

President Fox's Priorities for Mexico: Legalize Drugs, Extend Slavery

by Rubén Cota Meza

Within hours of taking office on Dec. 1 as Mexico's new President, Vicente Fox Quezada announced to the commanders of his country's Armed Forces, "We are going all out against the drug trade!" However, at the same time, his Foreign Affairs Minister, Jorge Castañeda, was announcing that one of the priorities of the government's foreign policy would be "a new focus" on drugs, including "the decriminalization of certain currently illegal substances," and the use of "market mechanisms" to lessen the "damage resulting from the prohibitive nature of the drug trade."

Castañeda's choice turns of phrase—which could only have been expressed as brazenly by Milton Friedman, the "butcher of Chile," promoter of legalized drugs, including heroin, and Satanic follower of the doctrines of Bernard Mandeville—appears in the chapter "Foreign Policy Notes for the Vicente Fox Government, 2000-2006," written for *Chile-Mexico, Two Face-to-Face Transitions*, a book compiled by Luis Maira.

Shortly thereafter, in an interview with the newspaper *La Jornada*, Castañeda was asked about his proposal to legalize drugs. He answered that he presented his proposal "in U.S. forums, along with very conservative individuals such as Milton Friedman and George Soros: These elements have to be viewed domestically in a more flexible, modern current." Soros, the infamous megaspeculator, is also the leading financier of efforts to legalize drugs on a global scale.

At the same time, Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, National Security Adviser to the Fox Presidency and co-author of the book *The Military and Democracy* (better known as "The Bush Manual to Dismantle Ibero-America's Armed Forces"), announced that investigating and combatting the laundering of the profits of organized crime are not among its concerns, but would be the responsibility of Finance Ministry technicians. The Finance Ministry, of course, is now in the hands of Francisco Gil Díaz, the leading Mexican disciple of Friedman. Equally stunning, is that human rights policy in Mexico has been given over to Mariclaire Acosta, a signer of international media advertisements in favor of drug legalization, paid for by Soros.

So, what are we to conclude? Is the plan to hand Pemex, the state-run oil company, over to the DuPonts (the new head

of Pemex is Raúl Muñoz Leos, president of DuPont in Mexico), under the pretext of shutting down this alleged "slush fund" for politicians, only to milk the "cash cow" of the drug trade? Was the statement given to the Armed Forces by Fox (who until recently served as an executive of Coca Cola Co. in Mexico), that he would go all out against the drug trade, just another case of "telling the client what he wants to hear"?

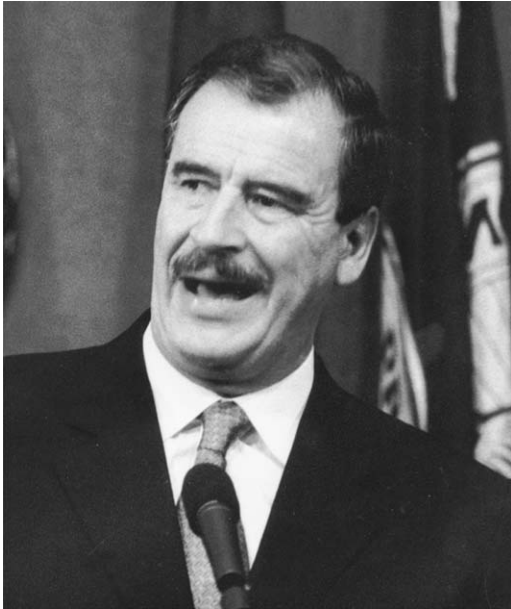
In a review of his six years in office, outgoing President Ernesto Zedillo described Mexico as "a guinea pig of globalization." Indeed, Fox's electoral victory, to which Zedillo decidedly contributed, and the formation of his new government, is the natural product of "artificial insemination" from abroad, a Mexican clone resulting from the pairing of two of the most criminal free-trade mentalities: On the one hand, the Mandevillian view of the Mont Pelerin Society, which considers "private vices as public virtues" and man as virtual human cattle, subject to slavery and servitude. On the other hand, the liberal democratoides attached to "Project Democracy," the Inter-American Dialogue, and allies of the U.S. State Department, which Jorge Castañeda, Aguilar Zinser, and Mariclaire Acosta have faithfully served for the past two decades.

The pairing of these two evil mentalities was efficiently described in the official documents of the United States government during the 1920s, as a "Nazi-Communist Alliance."

Slavery Today

The economic model, dubbed "outward growth" by the economists, established by then-President Carlos Salinas de Gortari with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and expanded by Zedillo, will be carried to its extreme by Fox. The basic scheme involves granting national territory for the installation of "manufacturing plantations," which will exploit semi-enslaved labor power to produce cheap exports for a U.S. consumer market considered infinite.

However, as the Dec. 3 *New York Times* pointed out, this consumption capacity, based on a huge debt bubble, is reaching "the end of the line," and cannot be stretched any further. The collapse of consumption "arrived sooner and harder" than expected, driven by the decline in stock values



Mexican President Vicente Fox (left), and well-known “leftist,” Jorge Castañeda, appointed as Mexico’s Secretary of Foreign Relations, who is a second-generation British agent of influence.

and the increases in the cost of energy and interest rates. Americans can no longer afford the luxury of being “the consumers of last resort” for cheap Third World products. In other words, the Salinas-Zedillo-Fox model has also reached “the end of the line.”

Nevertheless, blinded by ideology, Fox and his assistant managers will try to carry out what the “board of directors” of Mexico, Inc. is demanding: more austerity in public programs, a bigger tax bite of the nation’s exhausted resources, the allocation of oil income to pay debts (primarily, those of the banks’ bailout fund, Fobaproa), privatization of the energy sector, extension of the *maquiladora* assembly-line system to southern Mexico, and pulling in more cheap manpower.

To enforce these brutal policies, the “headhunters” hired by Fox (even the designation of his assistant managers was privatized) have appointed Francisco Gil Díaz, another of Friedman’s “Chicago Boys” known for his heartless tax policies, as Mexico’s Finance Minister. Fox himself announced on Dec. 3 that he would push a tax reform “with teeth,” saying that “you can’t say, ‘no more taxes,’ and ‘no more contributions from everyone,’” i.e., he’s going to collect taxes.

The Labor Ministry was given to Carlos Abascal Caranza, former president of the Businessman’s Confederation of the Mexican Republic (Coparmex), a federation of bosses and a bastion of the Mont Pelerin Society in Mexico. Abascal’s job will be to get still more cheap labor. Pemex has been handed over to Raúl Muñoz Leos, general director of the DuPont Mexico company for the past 12 years, and national vice president of Coparmex. This is like naming a pirate as captain of the ship.

To complete the carving up of the social security system, Santiago Levy was named general director of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS). As Finance Ministry under-

secretary for expenditures in the Zedillo government, Santiago Levy redesigned the subsidy plans for the population, slashing or eliminating subsidies for the poor, on the pretext of providing more subsidies for the starving. In other words, taking from the poor to give to the impoverished. By this means, the Integral Family Development System (DIF) reduced budget allocations from 2.066 billion pesos in 1995, to 930 million pesos in 2000. Of 33 DIF centers, the country was left with one; of 704 doctors, 392 remained; nurses were reduced from 403 to 228; and of the 83 mobile medical units existing in 1995, none remain today.

The same has happened with programs for the poor involving distribution of milk, corn tortillas, pensions, scholarships, and so on.

Fox Drapes a Serpent Around His Own Neck

The first action of the Fox government was to order the withdrawal of control posts that the Mexican Army maintained in the state of Chiapas, and to send the troops back to their barracks. He also announced that on Dec. 5, he would send to the Mexican Congress an “indigenist rights” bill that would give the so-called indigenous communities in Mexico free rein to create “indigenous” republics, designed in Paris by the “action anthropologists” who godfathered the narco-terrorist Shining Path in Peru.

Immediately, the Zapatista National Liberation Army’s (EZLN) “Commander Marcos” responded by setting down various conditions for renewing peace talks with the government: accept the San Andrés Larrainzar agreements, which imply automatic approval of the indigenist rights bill; withdraw the Army from Chiapas; and free Zapatista prisoners from jail. “Marcos” also announced that in February, he would appear in Mexico City, accompanied by 23 Zapatista

“commanders,” to convince the Congress to approve the indigenous rights bill. Toward this end, the Zapatista commander called for a great political mobilization by “support committees” both inside Mexico and internationally, by social organizations, political forces of all stripes, and by the population in general.

Thus, Fox has given the field over to the EZLN, which now will become a serpent that will entangle itself in all the country’s political processes and institutions.

Paving Stones on the Road to Hell

All of Fox’s grandiloquent plans, however, do not take into account the fact that the empire of globalization and free trade, “modernization” and “democratization,” is crumbling, and that the financial system is going under.

As LaRouche pointed out in a radio interview in the state of Sonora, Mexico on Nov. 25:

“I worry about present governments, including recently elected ones, because the world has been going in the wrong direction for a long time. But I also smile, because anyone

who thinks that what he *thinks* will happen now, will happen, is fooling himself. As the present world financial collapse hits with greater force, the most stubborn will of governments will bend, or will be forced to bend, to the reality of the world situation.

“So what governments think they are going to do, and what they will be doing two months from now, are far different things. When they brag about what they’re going to do, particularly when they are depending on a World Bank and IMF [International Monetary Fund] which are about to be *bankrupted*, I tell those governments to go back into the backrooms, discuss the matter, and prepare to change their policies. So, what most governments think they are going to do in the next six months, they will not be doing. They will be doing something very different. There is no fixed policy that will work. Every policy will be crushed, as by an earthquake that is going to hit now.

“This will be a time for ingenuity, to invent entirely new policies opposite to many of those which people are dedicated to at this time. If the bamboo does not bend, it will break.”

A Postive Role For Terrorism?

What, you ask, is Mexican President Vicente Fox, a “conservative” firmly committed to the neo-liberal economic policies of the “Chicago Boys,” doing by appointing the well-known “leftist,” Jorge Castañeda, as his Secretary of Foreign Relations?

Look again. Castañeda is not the simple leftist even his adversaries make him out to be. We are dealing here with a second-generation British agent of influence. His father, Jorge Castañeda, Sr., who, in the late 1970s, also served as Mexico’s Secretary of Foreign Relations, is one of Mexico’s most prominent advocates of globalism, an expert in international law, who worked closely with the International Law Association, whose Canadian head, Maj. Louis M. Bloomfield, co-founded the infamous British intelligence front, Permindex, through which the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, and many an attempted assassination of France’s Charles de Gaulle were run.

The younger Castañeda also has good connections to the Anglo-American establishment, teaching for many years at Princeton University and the University of California at Berkeley, and co-authoring a study of U.S.-Mexican relations with Jimmy Carter’s Ibero-American man, Robert Pastor, today an adviser to Al Gore.

When Castañeda published, in 1993, a proposed strategy for how the left in Ibero-America could make a come-

back after the fall of the Berlin Wall, an English edition of this strategy, *Utopia Disarmed: The Latin American Left After the Cold War*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf, and it was the Wall Street/London establishment’s own Inter-American Dialogue which hosted a Washington, D.C. reception to promote it upon its release.

In *Utopia Disarmed*, Castañeda provides insight into the strategy unifying the seemingly disparate “left” and “right” ideologies joined in the Fox government.

Ibero-America is reaching the limit of where it can find resources with which to pay its debts, under current models, he wrote. States will soon run out of natural resources or utilities to sell; once the “fire sales” are over, where will the funds come from to meet debt payments? Castañeda argues, straightforwardly, that terrorism, however, distasteful, is all that remains to force the institutions and populations of the continent to submit to the next round of looting:

“But lesser evils can function only in reference to greater ones; they require a clear and present danger to be credible. Thus, the condition for the renewed viability of reforms in Latin America—of any persuasion, but mainly in consonance with the social-democratic paradigm—lies inevitably in the threat of something worse. Since it cannot be revolution as such—the way Cuba was for nearly 20 years—it must be different, yet terrifying nonetheless. This is the syndrome of *Sendero Luminoso* [Peru’s narco-terrorist Shining Path]. . . . Without the fear inspired by the prospect of losing everything, the wealthy and middle class will prefer to lose nothing.”