping lanes are protected by the United States Fifth Fleet based at Bahrain. It was conducted by the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia (JTF-SWA) with the mission of monitoring and controlling the airspace south of the 32nd parallel (extended to the 33rd parallel in 1996) in Iraq, after the Gulf War. Persian from 1991 until the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

This was one of the stated motivations behind the 9/11 attacks, as well as the Khobar Towers bombing. Bin Laden interpreted the Islamic prophet Muhammad as prohibiting the "permanent presence of infidels in Arabia."

Shia insurgency in Yemen

On November 5, 2009, the Royal Saudi Arabian Ground Forces launched a wide-ranging ground offensive against Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels, after they crossed the Saudi border to outflank the Yemeni army, which had launched a military campaign against the Houthis to control and pacify northern Yemen. Saudi forces relied heavily on air power and artillery to soften up the rebels without putting their men at risk. The Saudi army lost 133 soldiers fighting the rebels, with most of the casualties coming as ground forces tried to move into areas that had been softened by shelling that "raised alarm throughout the Sunni Arab world about the possibility of that Iran might be supporting the Yemeni rebels."



Women in the Armed Forces

The Saudi Ministry of Defense announced in February 2021 that both men and women can apply for the country's armed forces through a unified admission portal. Military ranks from private to sergeant will be available in the Saudi Army, Royal Saudi Air Defense, Royal Saudi Navy, Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force and Armed Forces Medical Services.

All applicants must pass admission procedures according to specified conditions, have a clean record, and be medically fit for duty. But some additional criteria have been added for female applicants. Saudi applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 40, 155 centimeters or taller, and cannot be government employees.

Female submissions must also have a separate national identity card and have at least a high school education. Applicants married to non-Saudi citizens will not be accepted. The age range for first-time male applicants is between 17 and 40, while their minimum height is 160 cm. There were mixed reactions to the ministry's new unified recruitment standards.

US Military Bases in Saudi Arabia

The US military is seeking fallback bases in Saudi Arabia to prevent its troops deployed in the country from becoming obvious targets in the event of tensions with Iran, a senior US military official said. "We are not looking for new bases. I want to be clear on that," General Kenneth McKenzie, head of the US Army Central Command (Centcom), said during a tour of the Middle East. "We want to be able to move to other bases in a high-risk period," he told the press. "These are things any prudent military planner would do to increase their flexibility and make it more difficult for the adversary to attack."

General McKenzie visited Saudi Arabia in January to discuss with the Saudi authorities the possibility of using certain Saudi military bases in the west of the country to serve as a retreat for US forces in the event of tensions with Tehran.

The Wall Street Journal has reported on port and airbase projects in the kingdom's western desert, which the US military is seeking to develop as positions to use in the event of an eventual war with Iran.



Late last year, the US military deployed the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier to the region and flew two B-52 bombers over the area.

This show of force was meant to deter Iran from an eventual attack on US forces on the occasion of the first anniversary of the US assassination of powerful Iranian general Qasem Soleimani.



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