

BOOK REVIEW
*EXPANSIVE DEMOCRACY: OR HOW TO
MOVE BEYOND CAPITALISM*
by Nicolás Sartorius. Anagrama
Argumentos, Barcelona 2024, 419 pp.

JOSÉ CARLOS MARTÍN DE LA HOZ

Nicolás Sartorius (San Sebastián, 1938), one of the most qualified theorists of communist thought in Spain, has brazenly penned an extensive work on the Marxist-Leninist utopia, presented with the utmost rigour and the greatest ideological audacity. The first part of his work consists of a review of the Second World War and the start of the Cold War, which he blames for the communist system's failure to develop to the point of achieving the proletariat's paradise, as it would have ultimately collapsed economically by failing to keep pace with the United States' arms race.

In his review of the strategies of the Second World War, he will emphasise the number of Russian casualties, who bore the brunt of the war, due to the capitulation of major European industrialists who allegedly sold out to the Nazis rather than ally themselves with communist Russia. In any case, ideologies aside, it is clear that the dead speak for themselves: Russia suffered 25 million deaths, far outstripping Germany, France, the United States, England, etc.

Likewise, the atomic bomb dropped with impunity by the United States on the two Catholic cities in Japan – when Japan had already been defeated – is said to have been dropped to put Russia in its place. Naturally, he makes no mention of the fact that the Freemasons are said to have decided the day, place and time.

Nor does Sartorius make any mention of Russia's position during the Cold War in the European countries behind the Iron Curtain, nor of Poland or the Baltic States. Of course, there is no mention of Stalin's purges or of the deaths in Crimea and in Siberia, simply because even they themselves did not understand those deaths, as they were the whims of a madman.

As the book's aim is to overcome capitalism through higher taxes for everyone, especially for the middle classes—who are the ones paying to the point of their own disappearance—and to turn us all into 'mileuristas' (people earning a thousand euros a month) who are easily controlled by the governments of the welfare state. That aid is reserved for those who align themselves with the ruling left, receiving subsidies and favours that will increasingly be available to fewer and fewer people. Sartorius overlooks the fact that Franco's mistake was to deprive us of our freedoms, and that is precisely what enabled democracy to take such a firm hold in Spain.

In truth, what Sartorius's utopia fails to explain, however hard it tries (118–119), is what will happen when the controlling, despotic and intrusive state succumbs—not only in Spain, but throughout the Western world—to this new culture emerging in the third millennium: global, feminist, solidarity-based and digital.