

The Pacific Alliance: A Cover for More Sinister Objectives



Alianza del Pacífico

With its Pacific Alliance, the United States is attempting to reverse the failure of its colonial-inspired Free Trade Area of the Americas, that was definitely buried by Latin America at Argentina's 2005 Mar del Plata meeting.

The Pacific Alliance is nothing more than Washington's attempt to disrupt the integration process of Latin America, of which the recent Second Summit of Latin American and Caribbean States --CELAC--, held in Havana, is a prime example.

Some commentators try to present the controversial Pacific Alliance as beneficial to its member states. Many others, trade and commerce experts and especially trade union leaders, regard The Pacific Alliance as an unfair set up, beneficial to just one of the parties—the US! The Pacific Alliance demands, of course that its member nations have a Free Trade Agreement with their powerful northern neighbour: the United States.

The Society of Colombian Agrarian Producers regards the Pacific Alliance as the worst trade agreement ever signed by that South American Nation, since its agricultural producers are left unprotected in the face of low cost food imports. Costa Rica now chairs CELAC.

But, ironically, its precisely Costa Rica the nation that is about to join the Pacific Alliance, of which Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru are already members.

The Argentine journalist Stella Calloni, winner of the Jose Marti Latin American Journalism Prize, has noted that Costa Rica has nothing to gain by joining the bloc. Calloni points to Costa Rica as having the second highest jobless rate in the Hemisphere, according to figures disclosed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America.

Many sectors in Costa Rica oppose the affiliation of that country to the Pacific Alliance. Jose Maria Villalta, presidential candidate for the Costa Rican Popular Front, said that such step will increase the nation's already difficult economic situation, with the Costa Rican people shouldering the bulk of the inevitable economic disaster.

It is the position of this commentary that Costa Rica will indeed pay the tragic price of the invasion of products from other countries, which will suffocate national producers, destroy jobs and promote poverty. The Pacific Alliance, as Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa very aptly described it, does not promote citizenship, but consumers.

The clear sighted see the Pacific Alliance is another example of the new liberal model that overlooks the poorest and promotes the interests of the powerful—and the rich!

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