

Argentina's dilemma:

A century ago, this country was among the world's leading powers. Since 1950, a decline began, which continues to present. It is a paradoxical case, unique in the world, of self-inflicted involution, having enormous human and material resources available

Province and Nation: only one solution

Tomás Loewy¹

Today nothing is consistent if it does not contemplate a healthy dialectical relationship between what is global and what is local

In this time of pandemics and warlike invasions, Argentina -for better or worse- has its own profile. It is useless to want to blend in with the world's problems because we are hopelessly different.

In order to travel a positive path, we must overcome at least four hypertrophies: First, having a province within another (La Matanza); second, exhibiting a country within their own (Province of Buenos Aires); third, reducing urbanization by 93%, and fourth preventing a third of the population from crowding into a 1% of the territory.

The book by Esteban Bullrich et al. (2021)² recovered the hindrance of the Province of Buenos Aires. It was shocking, due to the critical health situation that the former senator of the Nation is going through. Many people saw the publication of the book as an opportunity, despite of the fact that we are a "graveyard of opportunities."

For a country project

The dilemma of the "mega" province also makes every legitimate progress in the country unfeasible. For this reason, the problem does not admit a district solution and it demands a mixed management: both national and provincial.

If we only look at the economy, we will get cycles of economic growth and democratic and autocratic periods. However, we cannot aspire to a genuine development, waving flags of sustainability. Today nothing is consistent if it does not contemplate a healthy dialectical relationship between what is global and what is local.



¹ Agronomist. He lives in Bahía Blanca and owns the website www.proyectedepais.com.ar

² Bullrich, E.; Morad, E and J. Colina. «A new Buenos Aires to renew the pact of national union»

The new provinces proposed in the book, in principle, are auspicious. The reason for this is that, among other things, it "breaks" the great urban agglomeration and this is done -precisely- near La Matanza. CABA³ would absorb part of the suburbs and the rest would be integrated into another province: the AMBA⁴ would become a nightmare of the past.



By mentioning that the problem was national and not merely provincial, I was implying that the solution stems from state policies that necessarily respond to a Country Project. These policies, neither extensive nor exclusive, go through a land use planning, agricultural sustainability and environmental education.

Deconcentrate and decentralize is the watchword

The division of the province would be innocuous, however, if it is not accompanied by a human redistribution; that is called "geodemography". Along these lines, the new capital cities should settle outside the larger cities. Then the agricultural and environmental paradigm shift would be important for us and for the rest of the world.

Of course, a simplification and reduction of the national political system is required, with a rationalization of the state and justice, to access levels of efficiency. We should also take into account the need to promote the agricultural, industrial and service SMEs and the transfer of the headquarters from the Federal Capital to a medium-sized city in the interior.

All of this aims at developing an economic, cultural and demographic decentralization and deconcentration, the demographic one being the most structural deformation that we experience. Perhaps the "new provinces" project could be a good trigger for these objectives and many more, always within a participatory democracy and without violating any constitutional regulations.

³ Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Federal Capital)

⁴ Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires (CABA + Conurbano)

Conclusions

Abandoning the model of opportunities is awakening our pool of potentialities, has previously been demonstrated by history. The current crossroads is choosing to solve the public deficit and inflation to gain access to growth or fight for a world-society, with a future for us and the following generations.

As regards "the great planetary bifurcation" and a society at risk, we could do our part to regain regional leadership and get out of the inexplicable. We have everything we need; we just need to share some common agendas. What we do not have is some more time to endure in an inertia of meanness and inequity, with a desire for power and impunity. Nobody is going to save us, except ourselves.

Translation:
Giovanna Imperatori
EN<>ES Translator
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/giovanaimperatori/>