

Abortion Polemic Is Splitting Mexico

by Rubén Cota Meza

“The view that [Mexican President-elect Vicente] Fox’s victory is the incarnation of 19th-Century ‘conservatism’ vs. modern ‘liberalism,’ is an extremely dangerous scenario, designed by the international financial oligarchy headquartered in London. Also highly dangerous is the idea of re-staging a new fratricidal ‘Cristero war,’ like that which caused such damage to the country in the 1920s and ‘30s,” the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) warned a July 10 statement.

One month after that warning from Lyndon LaRouche’s co-thinkers, the plot to splinter the nation is advancing around the provocative issue of abortion. Radical sectors of the “left” and “right,” as throughout history, have begun to play out the roles assigned them by the oligarchy. Given the imminence of the disintegration of the global financial and monetary system, the only legitimate division is between those who seek to defend the nation from speculative deprecation and are the nation-builders, and those who favor the economic policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and globalization, which are truly the policies which murder both the unborn, and those already born.

Using their majority in the outgoing legislature of the Guanajuato state congress, the bloc of the “rightist” National Action Party (PAN) of Fox, won approval on Aug. 3 for a law which penalizes women who get abortions, even if the pregnancy is the result of rape (an exception permitted by federal law). In a predictable reaction, Federal District Gov. Rosario Robles, making use of the majority of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas’s “leftist” Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) in the Federal District legislative assembly, approved a law on Aug. 18 which adds new justifications for abortion, representing its gradual decriminalization.

The most diverse political and social forces and institutions have been trapped in the heated measures and counter-measures around the issue, finding themselves without an outlet from the confrontation. These include the Catholic Church, the traditional sectors of the PAN, and, to some degree, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, and even Fox.

It wouldn’t take much to unleash violent physical confrontations among fascist shock-troops, the “brown shirts” that have emerged following Fox’s electoral victory among the so-called “golden youth” that worked on his election campaign, and also from among the urban leftist Jacobin gangs who are partisans of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

These latter have been sheltered by the PRD and incubate in groups such as the General Strike Council of the National Autonomous University, and in the neighborhoods controlled by the PRD, which governs Mexico City.

‘More Important Problems to Solve’

This divisionary scenario had been attempted by these same forces in the immediate aftermath of the July 2 elections, using the issue of religion in education. At the time, the intervention of two Catholic Cardinals, Msgr. Norberto Rivera and Juan Sandoval Iníiguez, deactivated the “bomb” before it could explode. Cardinal Sandoval, in particular, insisted on July 14 that the Fox government will have more important problems to solve, before proposing any modification of Article Three of the Constitution, which oversees lay and universal education. The government needn’t preach the gospel, he said, for the government already has a mission: to provide for the needs of temporal society. Fox has many problems to deal with “before thinking about minor things,” the Cardinal stated, including “the serious problem of the poverty of so many Mexicans, of insecurity, of a destroyed and abandoned countryside—these are things to which he must dedicate himself.”

Fox’s proclivity for “New Age” ideology so condemned by the Catholic Church, alienated the country’s more conservative sectors. To attract their support, Fox staged theatrical scenes, such as carrying the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe at a campaign rally—a cheap effort to echo themes from Mexico’s religious Cristero War of the 1920s. These and other excesses awakened certain sectors of the so-called “right,” who began to throw their support to Fox’s candidacy.

Having gained the Presidency, Fox has backtracked from more radical statements, and is now declaring that he would not take any initiative to modify the penal code, which permits abortion under certain circumstances. In response, taking advantage of Fox’s first absence from the country since his election, and without informing the national party leadership, a group of PAN legislators in Guanajuato, whom some identify as belonging to a kind of “brotherhood” known as “La Causa,” staged a legislative “coup” which immediately triggered its “leftist” complement. The result: The country is stymied.

An additional problem is Fox’s intent to give space in his administration to “everyone’s ideas,” and to amalgamate them “by consensus”—as if a nation were merely the sum of its parts and not a universal concept—while at the same time, Fox would dismantle the national institutions and the very mechanisms that have given social and political stability to the country for decades, and would hand Mexico over to the voracious pirates of globalization.

Given the reality of imminent global financial collapse, any posture “in defense of life” which does not explicitly reject the murderous economic dictates of the IMF, imposed on nations under the rubric of “globalization” and “modernization,” is a total fraud.