

To Castañeda, 'Change' Is Terror and Drugs

by Gretchen Small

Who is this Jorge Castañeda, Jr., campaigning so eagerly already for the July 2006 Presidential election in Mexico, as a supposed “social agitator for change”?

Castañeda is campaigning on one message: That the International Monetary Fund’s beloved “second generation of economic reforms”—eliminating remaining state regulation of the economy; dropping labor protections; handing oil and electricity over to foreign interests, etc.—cannot be implemented in Mexico without first ripping up its “dysfunctional political system.”

He calls the system dysfunctional, because, under it, Mexico’s Congress has been able, somewhat, to defend national interests and the Constitution. Castañeda proposes: replacing Mexico’s strong Presidency (modelled on the American one) with a European-style parliamentary system; that popular referenda or plebescites be permitted to change the Constitution at whim; and other measures to weaken the power of government. Notably, he singles out “the current prohibition on foreign investment in the oil industry,” enshrined in Mexico’s 1917 Constitution, as top on his list of issues to be put to referenda.

Castañeda does not hide that foreign financiers are his primary constituency. “Mexico’s standing in the worldwide competition for foreign investment would be greatly enhanced” by such political changes, he wrote in a June 23, 2003 piece posted by California’s Pacific Council on International Policy. Why, “think of how the promise of genuine political and economic reform would play on the world’s capital markets.”

An Establishment Jacobin

Castañeda and his foreign sponsors are not proposing to debate “political reforms” politely, but impose them by terror. As he wrote openly in the 1990s, unless the Ibero-American continent is submerged in chaos and social upheaval on the scale of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, the full takedown of the nation-state will never be accepted. Ibero-Americans must be *terrorized*, to give up their belief in their right to their own nation.

The Castañeda campaign, thus, is a classic Synarchist operation, sponsored by the likes of mega-speculator George Soros, as a vehicle for this policy of terror. Repeatedly,



Jorge Castañeda: His primary constituency are the foreign financial interests that want to loot Mexico.

Castañeda made clear in his actions as Secretary of Foreign Relations (December 2000-January 2003) for President Vicente Fox, that he despises the very concept of national government for the Common Good. He often publicly rejected, on principle, the very concept of “moral policy.” He championed the idea that Mexico has to give up its “outdated” concept of national sovereignty, and become an obedient satrapy within the “North American community.”

Castañeda is a second-generation British agent-of-influence, who belongs to a prominent family in the Mexican elite. His father, former Secretary of Foreign Relations Jorge Castañeda de la Rosa, was an international law expert and long-time United Nations bureaucrat who worked closely with the International Law Association. Its Canadian head, Maj. Louis M. Bloomfield, founded the British intelligence front Permindex, implicated in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and numerous attempts against such other world leaders as France’s Charles de Gaulle and Italy’s Enrico Mattei. Castañeda served as an advisor to his father when the latter was named Foreign Secretary in 1979. The father’s imperial outlook was passed on, too, to Castañeda, Jr.’s step-brother, Andrés Rozenthal, with whom he remains politically, as well as personally, quite close.

For most of his adult life, Jr. worked the radical track in politics. Trained at Princeton University and the notorious École Pratique des Hautes Études of the Sorbonne, Castañeda, Jr. became a militant in the French and Mexican Communist Parties. When the São Paulo Forum was created by the Cuban Communist Party, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, to unify the narco-terrorist forces and “leftist” political parties of Ibero-America, Castañeda became one of its prominent spokesmen. He served as an advisor to the Forum’s main Mexican political party, the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, and threw his support behind the Zapatista narco-terrorist insurgency.

None of this stopped him from maintaining “respectable” connections in the United States. Castañeda, Jr. taught at

the University of California, Dartmouth, Princeton, and New York University; his columns were syndicated by the *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsweek International*; and he co-authored a book with the Carter Center's leading Ibero-American expert, Robert Pastor. When he was chosen in 2000 to be Secretary of Foreign Relations for the newly elected "conservative" National Action Party (PAN) Presidency of Vicente Fox, Washington neo-conservative centers such as Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) gave their approval. His prime sponsor in the United States was long the Inter-American Dialogue, London's leading British policy channel into Washington on Ibero-American affairs. In September 1993, the Alfred A. Knopf company published Castañeda's magnum opus, *Utopia Unarmed, The Latin American Left After the Cold War*, a book touted in the Western world as *the word* on Ibero-America and its immediate political future. The Inter-American Dialogue hosted a big Nov. 4, 1993 reception in Washington, to present the author, catapulting him into the ranks of established "authorities" on Ibero-American affairs.

'Terrifying Nonetheless'

It is in that book, that Castañeda laid out a classic Synarchist strategy to use terror to force submission to financier rule. If the "left" is to come to power in Ibero-America, he argued, it must accept globalization; if it wants to govern, it must do so with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Terrorism has a necessary role in achieving this in Ibero-America: When all the state companies and natural resources in the region have been "privatized"—sold off to pay the debt—only terrorist forces as awful as Peru's bestial Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) will terrorize the institutions and peoples of the region sufficiently that they will accept, as a "lesser evil," the "structural reforms" required to loot yet more money to pay the debt. He called this, "the Sendero Luminoso syndrome."

As he wrote in his chapter on "A Grand Bargain for the Millennium": "Thus the condition for the renewed viability of reformism in Latin America . . . 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,

Charges Castañeda Has Yet To Answer

From the statement, "Strange Reaction of Castañeda and Company to LaRouche's Efforts on Behalf of the Sovereignty and Development of Mexico," issued Sept. 17 by the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) and LaRouche's Ibero-American Labor Committees in Mexico, in response to a Sept. 15 slander against LaRouche published in the national daily Milenio, on Jorge Castañeda's behalf.

Jorge Castañeda has refused to answer the LYM's charges against him at these public events:

1) That Castañeda promotes the doctrine of "preventive war" [of] the government in Washington, whose principal author is Vice President Dick Cheney. . . . Lyndon LaRouche heads the international opposition to this policy, and is calling for Cheney to resign or be impeached. Castañeda, on the contrary, tried to involve Mexico in . . . Cheney and company's imperial war against Iraq.

2) That Castañeda supports the legalization of drugs, just like mega-speculator George Soros, who has spent millions sponsoring political figures who promote this idea. . . .

3) That [he] is a supporter and promoter of the so-called "structural reforms" which the International Monetary Fund, Wall Street creditor banks, and the "Houston cartel" (which includes companies like Dick Cheney's Halliburton, Enron, Reliant, El Paso, Schlumberger, et al.)

wish to impose on Mexico, for the purpose of looting the country's labor force and natural resources. Castañeda promotes these reforms under the amorphous cover of "seeking change." In this same way, Castañeda has called for an "energy chapter" of NAFTA, which would convert Mexican oil into a U.S. strategic reserve, just as Cheney proposed in the energy plan he designed for the Bush government in 2001. Castañeda insists that Mexico must double its oil production, for the purpose of guaranteeing the servicing of the cancerous foreign debt, and not for the development of the country.

Instead of answering these concrete accusations, Castañeda and his cronies at *Milenio* and other newspapers have taken refuge in spreading the lie that LaRouche is an "anti-Semite." It is widely known that this absurd accusation comes from the writings of Dennis King, financed by right-wing U.S. foundations such as the Smith Richardson Foundation, where [King] himself confesses to having worked with a faction of the CIA. The great "intellectual" Castañeda has opted to hide behind the skirts of this tired slander, rather than debate like a man. His supposedly great intellect turns out to be as artificially inflated as the muscles of Arnold Schwarzenegger—another puppet candidate of Cheney's and the Houston cartel—whose physique today shows the sorry effects of his excessive use of steroids over the years. . . .

A final note: It would be a public service for Castañeda to agree to a debate with us. We propose as the topic: "Why Castañeda would be a worse President than [Carlos] Salinas, [Ernesto] Zedillo, and [Vicente] Fox combined."

yet terrifying nonetheless. This is the syndrome of Sendero Luminoso. . . . The social disintegration of which Sendero, the violence in Rio, military unrest in Venezuela, and the drug trade in Colombia represent nothing more than symptoms, is the new greater evil that might make reformism a going concern again in Latin America. Without the fear inspired by the prospect of losing everything, the wealthy and middle class will prefer to lose nothing.”

In mid-1996, this “radical” was caught meeting secretly with the then-exiled former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, one of the most corrupt politicians in Mexico’s history, and a buddy of George Bush, Sr. who negotiated Mexico’s acceptance of the killer North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Reportedly, the subject was a strategy for bringing Salinas back into Mexican political life. Shortly thereafter, the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) itself unveiled Castañeda’s adaptation of his “terrifying” strategy to Mexico itself. The July/August 1996 edition of the CFR’s *Foreign Affairs*, the banking establishment’s flagship journal, published an article by Castañeda, “Mexico’s Circle of Misery.” It elaborated how United States policy must abandon the view that Mexico’s stability is a matter of its own national security, and, instead, adopt the policy that chaos in Mexico is not only tolerable, but necessary, to bring about “reforms.”

Mexico’s “authoritarian political system” was to be replaced with a “new order” and “reworked social contract.” But not enough Mexicans wished to overthrow their political system and government, a situation likely to continue while connections to the U.S. economy continued to hold out some hope of change. Thus, Castañeda posed the urgency of breaking U.S.-Mexican ties: “The segments of Mexican society linked to the United States include key constituencies and power centers, and their indifference to the course of events in Mexico weakens the chances of meaningful reform,” he wrote. “A nationwide social explosion, such as the Revolution of 1910, is virtually impossible while such a large, regionally well-distributed, broadly based segment of the population is thriving.”

This “social agitator for change” proposed that reform “requires Mexico’s elites and the United States to be tolerant of the upheaval that it will inevitably bring. . . . Washington will have no attractive options should a future Mexican crisis arise. Rejecting another Mexican plea for help would certainly generate unpleasant circumstances. But while not devoid of dangers and repercussions, waiting out the next debacle from the sidelines seems a wiser course. . . Mexico needs new leadership . . . and it will not flower as long as the old cliques remain in place,” he concluded.

And Then, There’s Drugs. . .

On Feb. 5, 2003, the executive vice president of the Multi-medios Editorial Group, Federico Arreola, reported in *Milenio* that “the Soros Foundation isn’t operating yet in Mexico, but soon it will be, and it will be headed by former Foreign

Relations Secretary Jorge G. Castañeda.” Arreola added that Castañeda will use the funds of the “famous speculator” George Soros for his “run for the Presidency which, of course, will take off as soon as next Summer’s intermediate elections are over.” In May, Castañeda was named to the executive board of Human Rights Watch (HRW)—of which Soros is the leading financier—to honor his role in moving Mexico away from its “mistaken concept of sovereignty.”

Soros, as is well-known, is no mere speculator, but the leading financier of the drive to legalize the narcotics trade worldwide. Castañeda has been with him all the way. On Sept. 6, 1999, *Newsweek International* published a guest commentary by Castañeda: “The time is uniquely propitious for a wide-ranging debate between North and Latin Americans on this absurd war [on drugs] that no one really wants to wage. . . . Such a debate should start with a coldblooded evaluation of what has worked and what has failed.” He proposed that “market and price mechanisms” decide the price of narcotics, and wrote that “legalization of certain substances may be the only way to bring prices down, and doing so may be the only remedy to some of the worst aspects of the drug plague.”

Two months later, Castañeda signed an open letter drafted by Soros’ drug legalization center, the Lindesmith Center, and the Soros-funded Washington Office on Latin America, again denouncing the use of law enforcement to stop the drug trade. Following the 2000 electoral victory of President Fox, Castañeda, then a member of Fox’s transition team, came back to the theme in a document titled “Foreign Policy Points for the Vicente Fox Government: 2000-2006.” Among the “six challenges” he identified, was “the long-term decriminalization of certain currently illegal substances,” and “the use of market mechanisms to lessen the damage from the illegal nature of the drug trade.”

On Nov. 28, 2000, in his first interview with the newspaper *La Jornada* as Foreign Secretary, Castañeda was asked: “Regarding the question of drugs, do you propose to negotiate a new focus . . . including discussion of drug legalization?” Castañeda replied, “That last point has been aired in U.S. forums, including by very conservative figures such as Milton Friedman, George Soros; these elements must be looked at domestically from a flexible, modern, and updated standpoint.”

Legalization involves legalizing the drug-traffickers, too. In January 2001, Castañeda sent his step-brother Andrés Rozenthal as Fox’s special envoy to Colombia, where he met with the head of the FARC narco-terrorists, Manuel Marulanda, to discuss how Mexico could help the Pastrana government cut a “peace” deal with the FARC cartel.

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