CIRCLE OF POLITICAL REFLECTION — 21ST CENTURY —

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Publication of the Circle of Political Reflection 21st Century

San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America. | **No. 56,** October 5 to 11, 2026

circulosigloxxi@gmail.com

THINK • ANALYZE • PROPOSE

El Salvador does not need to become Singapore. it is building its own path.

Development does not begin with wealth, but with capabilities. Education, technology, scholarships, connectivity, the submarine cable, AliCity, and productive investment point toward a new Salvadoran economy. Real progress will be measured in productivity, better jobs, and higher incomes.

PAGES 1–2

How mafias took over Honduras

The book Tierra de Narcos exposes the symbiosis between elites, organized crime, and political power in Honduras.

PAGES 3–5

El Salvador's economic progress is undeniable despite political opponentis

Evidence and multilateral organizations recognize verifiable results and improved economic prospects.

PAGES 6–7

New opportunities for Salvadoran youth

Greater access to higher education, technical careers, and support to build a better future.

PAGES 8–9

If El Salvador achieved it, Honduras can too

Institutional renewal, transparency, and democratic strengthening are urgent challenges for Honduras.

PAGES 10–11

Traditional political parties are self-sabotaging

Their internal divisions, exhaustion, and lack of renewal push them toward greater irrelevance.

PAGES 12–13

The redistribution of the workday

A more flexible organization of working time. A debate is underway on concentrating the 44-hour workweek into four days, on an optional basis and while respecting labor rights.

PAGES 14–15

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The opposition, faced with public rejection in the next elections, alleges fraud

Political pluralism, capacities, and competencies

The incalculable factor: why superintelligence will not be able to replicate human leadership

Members of the Circle of Political Reflection 21st Century

Juan Contreras • Oscar Martínez Peñate • Nelson Flores • Mélida Villatoro • Aldo Álvarez • René Martínez Pineda • Mauricio Rodríguez • Rafael Góchez • José Valdéz • Christian Colón

NEWSLETTER

21st Century Political Reflection Circle

San Salvador, El Salvador • N°56 • October 5 to 11, 2026

info@crpsigloxxi.org | https://crpsigloxxi.org/newsletters

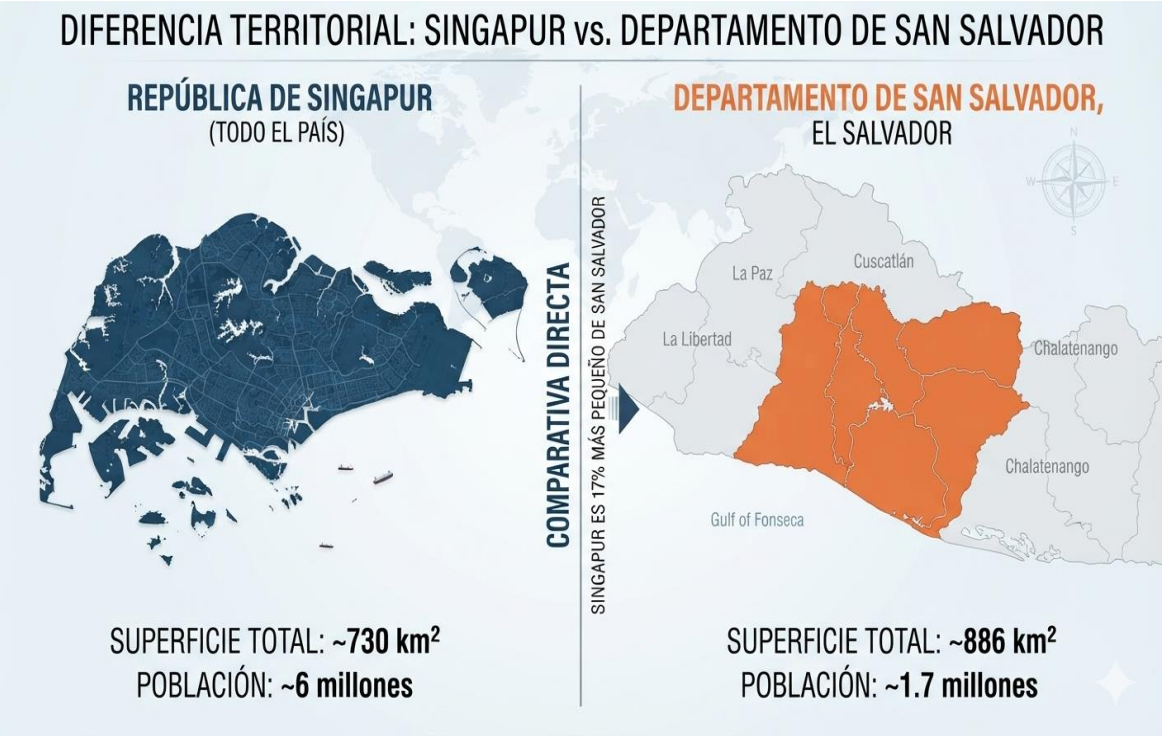
Analysis, reflection and political debate aimed at strengthening democracy and national development.

El Salvador Does Not Need to Become Singapore: It Is Building Its Own Path

For years, the comparison between El Salvador and Singapore has seemed like a distant aspiration. However, when observing how Singapore's transformation actually began, encouraging news emerges: major leaps in development do not start with wealth, but by building capabilities.

Singapore advanced step by step: infrastructure, education, connectivity, investment, technology, and increasingly sophisticated productive activities. El Salvador is beginning to assemble several of those pieces today, albeit under very different conditions and with tools that Singapore did not possess in 1965.

Educational modernization, technical and university training, scholarships, the incorporation of technology and artificial intelligence, new digital infrastructure, the submarine cable, AirCity, logistical connectivity, and incentives to attract and expand productive investment all point in a common direction: raising the country's capabilities.



Furthermore, there is a historical advantage. El Salvador enters this stage in the midst of the digital economy. The internet, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, global services, and nearshoring can allow certain capabilities to develop simultaneously and enable specific stages to be traversed with greater speed.

None of this guarantees the outcome. Infrastructure projects, laws, scholarships, or announcements only acquire true value when they translate into productivity, executed investment, more sophisticated exports, better jobs, and higher incomes. That will be the true measure of progress.

Yet precisely there lies the good news: today there are more pieces on the table and, above all, they are beginning to show a possible connection between education, technology, infrastructure, investment, and production.

El Salvador does not need to become Singapore. It can build its own path. If it succeeds in connecting these capabilities and converting them into productivity, the country could be standing before something far more important than an international comparison: the first steps of a new Salvadoran economy.

How the Mafias Took Over Honduras

Photo: AFP, Diario El Salvador

Under that subtitle, the Grijalbo publishing house has released the book *"Tierra de Narcos"* (*Land of Narcos*) by Honduran journalist Óscar Estrada. The book narrates the exploits of international kingpins (El Chapo, the Cartel of the Suns, etc.), the involvement of the Honduran military leadership (Wilfredo Leva, Sabillón, Tigre Bonilla, Ramírez del Cid, etc.), the rise of local cartels (Matta, Cachiros, Don H, Valle Valle, El Rojo, Fredy Nájera, etc.), the involvement of politicians (Tony and Juan Orlando Hernández, Pepe Lobo and his son Fabio,

etc.), and businessmen (Yani Rosenthal, Ferrari, etc.), concluding with a chapter bearing a striking title: *"What led the Honduran elite to link itself to drug trafficking?"*

In several of the most destitute rural areas, one observes residences with ostentatious, exaggerated architectural designs boasting a "highly refined bad taste." In villages and small towns, there are businesses frequented by customers paying large amounts in cash… or in major cities, there are shopping centers whose hallways are frequented while the stores remain empty, or whose visitors also pay large sums in cash…

In a country with rich architectural vestiges and evident natural and tourist wealth, the vast majority of the population subsists in conditions similar to those endured by the masses of medieval Europe. The middle class lacks access to homeownership or is suffocated between paying rent or bank installments, funding bilingual schools for their children—in an era when AI is on the verge of providing access to any language—hoping their offspring will thus escape a country with which they feel no identification and no aspiration to improve. They know that obtaining a university degree is no longer a guarantee of progress, with the exception of lawyers connected to organized crime…

It appears that the elites who arrived in Honduras in the 20th century from both opposing sides of the Middle East achieved complete harmony in profiting from the country's potential. The final chapter of the aforementioned book provides clues regarding their exponential growth in a relatively short time. Meanwhile, the old local elites remain entrenched in 19th-century productive systems, dreaming of gaining acceptance into the new aristocracy.

In politics, the Liberal and National parties represented the old barons who dominated the country since independence, remaining shielded against any concern, let alone protest. They are not exclusive in that zeal: even the massacre of youth, priests, and peasants in Los Horcones is famous, attributed to an ancestor of the leadership of today's main opposition party, Libre. Recently, a symbiosis of new and traditional elites mixed with the mafia controls politics. The emergence of the Libre party—in response to the 2009 constitutional breakdown sponsored by both conservative parties—brought it to the Executive branch in the 2021 elections, though it was not decisive at the municipal or legislative levels.

The fracture within Libre was evident even before President Xiomara Castro took office: on January 21, 2022, elected deputies were summoned to choose the Congressional Board of Directors, causing a scandalous split in their caucus that resulted in choosing it literally "with kicks" and expelling 18 of its 50 elected deputies.

Libre's time in power—self-described as left-wing—passed with more shame than glory: an Executive branch lacking a real development plan and feigning nonexistent achievements, such as the construction of eight fictitious hospitals, supposed daily inaugurations of non-functioning power plants, continuous crises in the education and health systems, and an endogamy in the Executive branch that reached its climax when mafia groups released a video where the president's brother-in-law, Carlos Zelaya, had accepted money from recognized mobsters to finance his sister-in-law's electoral campaign, indicating that "half [of the amount received] will be for the commander…". The release of the video led to his resignation as Secretary of Congress and that of his son, who served as Minister of Defense.

Currently, the right has regained control of all three branches of state power; the press glosses over its errors and praises empty good intentions announced with fanfare. On the other hand, the legacy of Juan Orlando Hernández has left the territory diminished by the so-called "Special Development Zones" (ZEDE)—under threat of a multimillion-dollar lawsuit—and nothing has changed for the poor and middle-class sectors of society, who nevertheless continue to defend the colors of political parties for which their ancestors lost property, lives, or marched into exile.

Meanwhile, caravans of the destitute continue to depart for the North, even knowing that borders are tightly sealed; but there is no choice: stay in a country that offers no work, education, health, etc.… in a word: neither future nor present… with children condemned to repeat that vicious cycle, or break it by entering the basic ranks of crime, where they have a future ranging from "scout" (*niño bandera*) to warn when police enter the neighborhood, to—as they grow—drug distributors or in parallel businesses, such as microfinance granting loans to the unemployed in an attempt to launder dirty money. All this without mentioning the most populous job: hitman (*gatillero*), performing various tasks (threats, revenge, collection of extortion payments, etc.).

All of this impacts citizens who daily try to earn a living: public and private sector employees, corner store owners, taxi drivers, market vendors, bus drivers and conductors, nurses, teachers, handymen, and street food vendors sprouting like mushrooms on every corner.

In perspective, the country already suffers from a severe drought and energy crisis, a homicide rate among the highest in the world, femicides that in September 2026 almost equaled all of those in 2025, and through August, 27,828 deported Hondurans have been officially received by air alone from the United States, and the parade continues...

The middle class also suffers the consequences of these crises and ineptitudes. To cite just one example: public sector doctors declared themselves in "Informative Assemblies"—during which they do not attend to patients—at various points so far this year: March, June, and September.

According to the police, the number of massacres or multiple homicides as of October 1 of this year was 23, with a total of 98 victims. For its part, the Center for Women's Rights counted 24 multiple homicides through the end of August, totaling 101 deceased individuals up to that date.

To conclude, let us return to the final chapter of Estrada's book mentioned at the beginning, titled *"What led the Honduran elite to link itself to drug trafficking?"* Based on concrete facts of that country's reality, the last two sections of that chapter carry significant weight: *"The unintended consequence of the empire's strategy"* and *"The coup d'état, a costly mistake by the elites."* What the book lacked was emphasizing the persistence of both actors in deepening their respective errors. Instead, the Gordian knot could be broken, first, with real control over the mafia underworld, and second, by both actors—empire and elites—embracing an elementary truth: if local elites paid taxes as required by law, whoever holds executive power—if they neither steal nor allow stealing—and possessed a genuine development plan capable of execution, could construct public works for the people and middle class that would genuinely energize the economy, reducing current social tension and, most importantly, developing the country.

Will they be capable of understanding it?

El Salvador’s Economic Progress Is Undeniable Despite Political Opponents

For years, critics of El Salvador’s political and economic trajectory have maintained that the country is stagnant, lacking real growth prospects and condemned to permanent economic fragility. However, the objective evidence accumulated over recent years increasingly contradicts that narrative.

An economy is not evaluated by political slogans, but by verifiable results. Precisely the world's most relevant financial and multilateral organizations are recognizing progress that can hardly be ignored.

The most recent example comes from the International Monetary Fund itself. In its Press Release No. 26/316, published on October 1, 2026, the organization explicitly stated:

"El Salvador's economy continues to show robust performance, supported by sustained improvements in security and growing investor confidence, amidst ongoing efforts to reduce macroeconomic imbalances. Progress has been made in fiscal consolidation, liquidity buffers and reserves have been further strengthened, and reforms continue in the areas of financial resilience, governance, and transparency..."

"Economic activity has exceeded expectations, driven by sustained improvements in security and investor confidence, as the correction of macroeconomic imbalances continues to be addressed. Fiscal consolidation has progressed broadly in line with program targets, and reserve and liquidity targets were comfortably met."

These statements do not originate from the Salvadoran government nor from local political actors. They emanate from the international financial institution that historically has been among the most rigorous in evaluating member countries' macroeconomic indicators.

It is particularly significant that the IMF explicitly links improved economic performance to two fundamental factors: the recovery of public safety and the strengthening of investor confidence. In other words, what some sectors characterized for years as a misguided gamble now appears identified as one of the primary engines of economic expansion.

Added to this is another equally revealing data point. According to figures released by UN Tourism for the first half of 2026, El Salvador recorded a 37% increase in international tourist arrivals compared to the same period the previous year, becoming the top-performing tourism destination in the entire American continent and one of the most dynamic worldwide.

Tourism, investment, and economic growth share a common requirement: trust. Tourists do not visit unsafe countries in large numbers. Investors do not risk capital where conditions of stability do not exist. And economies do not exceed expectations when they lack credibility.

While opponents insist on describing El Salvador as a stagnant economy and presenting the country as an experiment doomed to failure, international data and evaluations point in the exact opposite direction. The problem for that rhetoric is not merely political, but empirical.

When the International Monetary Fund asserts that the Salvadoran economy exhibits "robust performance," that economic activity "has exceeded expectations," that fiscal consolidation is progressing according to targets, and that reserve and liquidity goals have been comfortably met, it becomes increasingly difficult to seriously maintain the thesis of economic collapse.

Similarly, when the UN recognizes that El Salvador leads tourism growth in the Americas with a 37% increase in international visitor arrivals, it is equally uncredible to assert that the country is on the wrong path.

Salvadoran political opponents have every right to disagree with the government, question public policies, or propose alternatives (which they fail to do). What they cannot do is substitute desire for reality.

Democratic discussion requires diverse opinions, but it also demands respect for facts. And the facts are compelling: more investment, more tourism, greater international confidence, improved fiscal indicators, and explicit recognition from multilateral organizations that for decades were considered unquestionable technical arbiters.

New Opportunities for Young Salvadorans

For a long time, accessing higher education was difficult for many people in El Salvador. Study options were limited, and faced with economic necessity and precariousness, many individuals had to choose between working and studying. Some did both, while only a few could dedicate themselves exclusively to their studies or had families capable of making great financial sacrifices to support them. As a result, many people were unable to finish a degree, despite having the desire and capacity to do so.

There are also adults who, after starting a family or beginning work, decide to resume their studies. However, they sometimes receive discouraging comments, such as: "You're already old and still studying," or "You have children, why are you studying?" But it is never too late to learn, reach a goal, and seek a better future. Age, responsibilities, and difficulties should not be reasons to give up on dreams.

Currently, new opportunities are being created for young people and adults who want to move forward. Thanks to the Ministry of Integration, it is now possible to explore more educational options, enroll more easily, and receive guidance throughout the process. These opportunities can include technical programs and university studies that help prepare for the workforce and develop new skills.

These alternatives can make a major difference, especially for those who previously thought studying was impossible. Having access to information, guidance, and support encourages more people to take the first step. For every young person who begins a program through effort and support, progress remains possible despite the obstacles.

It is also important to remember that every family faces a different economic situation. Studying can involve expenses for transportation, materials, meals, and other obligations. Therefore, when a person receives the opportunity to continue their education, they are not only investing in their own future: they are also opening a door for their family.

Education can become the start of a new generation of opportunities. A person who studies can inspire their children, siblings, and other family members to believe in their capabilities and strive for their goals. Thus, today's effort can contribute to the advancement of an entire family and help build a future with more options for Salvadorans.

If El Salvador Achieved It, Honduras Can Too

The political renewal of Honduras cannot be limited to changing leaders or alternating power. The real challenge consists of transforming the relationship between citizens, political parties, and public institutions, so that democratic participation translates into transparency, accountability, and concrete results.

Elections constitute a fundamental mechanism of democracy, but they do not represent its endpoint. A democracy requires institutions capable of acting according to law,

authorities subject to effective controls, and citizens with real possibilities to monitor, question, and evaluate public decisions. Without these elements, elections are merely a periodic event lacking lasting institutional transformation.

One of the great Honduran challenges is renewing its political culture. This implies the internal purging of parties, transparent origin and use of campaign resources, new leadership, and establishing effective accountability mechanisms. Renewal should not be measured solely by who comes to power, but by how it is exercised and what institutions are left strengthened.

Institutional reconstruction requires more than political will. It needs political institutions of integrity, clear rules, independent controls, access to information, and a citizenry that participates beyond elections. Above all, it demands leaders willing to submit their decisions to public scrutiny with a disruptive vision, as required by geopolitics and the new world order.

Honduras faces the opportunity to turn the demand for renewal into a concrete agenda for democratic strengthening. The challenge is not simply changing those who govern, but building institutions that function transparently, respond to citizens, and transcend incumbent governments.

This reflection also holds relevance for Central America. El Salvador offers a benchmark of political transformation that invites reflection on leadership, decision-making capacity, and responsiveness to citizen demands. For Honduras, this experience represents an opportunity to identify areas to strengthen in security, public trust, and institutional capacity, adapting lessons to its own reality.

This is a challenge Hondurans must undertake and one that Central America can enrich through shared experiences and critical reflection. If El Salvador achieved it, Honduras can too.

Behind every security agent, soldier, or police officer is a person with a family to feed and, in some cases, dependents who rely on them financially.

Traditional Political Parties Are Self-Sabotaging

Self-sabotage is understood as that pattern of thought wherein an individual develops harmful inclinations or negative self-criticism that interferes with their well-being. When this pathology transfers to the social sphere

of those affected, a process of collective destruction begins—which is undoubtedly what the majority of parties in the country are demonstrating.

El Salvador's traditional political parties do not need political opponents to attack them; they attack themselves when individual interests take precedence over the collective good. That is the main reason why they are entering pernicious movements that wear them down in terms of public perception and even among their own members.

As the master Leo Tolstoy expressed: *"The end of civilization consists of turning all things into pleasure."* The craving for power and pleasure created an abyss of corruption and filth in traditional parties from which they have been unable to recover. Now, through self-sabotage in sterile, ill-intentioned fights among themselves, they are merely digging their own graves.

Thus, unless they refound their political movements and allow their membership to genuinely decide, we may be witnessing the end of those political parties, thereby leaving the field open to continue with the advances being driven across various aspects of national reality. The population will recognize this—that is, a vast number of Salvadorans will thank those parties for their non-existence.

As the illustrious Baruch Spinoza posed: *"A people sins when it does or allows things to be done that may result in its ruin."* In this case, the Salvadoran people have already understood that they cannot continue sinning by maintaining the ruin brought by those traditional parties—a way of practicing politics disinterested in the common good and focused on the private gain of their leaders and those who benefited from corruption.

The Redistribution of the Workweek: A More Flexible Organization of Work Time

For several weeks, the High Council of Labor has been analyzing various alternatives to modernize the organization of working hours in El Salvador. Among them is the possibility of compressing the current 44-hour workweek into four days, with 11-hour workdays and three consecutive days of rest.

This involves a redistribution of working hours, not an expansion of the weekly total. Furthermore, it has been proposed that this model be optional and applied based on agreements between workers and employers, respecting salaries, benefits, and other established labor rights. In the coming days, the Council is expected to present the proposal to the Legislative Assembly.

Compressing the workweek into fewer days is not an innovation unique to El Salvador. International precedents for compressed workweeks exist. Belgium, for example, adopted a framework in 2022 allowing the 38-hour workweek to be distributed over four days, with 9.5-hour shifts. The OECD distinguishes between reducing weekly hours and compressing them into fewer days: they are different models, and their effects can vary.

Of course, a four-day schedule with 11-hour days is not suitable for all workers or all economic activities. However, for those who spend several hours daily commuting between home and work, having three consecutive rest days could represent a significant advantage.

The key lies in analyzing the characteristics of each sector and seeking agreements that allow for more flexible work time organization. What fails to contribute to this discussion is misinformation from opposition sectors, who seem to start from a rejection of any proposal and resort to catastrophic scenarios that do not correspond to what is actually being proposed. Opening one's mind to new possibilities does not mean accepting them without discussion, but analyzing them with seriousness.

Facing Public Rejection in Upcoming Elections, the Opposition Claims Fraud

On September 30, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal officially announced the call for general elections on February 28, 2027; campaigning for the presidential election will begin on October 27, 2026.

The participation of legally registered parties running for the presidency—particularly ARENA and the FMLN—generates the most noise on the issue, as they know that statistically and mathematically, the population will most likely cause them to disappear as political parties by failing to reach the minimum votes required by the Electoral Code.

A veteran left-wing member of the "leftist" movement clamored that the 2027 elections will be the product of massive fraud; nevertheless, inside the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, their own representatives from both ARENA and the FMLN attest to a democratic and transparent process.

Salvadoran citizens understand clearly that President Nayib Bukele enjoys the backing and support of over 90% of the population. Electoral defeat awaits ARENA and the FMLN, while President Bukele will be re-

elected to guide the destiny of El Salvador; according to results predicted by various polling firms, it will be a decisive electoral victory representing a triumph for the Salvadoran people.

For the time being, those discordant voices on the left and right will continue their unfounded rhetoric—empty arguments lacking logic and, consequently, devoid of truth.

Political Pluralism, Capabilities, and Competencies

In a press conference, El Salvador's TSE announced the registration of political party candidates, meaning that any legally registered political party can present candidacies for president, the legislative assembly, or municipal governments within the established dates.

This participation of political parties demonstrates the existence of the pluralistic system El Salvador enjoys, supporting a strong representative democracy. Electors can choose from a diversity of options—a reflection of a society where a plurality of sectors finds space to express their narratives. Voters can choose among distinct alternatives, guaranteeing a free and legitimate election. This means candidates enter an open, free contest with genuine contenders, all serving as monitors of the process to ensure transparency in the results.

Parties experiencing internal dissatisfaction or disagreements have the space to settle their conflicts so as not to appear weak or fractured in a contest where they are committed to capturing voters' attention. Their

platforms must align with public expectations to attract votes, relying on their organizational and logistical capacity to arouse that interest.

These upcoming 2027 elections represent a test of survival for some parties. In this case, they are not only competing to maintain a presence and retain their seats, but to expand their limited territorial and institutional reach. Their internal leaderships are at stake; as in the case of the VAMOS party, differences among its leaders or main figures must be resolved promptly and responsibly to determine who will manage the overall electoral process.

Resolving a party's internal fissures and grievances is crucial, especially once the starting line is crossed with the legal registration of candidates. Internal party divisions do not inspire confidence in a critical electorate like El Salvador's. If a party projects organizational instability, it cannot convince voters of its capacity to lead or govern a country; such internal disputes only serve to drain their political participation against real, strong, and consolidated options like the Nuevas Ideas party. Others will have to try to erase the stigma of historical corruption left by previous disastrous and incompetent administrations to capture the historical vote that has moved to other parties.

It should also be clear to them that they cannot compete with improvised structures and a lack of local ground support. From this moment on, they face arduous and constant work if they wish to avoid being dispersed or, in the worst-case scenario, disappearing from the political map.

The Incalculable Factor: Why Superintelligence Will Not Be Able to Replicate Human Leadership

The world's great powers—nations with inexhaustible economic resources, indisputable military might, and an overwhelming technological hegemony—possess the theoretical tools to eradicate almost all the structural problems afflicting their societies. However, in practice, these problems persist, and in many cases, they worsen.

Take the United States, for example, the undisputed leader in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This week we have seen the latest agreement between the United States and major tech firms, developing the most advanced AI models on the planet. They have the data, they have the computing power, and they have the intellectual talent. And even so, that nation faces deep domestic crises (social, public safety, public health) that it not only has failed to resolve, but seems far from being able to solve.

In contrast, let us observe the reality of El Salvador. Today, our country is experiencing a climate of peace unprecedented in the region. It is boosting its economy and transforming its infrastructure after decades of chronic stagnation in absolutely all areas of national development. These historic changes were not calculated by an algorithm in Silicon Valley; rather, they have been led by one man—President Nayib Bukele—who

today holds the highest approval rating in the world and leads a population that reports unprecedented optimism in key areas such as education, health, and security.

The conclusion drawn from this comparison is resounding: it does not matter the amount of economic resources, databases, or technological capabilities at one's disposal. The only real way to solve the structural problems of a society requires something that machines do not possess: human leadership with vision, unwavering political will, and the audacity to make difficult decisions.

It requires a human mind with the capacity to orchestrate the available elements, resist international pressures, and align all State resources toward a single objective: the well-being of its citizens.

Artificial Superintelligence may be able to process millions of variables per second and suggest public policies based on pure statistics, but it will hardly be able to match the intangible components of the human mind that forge true statesmen. We are talking about elements such as political instinct, genuine empathy for the suffering of a people, a sense of moral urgency, and historical vision.

It is precisely these intrinsically human elements that a mind like Nayib Bukele's has put into action to dismantle paradigms that were believed impossible to overcome. Technology is, and always will be, an extraordinary tool; but the profound transformation of societies, both in El Salvador and in the rest of humanity, will always require the heartbeat of a truly human leadership.

Elections as a Transformative Political Action

We are just a few months away from "the day of days": February 28. The only tedium along the way is hearing opponents attack everything the government does while trying to minimize what has been the greatest achievement (the radical transformation of the country). Elections are approaching and, with absolute certainty, Nayib Bukele will be re-elected with a historic vote count, while the legislative and municipal electoral math will reflect roughly the same correlation of forces.

Social motivation is a phenomenon that overflows the aforementioned boundaries, reaching every corner of the planet where a Salvadoran resides. Elections in the time of Bukele are a democratic process that overcomes the restrictions of two-party dominance and transcends political parties themselves, establishing a new paradigm of leadership.

In that sense, it can be stated with total certainty that elections regained their true meaning only after 2019: citizen participation. As an event that reproduces the formal side of democracy, elections have successfully

transformed citizen participation into a political act rather than a merely electoral one. They have become true expressions of popular power centered on a core purpose: endorsing the continuity of the country's reinvention process and revalidating the constant evolution of Nayib's leadership (the essential key to his appeal), turning elections into a ritual of continuous social initiation.

The 2027 elections, in particular, will serve as the time and space for Salvadorans—both inside and outside the country—to express their views on the nation's trajectory and the institutions that give tangible form to the territory as a nation. For 2027, every poll predicts a consolidation of democratic culture as political participation enriched by a strong cultural component and historical memory.

Another relevant aspect surrounding elections in the Bukele era is the pursuit and consolidation of a universalized democracy, wherein our compatriots abroad can fully exercise their active and passive political rights. Democracy truly became universal the moment "international Salvadorans" (the diaspora) were empowered to vote (the most cherished remote vote), fully reclaiming the nationality stolen from them the moment they crossed the border, which had left them doubly undocumented.

By joining this defining electoral event in 2027, our compatriots—"the happiest of the happy in the world" who eat pupusas while waiting in line to vote, whom opponents dismiss as "starving people who don't know their own country"—will complete the universalization of our democracy. The national territory will stretch across the globe, and the electoral process will become genuinely political by excluding no Salvadoran.

For the 2027 elections, as polls emphasize, the final count is already decided and legitimized by the Salvadoran people; all that remains is to apply the official seals to formalize it. This will ensure the continuity of democratic governability within the administration (without resorting to black briefcase bribes or gold perks), as well as the Territorial Control Plan, which manifests as governability on the ground—all aimed at achieving the second great miracle: social development accompanied by economic growth.

Opposite this social motivation stand the opponents, whose visceral, apocalyptic messages fail to resonate with the public imagination. This exposes them as a mediocre, discredited, crude, predictable, atomized opposition—lost in its own labyrinth, obtuse, and denialist—whose sole mission is seeking power to bring back a bloody past.

However, the people do not forget that during the administrations of today's opposition, we were "one of the most dangerous countries in the world," years they refer to as a "perfect democracy." In contrast, the vast majority of the population seeks to build a new, prosperous future that not only ensures public services surpass private ones, but also redefines political balance and gives elections concrete meaning as a transformative political action.

In summary, the 2027 elections will mark the definitive historic triumph that consolidates changes into lasting transformations, continuously reinventing the nation. El Salvador, the smallest country in territory with the biggest dreams in its collective imagination—an imagination that fits inside a ballot box, for the very same reason the universe fits inside a freshly made tortilla.

Members of the Political Reflection Circle of El Salvador 21st Century

Juan Contreras • Oscar Martínez Peñate • Nelson Flores • Mélida Villatoro • Aldo Álvarez • René Martínez • Mauricio Rodríguez • Rafael Góchez • Jose Valdéz • Christian Colón