

# **SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL STRUGGLES**

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
GLOBAL DIVISION SYMPOSIUM  
MONTREAL, AUGUST 13, 2006**

*“The time has come for Spanish America  
to declare its second independence”  
José Martí  
The Washington Congress, 1889*

**LATIN AMERICA FIGHTS BACK:  
COUNTER-TENDENCIES IN INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION**

**XIMENA DE LA BARRA  
xdelabarra@yahoo.es**

## **COMMON WISDOM ON DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES:**

- FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS AMONG GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT
- DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION COMPLYING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

## **THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD NEOLIBERALISM**

- NOTHING IS WHAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
- EVERYTHING IS ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE

## **RESISTANCE AND THE UPSWING OF HOPE IN LATIN AMERICA**

- THE STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DEMOCRACY
- ALTERNATIVE AGENDA
- ALTERNATIVE INTEGRATION AS THE NEW FORM OF COOPERATION

# LINKING INTEGRATION – COOPERATION AND MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF NEOLIBERALISM

- NEOLIBERALISM WIDENS DISPARITIES AMONG AND WITHIN COUNTRIES
- DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND FREE TRADE FAIL TO CLOSE THE GAPS
- INTEGRATION TREATIES ONLY DEAL WITH TRADE AND ARE NEGOTIATED BY GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT CONSIDERING PEOPLE'S INTERESTS
- FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES, FREELY FLOW NORTHWARDS
- MANUFACTURED GOODS, POLLUTION, FREELY FLOW SOUTHWARDS
- WHAT DOESN'T FLOW FREELY NORTHWARD ARE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH IS WHAT THE SOUTH PRODUCES, AND PEOPLE TURNED UNNECESSARY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.
- MIGRATION RESULTS FROM NEOLIBERALISM, PREDATOR OF NATURE AND PEOPLES
- INTEGRATION TREATIES DO NOT INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR MIGRATION OTHER THAN CRIMINALIZING, REPRESSING, AND FORCEFULLY REPATRIATING THEM

- MIGRATION A LA CARTE :CREAMING COSTLY TRAINED HUMAN RESOURCES OR LOOKING FOR FRONT-LINE SOLDIERS
- MIGRANTS SEEN AS CHEAP MERCHANDIZE WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
- POTENTIAL MIGRANTS REPRESSED IN ORIGIN WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS
- RENDITION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMPLETE THE GALLERY OF MIGRATION HORRORS
- MIGRANT REMMITANCES EARNED WITH SUB-HUMAN EFFORTS ARE EXPECTED TO FILL THE GAP OF DWINDLING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
- WORLDWIDE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (68 BILLION) IS NOT COMPLYING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND IS INCREASINGLY TIED TO POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL AND RELIGIOUS CONDITIONALITIES
- TARGETED AND TIED AID MAINLY RESULTS IN BENEFITS TO DONORS AND IS NOT SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE INTEGRATION
- DEBT CANCELLATION IS DEDUCTED FROM AID FUNDS: DOUBLE COUNTING
- FAIR TRADE WOULD YIELD SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN UNFAIR AID
- AS AID FOR LATIN AMERICA (7 BILLION) DECREASES, MILITARY AID (122 MILLIONS) AND DEBT (780 BILLION) INCREASE

# LATIN-AMERICAN RESISTANCE – COUNTER-TENDENCIES IN THE ROAD TOWARDS LIBERATION

## THE STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND OF DEMOCRACY

- THE SOCIAL FORUMS – COUNTER HEGEMONIC DEBATE
- SOCIAL MOVEMENTS INTEGRATE, NETWORK AND CONQUER NEW SPACES IN THE POLITICAL PROCESSES
- UPRISING OF THE INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS TO DEFEND TERRITORY AND NATURAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS THEIR EQUAL RIGHTS AND TO DEPOSE PRESIDENTS WHO DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITIES
- ELECTED GOVERNMENTS EITHER COMPLY WITH ELECTORAL PROMISES OR TUMBLE. (ELECTORAL SOFTWARE-RIGGING, AN EMERGING PROBLEM)
- CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL PROCESSES
- PEOPLE’S SUMMITS INTEGRATED TO MERCOSUR PRESIDENTIAL SUMMITS
- SHOW OF FORCE OF LATINO IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA
- THE UPRISING OF CHILEAN STUDENTS DENOUNCING THE EFFECTS OF NEOLIBERALISM ON EDUCATION, SEGREGATION AND DEMOCRACY

## **BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE AGENDA SUPPORTED BY INTEGRATION**

- SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEMOCRATIC CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS. INCLUDES SOCIAL CONTROL OF GOVT. AND THE RIGHTS TO DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
- RECOVERY OF NATIONAL RESOURCES
- ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE STATE SUPPORTED BY A FISCAL REFORM TOWARDS PROGRESSIVE TAX SYSTEMS
- NEW BUDGETARY PRIORITIES REJECTING EXCESIVE SAVINGS IMPOSED BY THE IMF, AVOIDING NEW CONDITIONED DEBTS AND GIVING FIRST PRIORITY TO SOCIAL INVESTMENT, DISPARITY REDUCTION AND JOB CREATION
- RE-NATIONALIZATION AND PUBLIC CONTROL OF BASIC SERVICES INCLUDING PENSION FUNDS
- STATE SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTIVE AND JOB-CREATING ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES
- ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MECHANISMS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION
- INTEGRATION IN THE USE OF ENERGY RESOURCES AS AN ENGINE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- INTEGRATION TO DEFEND THE INTERESTS OF THE SOUTH BEYOND LATIN AMERICA / THE GROUP OF 20

## **INTEGRATION BASED ON SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION**

- TRADE IS NO LONGER THE MAIN PURPOSE OF INTEGRATION
- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION TAKES FRONT PAGE
- COMPENSATION OF ASYMMETRIES – PRIORITY FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES
- RATHER THAN SEEKING COMPETITION, COLLABORATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME
- SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL INTEGRATION DEPENDS FROM EFFECTIVE NATIONAL INTEGRATION ESPECIALLY IN A REGION WITH THE WORST DISPARITIES IN THE WORLD
- CONVERSELY, IN-COUNTRY SOLIDARITY DEPENDS FROM THE CREATION OF SOLIDARITY MECHANISMS AMONG ALL PEOPLES
- RATHER THAN AIMING FOR THE SUPREMACY OF ONE COUNTRY OVER OTHERS AS IS THE GOAL IN NEOLIBERALISM, WHAT IS CALLED FOR IS THE SEARCH OF SYSTEMIC (REGIONAL) COMPETITIVENESS
- BY THE SAME TOKEN, SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL INTEGRATION IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN THE CONTEXT OF A FAIR WORLD ORDER
- A SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS WILL THEREFORE BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF JUSTICE AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD.

## **SAMPLE OF INTEGRATION INITIATIVES TO DEFEAT OPPRESSION AND PLUNDER**

- ALBA – THE INTEGRATION OF THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN OF CAPITAL
- TRANSFORMATION OF THE NEOLIBERAL MERCOSUR (ALBA PRINCIPLES)
- PETROSUR AND GREAT SOUTHERN GAS PIPELINE
- DEBTORS CLUB TO JOINTLY NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH
- TELESUR TO COUNTERACT MEDIA DOMINATION
- UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH TO COUNTERACT DOMINANT IDEOLOGY
- SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY (SOCIAL, POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INTEGRATION)
- COMMERCIAL TREATIES OF THE PEOPLES IN OPPOSITION TO FTAs (OF THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS)
- DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTH
- STRUCTURAL FUND TO SUPPORT WEAKER ECONOMIES
- INTEGRATED NETWORK OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES
- INTEGRATED PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ORGANIZATION FOLLOWING CUBA'S EXAMPLE

- THE FIGHT AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM AND IMPERIALISM, THEIR CAPABILITY TO CREATE AND EXACERBATE DISPARITIES, TO SEGREGATE AND DESTROY PEOPLE AND TO DEplete NATURE, HAS BECOME A MATTER OF SURVIVAL. SO HAS THE NEED FOR A STRONG INDEPENDENT ROLE AGAINST THE FTAA AND THE PERVERSE DESIGNS OF THE WORLD BANK, THE IMF, THE DOHA ROUND AND THE WTO
- IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO REVERSE CURRENT TRENDS IN INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA, THEN IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO REVERSE OTHER NEGATIVE TRENDS LIMITING INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT
- LATIN AMERICA IS SHOWING THAT THE BEST WAY TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD IS BY STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, POOLING RESOURCES AND CONFRONTING DANGERS TOGETHER.

***“The South is now the North”***

***Frei Betto  
Former Brazilian Minister***