



UK and Mexico: Political Differences

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Today, 8th June 2017, the people of the UK are voting to elect their Prime Minister and partially alter the composition of their Members of Parliament. The original polls, conducted around 40 days ago, suggested that the Conservative Party would achieve a majority of around 20 per cent over the Labour Party. Political campaigning got underway, with the Conservative leader Theresa May at a significant advantage over Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Up against it, Corbyn began his campaign at a clear disadvantage, but he never lost faith. In fact, he put together a strategy for reenergising his party and the UK government, publishing a manifesto with a Keynesian influence including raising taxes for those on the highest incomes, preventing the wealthiest from becoming ever wealthier. Added to this was the renationalisation of the railways, postal service, water, some energy provision and other key activities for industrial development. Despite being highly criticised by traditional, reactionary members of society, as well as by his opponents and some Labour members from within the party, his proposals cut through to capture the public mood, particularly with young people, older people, pensioners, students, academics and a good proportion of women.

Today, Labour has arrived at polling day having overcome that daunting initial gulf in voting intentions, reducing it to negligible margin of just 3 per cent, technically a draw¹. I have the privilege of knowing Jeremy Corbyn and having spoken to him on several occasions, so I am aware that his honesty, intellect, perseverance and patriotic vision, but also his sensitivity about finding ways for Britain to keep its doors open to trade and controlled immigration, will allow this great nation to maintain its leading position within the European community and as the centre of financial and banking operations in Europe and virtually the entire world.

This evening the result of the elections will certainly be made public and very probably, given the electoral system that they have, with absolute transparency. Voting and public participation are honoured when the will of the electorate, free to choose their governors and decide the destiny of their own country, is respected. All this is made possible by the country's centuries-old education and cultural practices, by its laws and means of

¹ Translator's note: Known as a 'hung parliament' in UK electoral language.



selecting the best candidates, but above all because the opinion of voters is respected and obeyed, through a political system that shuns corruption and human rights' abuses.

What a difference then from Mexico, where quite the opposite goes on every time we have elections. The fact is, in our country we have long since abandoned and distanced ourselves from the path of democracy, freedom and justice. We also seem to have forgotten, however, the love and respect that all politicians should feel for Mexico and the majority of its population. It is scandalous and a real disappointment neither to honour nor respect the will of the people, betraying their hopes for a better future and greater prosperity.

In Mexico many have lost their sense of duty and of what it means to serve our great nation; some of the rich and powerful do not believe in what it stands for, and simply make use of it for their own personal gain. Dishonesty continues to grow, and a good proportion of those who come to power no longer know what it means to be patriotic. They want it all, to have the control and force to impose their decisions and desires on others. These groups love power as a means to be self-serving, rather than to serve others; to benefit their friends, their selfishness and the groups they represent.

We've just seen confirmation of this in the state elections held four days ago. There appears to be no solution to this situation, and that new techniques and tactics are actually being devised to defeat opponents, whether by brazenly buying votes, breaching or infiltrating the electoral process and counting systems, or by issuing threats and creating a culture of fear and terror so that fewer people turn out to vote. The fewer people vote, the greater the possibility that greedy usurpers can control and win elections, whatever the cost.

We have sunk very low, a long way off from more democratic nations, and the worst thing is that this is all a reflection of our increasingly obvious corruption and failure to enforce the law properly and transparently. This is why we are slipping down the global ranks of reputation and transparency, which shames Mexicans who have long been calling this out and demanding the development model be changed to alter the downwards trend towards greater poverty and inequality, along with the loss of our principles and values, the betrayal of nearly all of which damages us.

We Mexicans must not allow our nation to be destroyed and degraded any longer. There is still time to curb or indeed quash the politics of personal greed and replace them with a new and different approach. We must let go of fear, and surrender the comfort of simply carrying as we have until now, because we're headed for disaster. Either we all save Mexico and impose our decisions on those in power so they truly have to answer to the people, or we'll live to regret passing a broken, dejected place where there is little hope for a happy and peaceful life onto our children, grandchildren and future generations.



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This isn't just pessimism or cynicism; it's a realistic interpretation and reflection of our nation – if we don't do something soon, the future and all hope will be lost. We have to take heart, stand up and fight for life and for what Mexico and we as Mexicans deserve. Let's put an end to ill-equipped, incompetent, dishonest and morally bankrupt politicians from governing for the good of the few, rather than the many.