## The war continues



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## by Guillermo Alvarado

Following the violent and absurdly public breakup between U.S. President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, tempers have not calmed down. The contenders are digging in and issuing mutual threats.

These events demonstrate the veracity of two popular sayings: "In politics, there's no such thing as a free lunch," meaning everything has a price, and "the United States has no friends, only interests," which is an absolute truth.

However, it would be interesting to know the real reasons for this conflict, which undoubtedly has deep roots and goes beyond a simple disagreement over fiscal spending increases or reductions that Congress must discuss in the coming months.

Trump promised to extend tax cuts to the richest during his first term, as well as make transfers to that sector. He also announced his intention to strengthen the defense and security budget and modernize nuclear weapons during his campaign.

It is also no surprise that he would cut spending on health, education, housing, and other services for the poor because these have never been a priority for U.S. governments unless they are needed as cannon

fodder in wars, as happened in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

None of these issues is enough to infuriate Musk, the world's richest man, for whom the lives of the marginalized and needy are completely alien.

After the initial outburst, Musk, the owner of X, Tesla, and SpaceX, deleted some messages and has remained silent. This is in contrast to Trump, who threatened his former ally with "very serious consequences" over the weekend if he continues to discredit Republican lawmakers in order to favor Democrats.

Vice President J.D. Vance said the billionaire was making a serious mistake by attacking the White House head in a series of publications, which Vance described as bitter and provocative.

In any case, the government and Musk's companies will remain linked for quite some time due to agreements and business deals that go back years. These are difficult to break in the short term because, as I said in my previous work, anything can be put at risk in that country except big capital.

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