

The Cultural Battle Advances

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Argentina has a far-right president who presents himself as a defender of “freedom” and follows leaders like Trump, Musk, and Netanyahu, making political decisions marked by violence, authoritarianism, and cruelty. Some youth and other social sectors, disappointed with traditional parties, feel represented by Milei and continue to support him.

For 15 months, he has misruled by controlling the legislative and judicial powers, dismantling essential state institutions and agencies, increasing the unpayable foreign debt with the IMF, destroying the national industry, favoring dubious business deals for the wealthy, handing over territories to extractive corporations like never before, depriving the working class of food, medicine, and other rights, and impoverishing the middle class while fiercely repressing their peaceful protests. All of this is justified by the major disinformation media, which tout the wonders achieved while concealing the socio-economic devastation, as they are funded by the plutocracy that wields power.

Everything is serious, but I want to reflect on what some analysts point out: **the cultural revolution plan is an attempt to alter people's worldview, instill humanist values, and reshape our deepest identity into disvalues that fracture the social fabric, undermine the ability to think independently, and diminish the feeling of being an inclusive and supportive community.**

We describe it as a cultural battle because, through their speeches, propaganda, and actions, they assault and attempt to **replace**: solidarity with cruelty and hatred towards the poor; an attitude of openness to foreigners with discrimination and border closures; respect for life with the idolization of the Market; a sense of community with egocentrism and patriarchal hierarchization; awareness of the common good and shared resources with the absolutization of private property; love and inclusion with hatred for the different and the discarding of minorities; reflection and creativity with mindlessness and the repetition of slogans; awareness of labor rights with newly legalized slavery; faith in work with an immoral pursuit of profit; the valuation of human rights with their validity only for privileged sectors, excluding others deemed subhuman; and the search for memory, truth, and justice with the destruction of monuments or organizations and the false narrative of the military dictatorship.

It gives us hope to know that popular support for this policy is drastically decreasing and that the numerous peaceful mobilizations in the streets throughout the country are driven by a sense of community, democracy, and ethics as expressed in slogans such as: ALL IN DEFENSE OF THE RETIREES; THE HOMELAND IS NOT FOR SALE; THIS GOVERNMENT SHAMES US; DIGNITY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE ...

The government responds with slander, violent repression, and the judicialization of protest. It thus demonstrates both its weakness and the impossibility of subjugating, with impunity, those motivated by non-negotiable values. I hope this ethic influences the opposition politicians! It is up to the Mercy community to stand by this struggle in the

streets, raise awareness, educate in the communities, and encourage an eco-spirituality that defends life, freedom, equality, and peace.

May the Spirit continue to illuminate our path as a people and grant us the courage to fight, the unity to organize, love for non-violent resistance, and honest leaders to restore independence and democracy.

