

# A Government's Moral Decline

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It is not uncommon to hear in Mexico that values and respect for the rule of law have been lost. These are structural issues for society, because without them the country is bound for failure by becoming the root of all evil. It seems that anyone, provided they are close to power and have money, can do whatever they please with no shame, remorse or consideration for others.

Under these conditions, we have to question where we're headed, and the path that society is taking. When corruption and impunity have got so out of control and the excessive and disproportionate accumulation of wealth by a few is far more powerful than living a quiet life with a clear conscience, then we're really in trouble, whichever way you look at it.

Affluence and cynicism are increasingly flaunted in full view of those who have little or nothing these days. The people who are protected by government and benefit from all this inequality have no desire to see the nation change, but rather to maintain the status quo exactly as it is.

These same people see the instigators of change as responsible for regression and the enemies of stability; they're afraid of any development, because they are currently comfortably installed in the sweet security of empire. They don't just view those who are supportive of innovation as their political adversaries, but as their mortal enemies to be destroyed or eliminated. This has of course become an unhealthy obsession for them, given that they lack any sense of social responsibility. In keeping with José Mujica, Uruguay's former president, the Stoic Roman philosopher Seneca once said that the poor are 'not those who have too little, but who crave more'.

In this current electoral period many of these politicians and businessmen feel on the back foot, so they have upped their aggression and viciousness, displaying the very worst of human nature. So it is that PRI party videos have emerged, promoted by the vulgarity and vileness of its presidency and certain leaders in order to appease the darkest interests of corporate leaders who are just as corrupt, if not more so, than they are, attacking a range of figures and leaders with the aim of discrediting them. They don't realise that the public and their genuine party members will simply reject and disregard them, and that they can't prevent the advance of history and the changes looming inevitably on the horizon.

The only strategy of those on the decline in terms of political campaigns and the polls is to rant and rave, sinking to reveal their true depths as common thugs and cretins who don't deserve to



represent anyone who truly loves and respects their country, as opposed to the illegitimate interests of those who stand for little more than their own selfishness. It goes further than this: frustrated and discouraged, they are hurriedly trying to push through so-called reforms in the energy and labour sectors, solely for the benefit of themselves and those who are lobbying and pushing them into committing yet more mistakes, attacks and random acts of abuse.

A section of the country's most corrupt company bosses, senior managers and leaders have turned politics into a dirty and perverse means to control and curtail their enemies. At the same time, they know that they aren't going to be able to stay in power any longer, because the public is turning its back on them, in anticipation of a changing of the guard that will guide the nation into a phase of greater equality and wellbeing. Towards, that is, a system without corruption and without the senseless exploitation of the country's resources, with a sovereign and nationalist objective, unsullied by the impunity that has prevailed up to now and which has also done such damage to Mexico's image.

There is no mistaking the government's desperation to keep pushing on with their labour anti-reform, given their representatives' remarkable rush to pass a bill which is an attack on the rights and interests of the working class, as has already been discussed in previous articles, as well as by specialist commentators on labour matters.

The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate must reject this bill and wait for the change in government, alongside avoiding any labour disputes that could put national economic growth at even greater risk.

Furthermore, the proposed energy sector reform has faced significant criticism and questions about the origin of the capital being handed out by the nation's energy resources with undue haste. This is particularly true in terms of oil refining, given that Mexico currently exports crude oil and imports gasoline. We need an energy policy that principally benefits Mexico, whereby the proceeds are used, as in Norway, to improve productive efficiency, create jobs, support social programmes, and strengthen the huge pension fund, which is a primary concern for the dignified retirement of all of our people.

Before Enrique Peña Nieto's term in office comes to an end, this labour reform must be halted at the administration's own initiative, leaving it up to the incoming government to navigate the required changes. All employer protection contracts must also be terminated; they are clear evidence of the government's moral breakdown, helping to foster inequality, marginalisation and poverty.

If this law is irresponsibly passed during these last few days and weeks, then we will see the utter degradation of workers' rights, as well as a threat to the prospects of the North American Free Trade Agreement being signed.



# La Jornada

It's time to put a stop to this disgraceful betrayal of the working classes and the people of Mexico.