

LET US LEAVE OBAMA IN PEACE

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This is the best way to promote the regions common interests with the United States

Every week, if not every day, I read in the press complaints about president Barack Obama not being interested in Latin America, or demands for him to become interested. These are complaints and demands from people who expect the United States "to help" Latin American countries. I respect this opinion or this hope, but I definitely do not share it. Brazil and the other Latin-American countries do not have the slightest interest in receiving the attentions of the great Northern country, for it has never helped them rather, and very frequently, it imperialistically intervened in order to safeguard its interests or the interests of its corporations installed in the region. I also see criticisms against Brazilian foreign policy, because we would become allies with "not democratic" countries, such as Bolivia and Paraguay. These criticisms appear in American media and are reproduced and amplified in Latin American countries major conservative media. Suddenly, conservative elites, which have always been characterized by their dependence on the United States, become "nationalists" as regards those extremely poor countries. Well, being poor and lacking an organized civil society, good institutions, and an efficient State, those countries are very difficult to rule. Exclusion was very strong in those countries and has existed for a long time. Their left-wing nationalist governments are now trying to re-establish their republic by integrating the poor and the outcasts in the possible democracy - the democracy that can be built by such heterogeneous countries and societies and such weak States.

Finally, we know how disastrous have been the neoliberal policies of the Washington Consensus. They didnt led to development, but to financial crises and increased inequality in

the countries that submitted to them. A few weeks ago we saw another military coup in Latin America, and, despite the protests of the American government, it seems obvious that the United States gave at least their consent to it. As they actively participated in the attempt to overthrow president Hugo Chávez, in 2002. Now, I read that in 1971 Brazil conspired with the United States to overthrow the Chilean president Salvador Allende. A conspiracy that was "successful" two years later. Is this what the critics of Brazilian foreign policy expect? Is this the kind of proximity expected by those who deplore Obamas lack of attention to Latin America? That Brazil becomes associated with American imperialism in the present, as it was during the military regime? That Brazil adopts the neoliberal policies that failed in Latin America and even in the United States, but are still recommended by the international agencies controlled by the Americans?

Or maybe those complainers desire that Brazil associates with the United States as did Mexico? What was the result of this association? Very low growth rates, high increase in crime and drugs and, now, in this crisis, a brutal GDP fall. Definitely, president Obama is wise to leave Latin America aside. He represents hope for the United States and for the world. Poor countries governments do not threaten his country. For him, therefore, as for us, Latin Americans, he would better not become interested in Latin America. Lets leave Barack Obama in peace. This is the best way to promote the regions common interests with the United States.