

THE “POPULISM” AND ARGENTINA'S “BAD LUCK”

A SHORT ANSWER TO “THE ECONOMIST”

By Pablo Javier DAVOLI (02/18/14).

I. In its edition from 02/15/14, the famous English newspaper *The Economist* published a concise article entitled *The parable of Argentina* (in Spanish, *La parábola de Argentina*). ⁽¹⁾ It makes reference to the prolonged and decadent sliding experienced by our country.

II. The article has many deficiencies. Therefore, the analysis made is so superficial and simplistic that is foolish. But also, it is a surprisingly disorganised and sloppy article in which the referred causes to explain the Argentinean recession are roughly mixed up: The predominantly primary nature of the productive activity, the economic protectionism, the fragility of political parties, the coup d'états, the Neoliberalism of the 90's, the corruption of institutions, etc. The author limited to make a minor *in passing* reference to the mentioned factors without providing any useful clue to distinguish the nature of each one

¹ Available at: <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21596515-there-are-lessons-many-governments-one-countrys-100-years-decline-parable?spc=scode&spv=xm&ah=9d7f7ab945510a56fa6d37c30b6f1709> (consulted on 02/17/14). Spanish version at: <http://site.informadorpublico.com/?p=41790> (consulted on 02/17/14).

of them, their time context or the reciprocal relationship that could be possibly verified between them.

III. The imperfections found in the article in question do not end there: Once that indiscriminate and anarchic listing is made, two essential grounds summarize so heterogeneous and phenomenal variety. Namely: *Populism* and –hard as it is to believe– *bad luck*.

a. As often happens, a definition is pending from the first one. Juan Domingo PERÓN and María Eva DUARTE DE PERÓN are the only ones indicated as the highest emblems of *populism*. It seems that, to the article's author, that label would allow subsuming: The stay-in schools of the Fundación *Eva Perón*, which rescued thousands of Argentinean children from poverty providing them with food, clothes, medical care and education, without cutting their corresponding family ties; the creation of *Canal 7*, the first television broadcasting station of the Argentine Republic (our country was the second in Latin America in obtaining new technology); the founding of *Aerolíneas Argentinas Sociedad del Estado* that, according to the Inter American Press Association, in 1951 became the best commercial flight company of the world; the design and manufacturing of military jet planes *Pulqui I* and *Pulqui II*; the development of the first national aerospace investigations with the launch of a whole *family* of rockets (*Gamma Centauro*, *Beta Centauro*, *Orion* and others); the presence of the Argentine Air Force in the Antarctica; the celebration of the First National Conference of Philosophy which had 148 national members and 136 foreign members, including distinguished personalities such as: Robert ARON, Benedetto CROCE, Maurice BLONDEL, Hans-Georg GADAMER, Nicolai HARTMANN, Martin HEIDEGGER, Werner JAEGER, Karl JASPERS, Karl LÖWITZ, Gabriel MARCEL, Julián MARÍAS, Jacques MARITAIN,

Bertrand RUSSELL, José VASCONCELOS and Alberto WAGNER DE REYNA; etc. (2)

Not for nothing, other very prestigious British people, far from considering Peronism a purely *populist* phenomenon, have pointed out its importance to the country's progress. Of course, this recognition has a special meaning when it comes from the bitter enemies of the vigorous political movement founded by PERÓN. That was the case of the remembered Winston CHURCHILL, who celebrated the self-titled *Revolución Libertadora (Liberating Revolution)* with these eloquent expressions: *The fall of the tyrant Perón in Argentina is the best solution to the pride of the Empire and it is as important to me as the victory of World War II, and the forces of the British Empire will not give him respite, a break or show mercy in life, neither after his death.* (3)

In a similar way, towards the end of the 80's, the American politician Lyndon LAROUCHE explained: *Argentina has demonstrated*

² We expanded a bit more on these subjects in our article *La reforma constitucional y el problema del desarrollo argentino (crítica de una opinión del Dr. Mariano Grondona)*, available at:

<http://www.feedlotcreixell.com.ar/davoli/articulos/La%20Reforma%20Constitucional%20y%20el%20Problema%20del%20Desarrollo%20Argentino.pdf>.

³ Quoted by:

- Web site called *Argentina Vuelve*, http://www.argentinavuelve.com.ar/historia_argentina_articulos_nacypop_16_sep_19_55_comienzo_destruccion_nacional.htm (consulted on 09/24/12).

- Web site called *Banite. La Revolución es Ahora*, <http://banite.com.ar/2010/09/16/maldita-fusiladora-2/> (consulte on 09/24/12).

- QUIROGA LAVIÉ, Humberto, *Secretos y Misterios de Hombres y Mujeres*, available at: http://books.google.com.ar/books?id=q0jh_O-065AC&pg=PT351&lpg=PT351&dq=churchill+%2B+per%C3%B3n&source=bl&ots=imD4Fo2WUM&sig=AJudnXhcJ93kd2AN2wtAUjAFwp0&hl=es&sa=X&ei=Qb1gUOO5Ilim8QS1_YC4BA&ved=0CFwQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=churchill%20%2B%20per%C3%B3n&f=false (compulsado en fecha 24/09/12).

its amazing capacity to the world, with a high level of industrial development and advanced technology, just with the manufacturing of a jet plane -the 'Pulqui'- thus becoming the Third World's leader. With ten more years of Peronist government, Argentina would have become the industrial leader of Latin America, for this reason, its overthrow was necessary. If, even though, Argentina kept its high level of industrialization, it was thanks to the politics developed by General Perón's government in every order. (4)

b. As regards the *bad luck*: We are not ignorant of the role sometimes played by *fortune* in the politics world; nonetheless, the reference made to it on *The Economist's* article verges on the magical thought. It is like affirming Argentines had *bad luck* because the US Government adopted Nicholas SPYKMAN's geopolitical directives outlined in 1942. This was an undoubtedly imperialist doctrine, which considered -among other things- the necessity of undermining the *strengths* and *opportunities* of our country. That we had *bad luck* because between 1942 and 1949 the US Government systematically boycotted our economy, blocking its foreign trade to *intentionally* increase *Argentina's weaknesses* and to prevent *the growth of*

⁴ LAROUCHE, Lyndon, Argentina, *Polo Industrial de Iberoamérica* (1989); quoted by:

- *Mundo Sur*:

http://www.msur.com.ar/sitio/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=273&Itemid=32.

- *Nacional y Popular*:

http://www.nacionalypopular.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5846&Itemid=1.

- *La Botella al Mar*:

<http://www.labotellaalmar.com.ar/vertema.php?id=1024>.

These Web sites were consulted on 09/24/12.

Argentina's heavy industry. (5) That we had *bad luck* because in the Yalta Conference, held on February, 1945, Winston CHURCHILL explicitly asked his allies: *To not allow Argentina to become a power. And drag along all of Latin America.* (6) That we had *bad luck* because we were charged and addressed as *Nazis* for receiving the same German scientists, technicians and professionals that the USA and the USSR endeavoured to co-opt to them.

It also means that we had *bad luck* because the embassies of Great Britain and the USA in Buenos Aires supported the majority of the coup d'états which disturbed the development of our political and institutional life. That we had *bad luck* because we were despicably attacked by terrorist and guerrilla organizations influenced by Marxism, which had powerful war, financial, informative, and diplomatic and propaganda support from abroad. That we had *bad luck* because the *United States Army School of the Americas* interfered in the doctrinaire formation of our Armed Forces, because Henry KISSINGER induced Latin American military majors (among them, General Jorge Rafael VIDELA) to deploy a dishonourable *dirty war* against revolution. (7) That we had *bad luck* because the British government imposed ignominious conditions on us due to our defeat in the Falklands War (1982). That we had *bad luck* because we were pressured to accept the disastrous *recipes* of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, focused on the dismantling of our State and the chaining of our

⁵ ESCUDÉ, Carlos, Pasado y presente de las relaciones argentinas con los hegemonos occidentales, en *Política Exterior Argentina 1989-1999. Historia de un Éxito, Nuevo Hacer* (Grupo Editor Latinoamericano), Buenos Aires, December 1998, pages 189 and 190.

⁶ Quoted by: Vcm. (R.) V.G.M. RICCIARDELLI, Horacio, *Malvinas y Geopolítica de la Destrucción Nacional*, Web Edition, Part I, available at: <http://www.mov-condor.com.ar/malvinas-doc/malv-geopol-I.htm> (consulted on 02/17/14).

⁷ According to: DÍAZ ARAUJO, Enrique, artículo *Dos Libros*, en revista *Cabildo*, Buenos Aires, June 2012, pages 11 and 12.

economy. (8) That we have *bad luck* because we fell in the mortal trap of the public over indebtedness. (9)

Obviously, *The Economist* saddled us with an extraordinary huge dose of *bad luck*... It is like when a killer claims that his victim had the *bad luck* to be in the way of the bullet deliberately shot to him...

IV. Of course, we are not ignorant of the big repeated mistakes made, very often, by our people throughout the last century. We are not ignorant of the mishandlings of our matters or the well-established mutual distrust that commonly divide us and make us enemies; or the pendular cyclothymia between the grossly pretentious self-praise and the stark self-denigration; or our childish passion for news; or the egocentric miserable eagerness to stand out when talking about anything, at the expense of its correct judgement and resolution... (10) We are also aware of the cunning betrayals perpetrated, without punishment, by several of our leaders...

Nevertheless, such assertions do not free those imperialist agents from guilt and responsibility who, cleverly using our vernacular

⁸ For further information on the subject, refer to the interview made by Alex JONES to Greg PALAST on 03/04/02; available at: http://www.laeditorialvirtual.com.ar/Pages/Palast_VerdaderoPlanDelFMI.htm (consulted on 02/17/14).

⁹ In our article *La reforma constitucional y el problema del desarrollo argentino...*, aforementioned, we have stated a brief detail of the evolution of Argentina's indebtedness in the last decades.

¹⁰ We expanded on some of these items in our book *Meditaciones Sociológicas. Confesiones de un Argentino Preocupado*, available at:

<http://www.feedlotcreixell.com.ar/davoli/libros/Meditaciones%20Sociologicas%20II.pdf>.

http://www.laeditorialvirtual.com.ar/Pages2/Davoli_Pablo/Davoli_MeditacionesSociologicas.html.

defects, hide behind such *bad luck*... The truth is that we expected that a *media* like *The Economist* would lie to us a little better...