



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Political debate: With whom and for what?

Debate is indispensable to democracy, but it requires interlocutors with stature, purpose, and coherence. Without serious discussion, politics degenerates into propaganda, imposition, and spectacle.



DIALOGUE
IDEAS
DEMOCRACY
FUTURE



When arguments fail, defamation begins

When there are no ideas or proposals, opponents resort to fallacies, lies, and defamation as their preferred weapons.

PAGES 2-3



Debate as a trap

False debate becomes a device for flooding the public space with fallacies and a torrent of lies.

PAGES 4-5



From Persian Strategist to Captain Ultra

An opposition more focused on entertainment, memes, and caricature than on real and substantial proposals for the country.

PAGES 6-7



Incompatibility of opposition political parties

Their discourse is incompatible with hope, trust, and the country's current national project.

PAGES 8-9



El Salvador, a security benchmark in the American continent

El Salvador's security model inspires cooperation and exchanges in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.

PAGES 10-11



Economic growth for social development

Nayib Bukele's strategy prioritizes education, healthcare, and infrastructure to raise social well-being in El Salvador.

PAGES 12-13

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



Meeting in Brazil



The Territorial Control Plan continues to be a model in Argentina



The Bukele Model reaches Chile



Supply centers and agromarkets as a benefit for Salvadoran families



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They reduce intermediaries, expand shopping options, and facilitate access to essential products at more affordable prices.

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NEWSLETTER

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

Political Debate: With Whom and for What?



In contemporary Salvadoran politics, talking about debate seems like an almost useless exercise. With whom to debate, if opponents have turned into political caricatures, into corpses attempting to simulate life? For what reason to debate, if the citizenry has already decided they will never again be an option for power? However, the topic of political debate deserves a deeper reflection, because it is not about an empty spectacle or a protocol ritual: it is about the very essence of democracy.

Political debate is indispensable because without it there is no democracy; what exists is monologue and imposition. Power without counterweight turns into propaganda, and propaganda without discussion transforms into dogma. To



debate means to confront ideas, expose fallacies, display contradictions, and force political actors to render accounts before public reason. It is, ultimately, an act of resistance against the authoritarian temptation to monopolize the truth.

Now then, the inevitable question arises: With whom to debate?

- With parties that self-destruct, that exhibit their private lives as a public agenda, that confuse vulgarity with politics?
- With stubborn, inconsistent, and dim-witted opponents who repeat slogans disconnected from the citizenry?

The answer is clear: there is no raw material for a serious debate when the interlocutors lack a project, coherence, and vision. Debating with them would be like arguing with ghosts, with fossilized structures that speak of democracy but never practiced it, that speak of institutionality but destroyed it, that speak of the future but represent the darkest past of the country.

So, for what reason to debate? So that citizens can decide freely. Debate does not seek to convince the political adversary—that rarely happens—but rather to offer the people a range of reasons, perspectives, and alternatives. In the contrast of ideas, in the presentation of arguments, and in the refutation of inconsistencies, the citizen finds elements of judgment that allow them to exercise their sovereign right to choose. Political debate, therefore, is a civic duty, an instrument of citizen control against power.

But when opponents (yes, opponents who have not even been able to constitute themselves into a real political opposition) shrink from debate or degrade it into gossip and vulgarity, what installs itself is unilateral propaganda. And unilateral propaganda replaces deliberation with manipulation, criticism with obedience, and plurality with uniformity. A political system without debate is a system condemned to decay, because it deprives society of the possibility to question, demand, and build collectively.

In Conclusion

Political debate is indispensable, but it requires interlocutors with stature, vision, and execution capacity.

In El Salvador, current opponents do not meet those conditions: they are political corpses trying to move, but whose death is irreversible. That is why the real question is not whether we should debate, but with whom and for what.



And as long as opponents remain quasi-nonexistent, political debate will be an exercise in citizen pedagogy rather than a confrontation between parties. Defending debate is defending democracy itself, even if the available interlocutors are increasingly irrelevant—and in that irrelevance, sitting down to attempt to "debate" with liars, fallacious actors, and sophists is almost self-degrading, elevating that pseudo-academic-intellectual trifle to a level they neither have nor represent.

In the Absence of Arguments, Defamation Arrives

As members of the Círculo de Reflexión Política Siglo XXI, we are clear, very clear, about the course our country is taking. Furthermore, we have certainty about where we come from—that is, from an obscurantist period full of blood, mourning, and pain to which we cannot and must not return. We know that opposition parties and opponents exist: the opposition consists of institutions, in this case mainly political parties, while opponents are all those characters to whom certain media outlets have granted the title of "political analysts," but who are mostly individuals who in the recent past courted favor with the ruling party, aiming to be considered for positions in the government of President Bukele.



These opportunistic individuals, seeing that their personal ambitions could not materialize, bring out their "prohibited moves" and launch into attacking the well-aimed policies of the current government through every possible medium—ranging from spurious "little bird" polls to requests to eliminate the state of exception.

What is interesting to observe is that opponents zealously seek to set up "debate shows" with us as members of the Círculo de Reflexión Política Siglo XXI. Facing this, we establish a firm stance that we have no interest in participating in those "staged setups," since listening to sterile speeches and positions solves no problems for the population. For this reason, they have been left alone talking "among friends."

The members of the Círculo continue moving forward in defending the interests of the population through our positions. In essence, we seek to defend from our trench as members of civil society the changes and transformations very wisely led by President Nayib Bukele. For now, it remains clear to us that, lacking arguments, opponents resort to fallacy, lies, and defamation.



— SIGLO XXI —

Debate as a Trap

Debate, conceived as an intellectually honest exchange to contrast ideas, is essential for democratic and political life. However, when one of the parties turns it into a mere media resource to spread lies, it loses all meaning.

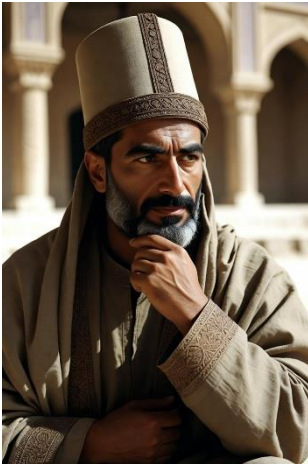
This latter dynamic is what certain opposition figures promote when they coincide with members of our Círculo to "debate" on radio, television programs, or digital platforms. Their strategy consists of flooding the space with fallacies and absurdities through the tactic known as the *Gish Gallop* or "torrent of lies"—which consists of launching the greatest amount of falsehoods in the shortest time possible, knowing that the opponent will be unable to respond at the same pace since, as Brandolini's Law notes, refuting them rigorously requires ten times the effort and time.

The immediate effect of this trick is that many of their assertions remain floating in the environment, creating the false impression that the lack of time to refute them equals their validity. Therein lies the real gain for these subjects: they manage to impact a broad audience that gathers solely

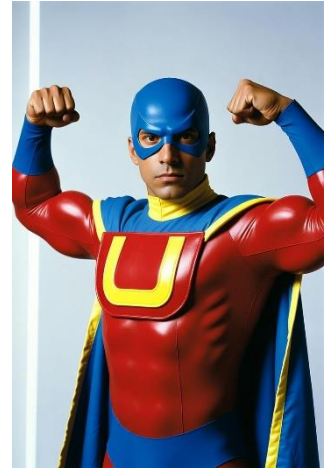
drawn by the presence of a serious counterpart. Without our participation, they would have neither the audience nor the relevance they seek. For this reason, we always evaluate with discernment when a space truly contributes to public discussion and when it merely serves to legitimize a spectacle of opposition fallacies.



From Persian Strategist to Captain Ultra



The political stage unfortunately looks more like a circus set staged by a so-called political opposition, where entertaining and amusing people is the common objective—the only method they are capable of using to draw attention. It is an opposition lacking proposals, who had the opportunity to govern but were incapable of solving problems; they thought they would never lose power, believing they had a dormant population incapable of discerning political matters.



Traditional politicians today propose what they were never capable of doing, and faced with impotence and the inability to reignite sympathies among the population, they cook up entertainment topics like Persian strategies or playing Captain Ultra fighting against evil, emulating children's shows from the past. Of course, in a democratic country like ours, all forms of ideological-political thought have a place; however, the line of political promotion taken by traditional parties is entirely mistaken.

One cannot win sympathy by attacking achievements that benefit the population. Their political selfishness destroys them more each day. They sound alarms of persecution everywhere, accuse the government of non-existent repressions, and do not even dare to express themselves in the streets because the population rejects and mocks them. It is a sad reality created by themselves, yet they accuse the President of the State for the failure into which they have fallen.

This is aggravated by the internal disputes they wage as parties to seize power, and candidates who are more concerned with resolving their personal affairs than mounting a truly propositional campaign. That is the scenario surrounding the electoral contest in the country: an opposition proposing changes it never learned how to execute, failing to understand that the country has entered a process of structural transformation and that these changes can no longer be stopped because they carry the backing of an absolute majority of the population, with a leader at the helm who knows how to get things done.

In conclusion, we have an opposition that stands out more for media memes, internal power disputes, and passionate crises than for having real and convincing proposals that arouse any interest. This means we have President Bukele for many years to come.



Incompatibility of Opposition Political Parties



The Count of Lautréamont used to say: "True pain is incompatible with hope. No matter how great that pain may be, hope still rises a hundred cubits higher." This maxim makes clear that no pain can serve as the foundation of hope; for that reason, it is impossible due to incompatibility to place hope in political parties and individuals who, in the past, were directly or indirectly complicit in the people's pain.

How can the opposition be believed when they were in the front row, or at minimum part of the institutions that permitted and created great pain, despair, suffering, and disillusionment for Salvadorans? Their discourse is incompatible with their actual actions, and their criticisms of the current way of governing cannot be accepted given the villainy they committed in their time.

Thus, as the distinguished Tony Judt expressed: "A lack of trust is clearly incompatible with the proper functioning of a society." What the master stated is precisely the reason why no attention should be paid to the dissonant voices of the opposition—not simply for being opposition, but for lacking the moral standing to demand or criticize the work accomplished, not to mention the great advances that have been achieved.

Likewise, the ideology displayed by traditional parties has only served to divide rather than improve the lives of the people. For this reason, it is no longer a matter of political ideologies, but of decisions that improve life without empty talk or bureaucracy—only willpower and action. That is what true politics is about: working with a vision for the country like the current national project, rather than for petty personal interests.

Therefore, it is necessary for the Salvadoran people not to forget those who dragged them into an unworthy way of life filled with fear, shame, and hunger. Anyone who has not understood that there is now pride in calling oneself Salvadoran—something that did not happen under previous governments—misses the point. Hence the theme presented: it is incompatible to accept once again those who have brought so much pain and mourning to our beloved Homeland.

El Salvador: Benchmark of Security in the Americas



Last week, the name and flag of the Republic of El Salvador were present in South American countries, covered by major television, radio, and multi-platform social media networks through various working meetings and official visits conducted by Héctor Gustavo Villatoro, Minister of Public Security and Justice.

Encounter in Brazil

Prior to official meetings with his counterparts in public security, justice, and national security, he held a meeting with Brazilian Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, the main rival of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in upcoming elections, who enjoys high standing in multiple opinion polls. Public security is once again the issue that most concerns the Brazilian electorate on the eve of an election.

Senator Bolsonaro proposes stiffening penalties to punish mobile phone and retail thieves with eight years in prison. The candidate, and son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, stated after meeting with Minister of Public Security and Justice Gustavo Villatoro that "they have implemented one of the greatest and most effective reclamations of sovereignty and have restored public security to the Salvadoran people."



Bolsonaro has also promised to declare "narcoterrorists" as terrorists. The strongest candidate of the right is betting heavily on the issue of public security in his electoral campaign. In addition to advocating for harsher prison sentences, he wants to end what he considers a revolving door—one that, according to him, leads criminals to be arrested by police, sent to prison, and subsequently released by judges. All these measures and actions are inspired by the model of President Nayib Bukele. At the end of August, the main candidate's platform bases its security program and its vision for the country on the decisions made by President Bukele and executed by his security cabinet.

The Territorial Control Plan Continues to Serve as a Model in Argentina

Minister Gustavo Villatoro held a working meeting with his counterpart Alejandra Monteoliva, where an exchange of knowledge and experiences took place. Minister Villatoro delivered an extensive presentation on the frontal assault against criminal structures in El Salvador and the structural reform of the penal system, including comprehensive reforms to legal codes.

It is worth noting that El Salvador and Argentina are currently the only countries presenting a legal system through which criminal organizations can be confronted in court. The government of President Bukele continues to offer collaboration, cooperation, and support to the administration of President Milei and to Argentine society.



Bukele Model Arrives in Chile

In March 2026, the administration of President José Antonio Kast took office. As candidate and president-elect of Chile, Kast visited El Salvador and specifically CECOT; the Chilean lawyer and politician has shown great interest in promoting President Bukele's security model in Chile. Last week, a relevant visit was carried out by Minister of

Public Security and Justice Gustavo Villatoro, Minister of National Defense Admiral René Francis Merino Monroy, and Attorney General of the Republic Rodolfo Antonio Delgado Montes on behalf of the Republic of El Salvador, meeting with Minister of Public Security of the Chilean government Martín Arrau and other security authorities



of his administration, where Salvadoran officials shared experiences, strategies, results, and evidence achieved in El Salvador. It was a high-level and highly strategic encounter for Latin America.

El Salvador consolidates itself as a benchmark country, model, and example for other nations in the Americas and the world on how to confront organized crime organizations.

The Bukele Model transcended from regional to continental, becoming a case study in various countries and other continents due to the existing evidence. El Salvador now exports knowledge, science, and technical expertise, positioning the PNC, FGR, and Armed Forces as professional, high-level institutions. El Salvador is a sought-after land, and many countries express gratitude for the cooperation and support instructed by President Nayib Bukele.

Economic Growth for Social Development: Nayib Bukele's Strategy to Solve the Core Issue



In almost every country in the world, economies operate so that society provides the population with the greatest possible access to produced goods and services (an increasingly equitable distribution of income), even though economic growth often does not translate into social development, thereby deepening social inequality. The indicator that measures economic growth is GDP—that is, the monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a territory during a given period, usually a year.



Taken in isolation, the GDP total is not a faithful reflection of the general well-being of the population, nor is it equivalent to social development, because the latter involves much more than merely material aspects, encompassing the spiritual and cultural development of the population. International organizations and renowned economists have reached a consensus that, if one seeks to measure the quality of life of the population, one must include sustainability, reinvention, social inequality, and public policies aimed at closing the gap of social opportunities, ending all forms of social violence, and building solid, efficient, corruption-immune institutionality and governance.

Along these lines, the government of President Nayib Bukele has been designing a series of policies and strategies that break with old, inefficient paradigms, aiming to reconstruct everything public (so that it is better than the private sector), prioritizing education, health, and logistical, tourist, and road infrastructure—all as premises to significantly reduce poverty. The challenge President Bukele faces is not only to increase the social well-being and quality of life of the people, but also to build the foundations of a new productive matrix that leads the country to the conditions of more developed nations.



Surpassing economic growth expectations in 2026, surprising even the International Monetary Fund itself, demonstrates that proper measures and decisions are being taken to construct social and economic equity using a different architecture and new benchmarks. This is achieved through humanized public policies that guarantee a welfare society and a State acting as a social subject that vindicates financial rationality and democratic radicalism.

These are the main characteristics and innovations of President Bukele's administrations—characteristics that relate not only to the cold numbers of GDP, but also to the quality of life perceived by the population and transformed into their pragmatic truth as something on a sustained rise. Hence the massive support from the population, as well as the hatred and resentment of professional opponents, both political and academic.

The data, alongside the social motivation sustained and strengthened since 2019, indicates that we are entering what could be termed "the economic miracle"—a necessary and indispensable condition to sustain the miracle of public security.

Supply Centers and Agromarkets as a Benefit for Salvadoran Families



The price of basic food basket items can be affected by various factors, such as weather conditions, decreased production, scarcity, hoarding, and price speculation. When the supply of certain foods decreases, prices can rise and directly impact the budget of Salvadoran families. In these situations, marketing alternatives can help broaden purchasing options and facilitate access to essential products.

In this context, supply centers and agromarkets represent an alternative that generates economic and social benefits for both producers and consumers. These spaces can complement the system by increasing available options, facilitating access to basic food products at more affordable prices.

One of their main benefits is the reduction of intermediaries. Agromarkets allow farmers and small producers to connect directly with consumers, while supply centers can concentrate a variety of products in a single space. Thus, the producer can obtain better opportunities to market their harvest, and the consumer can find more accessible prices.

Another important benefit is that households can reduce the money spent on food and allocate part of their income to other needs, such as education, transportation, housing, health, and basic services. This is especially beneficial for lower-income families, who face greater difficulty coping with food price increases.

Agromarkets also directly benefit small farmers by providing them with a space to market their products and reach new consumers. For their part, supply centers offer greater variety and product availability, allowing consumers to find different foods in one place.



Furthermore, both mechanisms can strengthen competition and price transparency. When consumers have different options, they can compare prices and quality before purchasing. This reduces dependence on a single establishment or provider and creates incentives for merchants to maintain competitive prices and improve product quality.

Another benefit is facilitating the commercialization and distribution of food; supply centers and agromarkets can help keep essential products available to the population. This is especially important during periods marked by production difficulties or price increases.

Therefore, supply centers and agromarkets should be viewed as tools that generate benefits for both families and producers. They do not seek to eliminate or displace traditional markets, but rather to expand alternatives within the system, reduce intermediation, foster competition, and facilitate access to basic products.



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