



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EL SALVADOR A MODEL FOR LATIN AMERICA

From one of the most violent countries in the world to the safest in the Western Hemisphere. Security, investment, tourism and development position El Salvador as a regional benchmark.

► PAGES 1-4



El Salvador: A Model for Latin America

The transformation in security and governance makes the country a regional benchmark.

PAGES 1-4



Nayib Bukele and the Break with the Old Paradigm

Leadership that redefines the relationship between citizenship and the State.

PAGES 4-6



The Siren Songs of an Amorphous Opposition

The disconnect between opposition rhetoric and national reality.

PAGES 6-7



Malicious Attacks Against Healthcare

The new Hospital Rosales and the debate on public infrastructure.

PAGES 7-8



Stubborn, Inconsistent and Vulgarly Political Opponents

Analysis of the loss of influence of the political opposition.

PAGES 8-10

ALSO IN OTHER EDITIONS



The Importance of the Family
as the Core of Society

PAGE 3



Education and Values:
The Key to the Future

PAGE 5



Tourism: Engine of Economic
and Social Development

PAGE 7



Citizen Security:
A Task for Everyone

PAGE 9

“ El Salvador went from living in a criminal hell to becoming an international benchmark in security, development and institutional transformation. ”



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21st Century

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NEWSLETTER

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Analysis, reflection and political debate aimed at strengthening democracy and national development.

El Salvador: Latin America's Model



El Salvador, after living through a bloody era that lasted many years, became the safest country in the Western Hemisphere. No one can forget those dark years where gangs sowed terror and divided the territory among themselves to generate a millionaire business through extortion and drug trafficking.

In the governments of ARENA and the FMLN, the authorities themselves had to ask for permission to enter their territories; the governments pretended to suppress this scourge, but obviously "failed in the attempt." The prisons became universities of crime, from where they dictated and ordered the extortions and deaths of citizens.



As was to be expected, the root causes of the phenomenon were never attacked; on the contrary, they achieved prison benefits and selective transfers. The cells were offices for criminal promotion, strengthened in such a way that they brought the governments of the day to their knees, forcing them to negotiate and pact quotas of governmental power in exchange for votes, while the population of the colonies and poor neighborhoods had to flee, abandoning their homes.

The youth, both men and women, were forcibly recruited, subjecting them to macabre initiations where they had to murder an honest person to make the leap into the gang and have the right to the mark or tattoo of their gang. This is the truth that international human rights organizations are unaware of because they never dared to come to talk and verify how the most vulnerable population lived, presenting mistaken reports lacking reality to international bodies.

An international community that, instead of seeing the achievements of changes in the country's security, branded the President as a dictator and as violating the human rights of criminals. However, the population thought differently, and seeing a leader who brought them hope, gave him at the ballot box in democratic elections all the legislative support he needed to make the necessary changes and reforms to combat organized crime and gangs frontally, without truce, on all fronts, with military sieges in entire neighborhoods, dropping homicide rates by 80% in a few months.

The State took control of the territories for the first time, and the population began to breathe real peace and freedom. Nonetheless, the human rights organizations that were against the President's measures raised their voices louder and louder, presenting desktop reports to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to damage the recovery process and the peace of the country.

The era of crime was coming to an end, and the population thanked their President, ranking him as the most important leader in the nation's history. Today, the entire world sees the country as a reference, with a rapid transformation of the nation, which positions itself as a benchmark of self-improvement and regional power, with complete control of the territories, with megaprojects, a growing tourism, and the best security team in Latin America. El Salvador is now a country where the honest citizen is a priority.

Latin America sees El Salvador as the country that defeated delinquency and organized crime, and questions the governments that are not capable and that kneel before crime, and sends them a challenge, demonstrating that if a state has political will and if it frees itself from corruption, it can stop and end any form of organized crime, and this is changing the entire political narrative of Latin America.

President Bukele's key was to glorify God and humbly recognize that without God he could not have had so much success. Turning those actions into a true spiritual warfare of good against evil, saying himself: "With God all things are possible," and indeed it was possible; the achievements and changes were seen in a short time.

Today, after defeating the gangs and organized crime, something great is beginning to take shape in El Salvador, because no country can bet on development if there is no security—it halts investment and opportunities. Today there are changes that previously seemed impossible; families returned to enjoy public



parks, and today an ambitious plan for progress and development is being built as a country capable of growing and generating more employment.

Changes are not measured immediately; they are thought of in terms of the new generations for a new stage. The international community has its eyes on this country because major investors trust a safe country. Security and capturing gang members was only a first phase to refound the Salvadoran State.

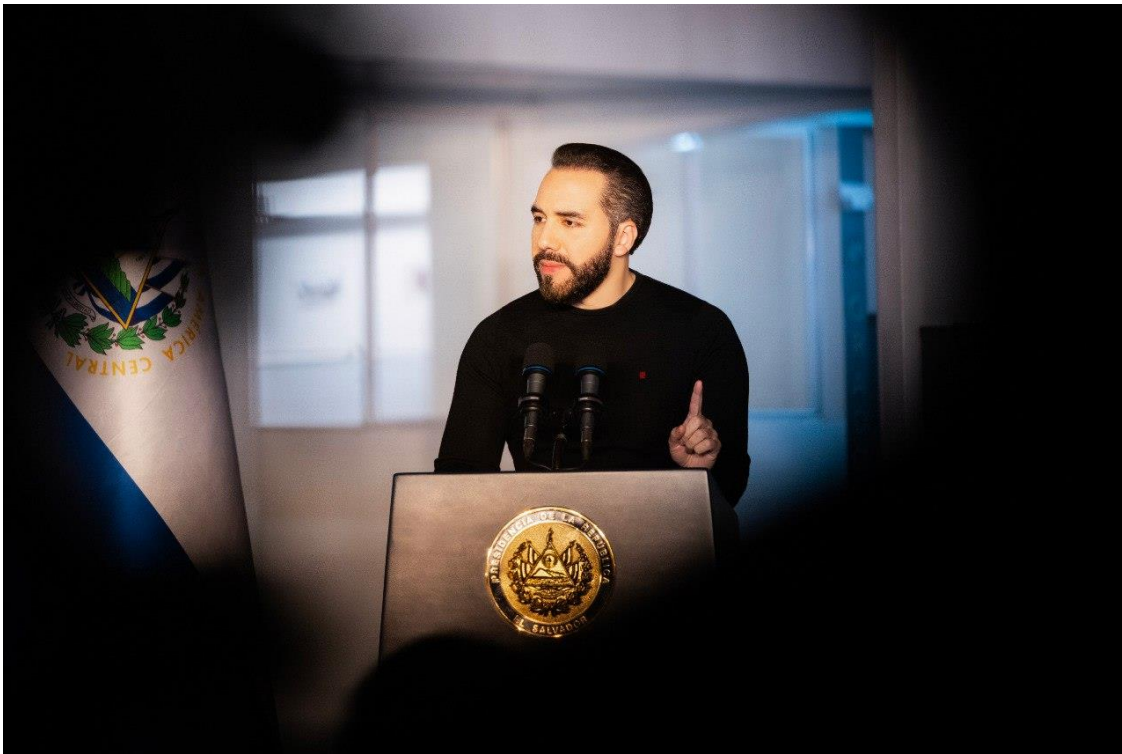
Today, El Salvador is seen as a paradigm throughout the region, and the President's approval rating remains intact, surpassing 90% of support from the Salvadoran population due to the real changes that are seen without any ideological perspective; the President's legacy is a fact.

In the great cities of the world, analysts and rulers speak of the Bukele Model and the refounding of the Salvadoran State; they study the case of El Salvador with great attention in every global conversation. El Salvador is a true political laboratory with achievements and results that no one can deny, a country that grows giant and transcends, with a population that went from living in a true criminal hell to a peaceful paradise.

Nayib Bukele and the Rupture of the Old Paradigm of Political Leadership

El Salvador, in the last seven years, has become the favorite stage to write a new version of political-charismatic leadership, due to the fact that Nayib Bukele lightning-fast conquered the most privileged place in opinion polls at a planetary level. This unprecedented fact in the country, and in the world (due to the level of acceptance obtained), allows modern political theory and sociology to construct a narrative of leadership that integrates the everyday life of the leader, of flesh and blood, with the historical context of the country (the inherited conditions and the conditions to be inherited after the social transformation).

And the thing is, Nayib Bukele (the leader who is the product of the accumulation of forces in silence by a population plunged into disappointment, disillusionment, and disenchantment, forged in thirty years of a bipartisanship lacking real democracy and full of social violence), was the one who gave meaning to the notion of "a better country in which that which is public is better than that which is private," for the benefit of the immense majority of Salvadorans—those millions of shadows without bodies who, denationalized and violated, were turned into victims of delinquency, corruption, impunity, and social inequality, the last being the fundamental cause of all the former.



In the last seven years, political leadership, seen as a singularity and a particularity, has made it clear that, in the end, said leadership is a sociocultural negotiation that creates a sense of belonging, which is not immune to conflicts when the social exchange takes place—is negotiated—between population and leader; an exchange in which it is elementary to start from and share dissimilar interests, so that, one and the other, have clarity regarding the horizon and the dangers that stalk it.

Now then, the exchange agenda has two sources: what the people think in the polls—the popular clamor, the pragmatic truth—and the nation plan pushed forward by the leader. In that logic, the final result—successful or not—of the social exchange carried out, is decoded by the polls, and, in the case of Nayib, these always favor him, to the point of affirming that he is the unprecedented leader who has conquered them, through the strength of charisma, commitment, and audacity.

The elementary premise that explains this majority backing (more than 93%) is having resolved the strategic challenges that he inherited (delinquency, above all), the emerging ones that he had to assume at the beginning of his administration (dealing with a planetary pandemic, and with the imposition of a parallel government by the political opposition), and the important ones that have to do with social inequality—a process in which he was developing and consolidating two of the aspects that made the country enter, belatedly, into the 21st century: a democratic political identity that translated—and translates—into a social mobilization that is not mediated by the parties, and a social policy grounded on the necessity that "that which is public be better than that which is private."

Now then, achieving the aforementioned requires taking measures that have immediate collateral damage (which are accepted as valid in a transitional morality, when it is clear that the social benefit will begin to be



seen almost immediately, and will improve the quality of life of the majority), just as occurred in the countries that today are considered the most advanced exponents of human development.

It is, precisely, this leadership that transcends borders and ideologies that has in a state of panic the opponents who, like town criers of the victimizers, dream that the opposition parties achieve 16 deputies to reverse everything and revive the society of fear and crime in which we used to live.

The Siren Songs of an Amorphous Opposition

**THE OPPOSITION DID NOT
CONCERN ITSELF WITH
IMPROVING THE LIVING
CONDITIONS OF THE
SALVADORANS. WHEN IT WAS
IN POWER, IT ONLY LOOKED
AFTER ITS OWN INTERESTS.**

In recent days on social networks, we have encountered opinions from the absurd to the ridiculous, by representatives of the misnamed political opposition—things that go from making the population believe that by the mere fact that a congresswoman went to Oslo, capital of Norway, to say whatever against the Salvadoran people, they believe that with that they have already positioned themselves as political figures of great transcendence.

On the other hand, we observe the general secretary of the FMLN living off past glories and, furthermore, criticizing the emblematic projects of this government, arguing that it was their idea, but that they could not develop them even while having resources. Now they say that even BINAES is their idea; conclusion: thinkers, but not executors.

In the same line, we have a congresswoman from PARLACEN crying because her good living is coming to an end; on the other hand, we see lawyers criticizing the benefits of the country's security policy, and they even dare to predict that there is a magic number to stop the "onslaughts of the dictator" and they mention 16 deputies that they are seeking from the opposition sectors. What I do not know if they manage to understand is that it is scientifically proven that polls, certainly, are the X-ray of a moment and that they do not favor them electorally speaking; in such sense, they are people who lack the most elementary things for a serious analysis of the national reality.

The siren songs keep sounding and fail to motivate a population that since 2019 decided the future of the country, and therefore their deformed speeches, as well as their deformed organizations, no longer have a place



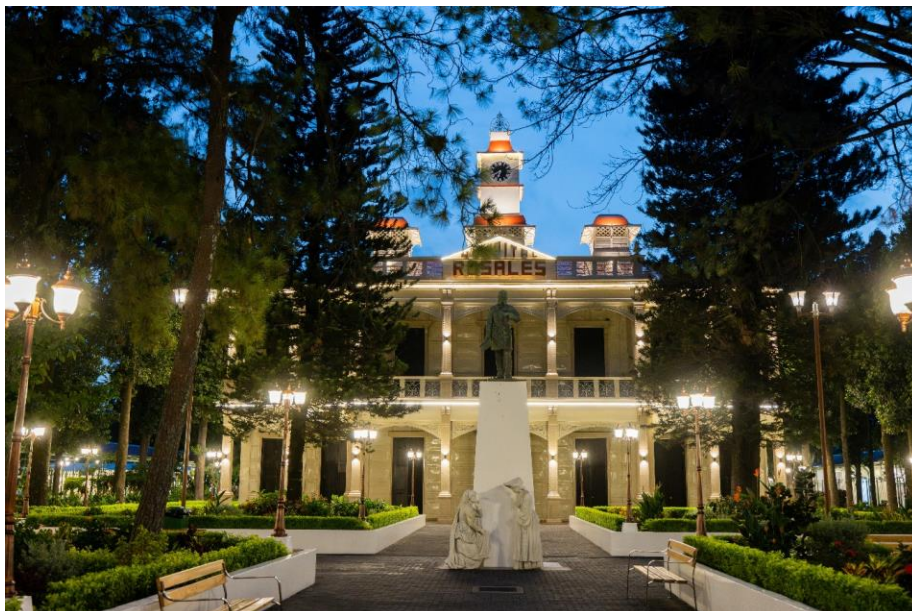
in our country. Rather, they should do two things: one, retire completely and stop making fools of themselves, and two, if they truly want to participate in politics, apply internal reengineering processes to their deformed structures.

Mean-Spirited Against Health

The inauguration of the new Rosales Hospital ended up exposing in its mean-spiritedness an opposition sector that, for months, bet on lies and disinformation. Before it opened its doors, figures with and without a political party—even some who present themselves with intellectual or academic pretensions—assured that this would not be a complete hospital, that it would be limited to providing outpatient consultation, and spread a long list of falsehoods that were debunked on June 1, when the country discovered a modern, equipped work destined to attend to thousands of Salvadorans free of charge.

Far from recognizing their error, these individuals chose to change strategy, moving on to minimize the magnitude of the work. A leader of a marginal party went so far as to describe the hospital as simple "marketing," trivializing with a superficial expression the care of patients with kidney failure, cancer, and other complex diseases. Another supposed academic reduced the investment to a "LED light building," while spreading false assertions about its financing and construction. Even more revealing were the statements of a doctor linked to a well-known union, who admitted that they—the opponents—prefer for now not to attack the work frontally, but rather to wait for something to fail in order to then unleash their criticisms, as if they wished to find in an eventual stumble the opportunity to gain political advantage.

Behind these attitudes is revealed a mixture of resentment for having lost spaces of power and influence, an existential bitterness that despises any sign of hope and, in some cases, vile political malice. When lies, mean-spiritedness, and the desire for failure substitute serious analysis, the titles these people display cease to impress, and their bearers are reduced to the status of simple charlatans.





Stubborn, Incongruous, and Vulgar Political Opponents

Salvadoran politics is going through a singular moment: while the ruling party has managed to consolidate a project with broad citizen backing, the opposition appears practically nonexistent, blurred, trapped in contradictions, and without the capacity to articulate a serious alternative. The phrase that summarizes this juncture could be: “Stubborn, incongruous, and vulgar political opponents.” This is not an insult, but rather a description of the political reality observed in the country.

For decades, the opposition was seen as a necessary counterweight to monitor power and guarantee democratic plurality. However, today it finds itself reduced to small groups that repeat slogans without connection to the citizenry. The stubbornness of insisting on narratives that no longer convince, the incongruity of criticizing what they previously defended, and the lack of enlightenment to propose concrete solutions have turned those actors into irrelevant figures in front of a society that demands tangible results.





The absence of a solid opposition has clear effects:

- **First**, it frees the government from political pressures that previously blocked strategic projects.
- **Second**, it allows institutions to advance without the noise of sterile debates.
- **Third**, it exposes before the citizenry the difference between those who govern with works and those who limit themselves to empty speeches.

In this scenario, the opponents not only lose credibility, but they also become a minor obstacle, incapable of slowing down the course of the great transformations for the benefit of the people that are occurring in the country.

Incongruity is perhaps their most evident trait. Those who previously defended dark pacts now present themselves as champions of transparency; those who criticized security today benefit from it; those who opposed the modernization of infrastructure now demand participation in its benefits.

This incoherence erodes any attempt to build trust. The citizenry perceives that they have no project, only pure and harsh opportunism, and their voices and almost pitiful expressions seem more and more like those of a small group of "victims" who benefited in one way or another from the previous status quo, that is to say, from the criminal state (state in lowercase).

The lack of enlightenment translates into the inability to formulate viable proposals. While the government speaks of hospitals, schools, highways, and ports, the pyrrhic opponents limit themselves to repeating unsupported accusations. There is no vision of the future, there is no economic plan, there is no social strategy. In a country that has begun to experience palpable improvements, the people demand clear ideas, not empty, visceral, irrational, and even vulgar speeches.

In synthesis, the political opposition in El Salvador has become quasi-nonexistent in terms of real influence, and the opponents who still raise their voices do so with stubbornness, incongruity, little enlightenment, without a political head, and with baseness and vulgarity.

The citizenry no longer contents itself with rhetoric: it wants results, it wants coherence, it wants leaders capable of thinking beyond their personal interests. As long as that does not occur, the opposition will continue to be a muted echo in a country that advances with a firm step toward a new horizon, toward a new and clear north: THE LEAP TO DEVELOPMENT!

Miembros del Círculo de Reflexión Política de El Salvador Siglo XXI

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