

The process of (anti) socialist deindustrialization in Venezuela, chronicle of a ruin announced

Manuel Sutherland

This paper focuses on some concrete determinations of what could be defined as the process of deeper and more surprising deindustrialization of America, with the aggravating fact that the protagonist of the deindustrialization is a government that according to the ideology that professes (socialism Nationalist of the 21st century) should have done the opposite. Although such work would require several volumes and the article has serious commitments to brevity, an attempt will be made to capture some key indicators of the current backwardness of production and the macroeconomic policies that have plunged the industrial apparatus. For all of the above, an important synthesis effort will be made, which will leave very suggestive aspects outside of this article. For reasons of space, a focus will be placed on what should not have been done, rather than what could (or should) have been done.

Keywords: Production, productivity, imports, overvaluation and deindustrialization.

The Mercosur paradigm for Venezuela: a conjunctural analysis

Gerson Revanales

The essay consists of two parts: The first develops the central hypothesis, –in our opinion almost unheard of due to the lack of literature, publications and formal academic studies, on the geopolitical vision of former President Hugo Chávez and the reasons for the strategic entry to MERCOSUR, where Venezuela's departure from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN); the confrontation with Washington; the weakening of the OAS; the creation of PETROCARIBE and ALBA were part of a strategy designed to carry forward Socialism of the XXI Century in the region.

The second part, although it has an economic-juridical approach, its reasons are geopolitical, for which it is composed of three themes: in the first one analyzes what is called "The cambalache" of the CAN by MERCOSUR; a seemingly economic but political decision with a high cost for Venezuela's trade relations. The second theme, in the light of the theory of integration, analyzes MERCOSUR as the paradigm in a "non-common market" for the interests of Venezuela; fundamentally, if it is reviewed according to the "Theory of Comparative Advantages of David Ricardo. To verify it, a study is carried out in the period 2002-2014, which shows the low competitiveness of Venezuelan products in the southern market, with Venezuela presenting a negative trade balance with each of the MERCOSUR countries; from which it is inferred that the decision to denounce the Cartagena Agreement was a more than commercial decision of political interest.

The third issue closes with a review of the non-compliances and delays that led to the cessation of Venezuela within MERCOSUR; a fact never occurred in the history of diplomatic relations of Venezuela. Finally, some reflections are made about why Venezuela should seek new models of political, social and commercial relations within and outside the region.

Key words: MERCOSUR, Geopolitics, ACE18, Strategy, integration.

Trade relations between China and Latin America

Humberto Daza

Between 2001 and 2011, in the trade among China and Latin America, the two countries exceed the amount of US\$ 25.000 million. The increase was hard for both, especially in the first decade of the present century. Today, the most of the countries of Latin America, including 5 of the 6 greater economies of the region, they suffer a slow growth or don't grow, and face many structural obstacles for the economy reactivation. The rapid growth of China who helped to boost the earnings of Latin America, keeping the demand and the commodities prices aloft, has fallen, according to some analysts below 7 percent. The crucial and unanswered questions are: What will be the effect of this economic change in these relationships? How they will evolve when the mutual economic interests that unite them are weakening and there are political tensions in Latin America? Answer this questions requires a broader research than the content of this article; nevertheless, a modest first attempt is made to approach us to the process of trade relations between China and our region.

Keywords: Government, globalisation, extractive model, trade relations, China-Latin America.

Towards an explanation of violent crime in Venezuela

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The growth of violent crime in Venezuela has been more serious and constant in the last three decades. Only in 2016, the total of homicides register in the country was greater than the accumulated in all the 80's decade. Now, what explains this violent crimes? Base on a documentary review of the research and explanations about the violent crimes in Venezuela and the chronological exposition of the main criminal indicators, the present study seeks to reflect and propose as an explanatory point of this phenomenon that current violent crimes is the consequence of a historical process and social change that modified the bases of the

institutional structure and individual socialization, turning venezuelan society into a culturally violent society.

Key words: Violent crime, Venezuela, culture, social structure, crime.

Summary elements for a historical judgment to chavism

Jesús Puerta

This essay approaches the possibilities of studying and judging chavismo's current crisis from, at least, three points of view: 1) as a period of Venezuela's contemporary history, in an analogous way to the AD-COPEI bipartidism epoch, perezjimenismo, gomecismo, and so on; 2) as a set of government plans and accomplishments; and 3) as a sociopolitical mass movement with its corresponding ideological elements. For this, it is necessary to carry out an analysis that aims to understand the phenomenon first. Secondly, an understanding that sets the meaning of the process in wider contexts. Finally, there would be a judgment from a critical examination of our own prejudices, as we are not impartial, ahistorical, or 'axiological neutrality'-coated observers.

Keywords: Chavism, government, populism, ideology, mass.

Racial discrimination and daily life in Latin America: Employment, education and media

Esther Pineda G.

Segregation and racial discrimination in all its forms have been recognized by international instruments and bodies as a denial of human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity. These practices are considered in contemporary society as politically incorrect, which has created the conditions for racism to be carried out with more subtle, almost imperceptible manifestations, which facilitate their penetration and durability in the social fabric. In Latin America its most frequent expression has been and continues to be through language, jokes, sayings, nicknames, gestures, avoidance, doubt, suspicion, ridicule, condescension, questioning, omission, Neglect, demoralization and minimization of racialized subjects; Which encourages this type of discrimination to be carried out with total impunity.

Keywords: Racial discrimination, racism, stigma, daily life, Afro-descendants.

The contemporary world: Difference as a contingent bet on a possible «community»*Jordi Santiago Flores*

Upon the question on “the common” as the substrate that historically, sociologically and culturally sets our genealogical concepts of nation, what interpretation is made of the political as a contingent space for encounter and confrontation of differences? This paper proposes a path stemming from a certain hermeneutics tradition, Political Philosophy and Social Theory, that works as a linking chain allowing us to pin point the question on the difference, in the field of Freudian psychoanalysis—a discipline whose contributions to the thinking of failings as totalizing discourses in culture offers tools that allow us to approach contemporary processes of social bonding. Lastly, the proposal points towards contingency as that which overcomes misunderstanding—a condition of every speaking individual—enabling the structuring of what gave rise to Sociology in the 19th century: the problem of how to improve the quality of social bonds—a matter that presents to us today, yet again, and still, as an unresolved issue.

Keywords: Individual, contingency, impasse, difference, social bond, culture.