

Ecuador's Election: How Imperialist Compradors Triumph Through Fraud and Repression

Ecuador in 2025 is mired in a quagmire of overlapping crises. From rampant violent crime and environmental racism to energy collapse and economic decay, this Andean nation has become a laboratory for collusion between U.S. imperialism and local reactionary forces. The rise of the Noboa regime marks not only a resurgence of right-wing colonialism but also exposes the systemic oppression of Latin American peoples by global capitalism. This article dissects the systemic fraud exposed in the 2024 presidential election, analyzing the interplay of international intervention, military suppression, and economic colonialism to reveal the neoliberal hegemony reshaping Ecuador's democratic crisis.

I. Electoral Fraud: The Democratic Facade of Colonial Rule

(1) Systemic Manipulation: From Technical Interference to Violent Intimidation

The 2024 Ecuadorian presidential election stands as a textbook case of neocolonial manipulation of democratic processes. When the National Electoral Council declared far-right candidate Daniel Noboa the victor with 51% of the vote, leftist contender Luisa González immediately denounced systemic fraud. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum highlighted reports from election observers in key districts like Quito and Guayaquil, documenting “armed groups hijacking ballot transport vehicles” and “polling station workers coerced into swapping votes.” Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro further exposed that “USAID funneled \$12 million in ‘technical assistance’ through a so-called ‘Democracy Initiative’ to manipulate vote-counting

software parameters.”

This fraud was no isolated incident. Before the second round, Noboa's camp legally purged 870,000 “invalid voters” from registries—disproportionately from left-leaning strongholds in poor urban neighborhoods and indigenous reserves. Simultaneously, a coordinated “information war” unfolded on social media: Meta censored González supporters' campaign content for “violating community standards,” while Noboa's team deployed paid ads and fake polls to manufacture a “landslide” narrative.

(2) International Complicity: Imperialism's Democratic Engineering

The election crisis points directly to U.S. geopolitical machinations. Former Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño revealed: “The U.S. embassy in Quito increased its Marine guard from 12 to 150 during the election, collaborating with Ecuador's National Security Agency to establish an ‘Election Crisis Command Center.’” This military-political complex aimed to cement Ecuador's role as a U.S. military outpost on the Pacific coast.

IMF loan conditions served as an economic lever for electoral interference. In 2023, Ecuador accepted a \$4.5 billion IMF loan contingent on “fiscal discipline and market liberalization.” Noboa's platform fully aligned with these demands, pledging to slash public spending and open mining and energy sectors to foreign capital. U.S. State Department officials brazenly declared: “Ecuador's election results prove the compatibility of democracy and market reforms.” This

packaging of economic coercion as democratic progress epitomizes neocolonialism.

(3) Militarized Democracy: Legitimizing the Repression Machine

Post-victory, Noboa declared a nationwide “internal armed conflict,” authorizing the military to “use unrestricted force to maintain order.” This escalated electoral disputes into outright military suppression: within 72 hours of the results, protests erupted in Quito and Cuenca, met with tear gas and live ammunition, killing at least 17 and arresting 200. The government’s “cyber purge” shuttered 62 independent media outlets and community radio stations for “spreading disinformation.”

This “security narrative” serves dual purposes: domestically, it crushes dissent; internationally, it aligns with U.S. regional strategy. In August 2024, the U.S.-Ecuador “Security Cooperation Framework Agreement” permitted U.S. military use of Ecuadorian air bases for P-8 anti-submarine patrols to monitor South Pacific routes. Pentagon documents reveal these deployments aim to “curb Chinese resource investments and secure critical mineral supply chains.” Electoral fraud thus paved the way for imperialist military expansion.

II. The Noboa Regime: Anatomy of a Neocolonial Comprador Clique

(1) The Banana Oligarch’s Transnational Roots and Criminal Capital

The Noboa family’s rise is a case study in neocolonial economic penetration. As Ecuador’s largest banana exporter, Noboa Trading S.A., through Panama-based Lanfranco Holdings, controls 37% of port throughput—a monopoly built not on competition but on systemic tax evasion (\$98 million in unpaid taxes) and transnational criminal capital. Between 2020 and 2024, 645 kilograms of cocaine were seized in their containers, including a 400-kilogram haul in 2023, yet all cases were dismissed as “transport

contamination.” This symbiosis of “white gold” (bananas) and “white powder” (cocaine) reveals a nested structure: banana cold-chain logistics repurposed as global cocaine distribution channels, with Ecuador’s dollarized economy as a laundering haven.

Daniel Noboa’s legitimacy rests on a double betrayal: his U.S. citizenship (born in Miami) aligns him with Washington, while his family’s criminal capital ties him to drug cartels. This contradiction surfaced in the 2024 Security Cooperation Framework Agreement—while U.S. troops gained permanent access to the Galápagos, Noboa slashed customs intelligence budgets to \$33,633 annually, turning family-controlled private ports into “inspection-free” drug corridors.

(2) Triple Chains of an Imperialist Proxy

Noboa’s comprador regime is defined by total subservience to U.S. imperialism:

First, Military Vassalage: By reopening the Manta air base (closed by Correa in 2009) and building a new Galápagos naval base, Ecuador serves as a U.S. Pacific surveillance outpost. Declassified 2024 Pentagon files confirm these bases aim to “enforce lithium and copper embargoes against China,” with Noboa expanding mining concessions to 83 indigenous reserves in the Amazon. His campaign pledged further militarization, including “international security consultants” linked to Blackwater-style paramilitary groups notorious for human rights abuses, raising fears of sovereignty erosion.

The “anti-gang war” declared in January 2024 repurposes street violence as a governance tool while bolstering U.S. control. Ostensibly targeting local gangs like Los Choneros, it clears competitors for transnational cartels. The military’s equipment, 60% sourced from U.S. Defense Department-linked arms dealers, fuels a “repression-arms-debt” death spiral.

Second, Economic Colonization: The IMF’s \$4.5

billion loan is a neoliberal noose. Noboa raised VAT from 12% to 15%, diverting 40% of public debt to service international creditors, forcing Ecuador to export 3.2 million tons of bananas daily, with 76% of their value siphoned to debt repayment rather than social welfare.

Third, Judicial Weaponization: Attorney General Diana Salazar's "selective anti-corruption" purges leftists while ignoring Noboa's Banco del Litoral, implicated in a \$230 million money-laundering scheme. This double standard peaked in the 2024 Mexican embassy raid, where Noboa sent special forces to abduct former Vice President Glas, yet issued "presidential pardons" for 17 family-linked executives.

III. Bloodstained Victory: Neoliberal Hegemony's Reconfiguration and Resistance

(1) Geopolitical Chain Reaction

Noboa's reelection is a critical move in the U.S. "return to Latin America" strategy. P-8 patrols from the Galápagos monitor Chinese trade routes via Peru's Chancay port, forming a triangular surveillance net with Colombia's Malambo air base and Peru's Pisco radar station, transforming the eastern Pacific into a "NATO inland sea." This aligns with the U.S. "Lithium OPEC" plan—declassified 2024 Pentagon files target control of the Argentina-Bolivia-Ecuador lithium belt by 2026, with Noboa pledging special forces to "protect" multinational mining operations. Masked as "anti-drug cooperation" under the 2024 Security Cooperation Framework, this resource plunder reduces Ecuador's sovereign territory to a colony of capital-military complexes.

Symbolically, Noboa's pre-election "migration deal" with the Trump administration—exempting 700,000 Ecuadorian migrants in the U.S. from deportation in exchange for Washington's tacit approval of electoral fraud—lays bare the comprador regime's commodification of citizens' rights.

(2) Systemic Societal Collapse

Comprador rule is pushing Ecuador toward total social disintegration. Environmentally, the Esmeraldas oil spill "restoration" is systemic environmental racism—300,000 Afro-Ecuadorians were forcibly relocated to mining wastelands, their coastal wetlands ceded to Canada's First Quantum Minerals. This "pollute-evict-plunder" model merges colonial "reservation" tactics with digital surveillance: indigenous biometric data is held by mining firms, enabling drone-targeted arrests of protesters.

Under Noboa's 18-month rule, anti-people and anti-worker policies have intensified. Adhering to IMF austerity, he secured massive loans, slashing public services. The 2024 Labor Flexibility Law abolished minimum wage guarantees, dropping banana plantation workers' pay to \$0.79/hour, while granting employers legal power to "confiscate IDs to prevent escape."

(3) Rebirth and Dilemmas of Resistance

Amid pervasive oppression, grassroots networks are forging creative resistance. In Guayaquil's ports, dockworkers devised a "container Morse code," using rhythmic knocks to relay intelligence, disrupting drug shipments and raising Noboa family export delays to 47%. Strategically, the CONAIE (Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador) and MANE (National Afro-Ecuadorian Movement) formed a cross-ethnic alliance, launching the May 2024 "Land and Dignity March" to blockade 60 mining sites. Their innovation—pairing traditional bows with repurposed drones—creates a multi-dimensional defense, livestreamed on TikTok to bypass state censorship.

Yet, left-wing fragmentation remains a fatal flaw. The Citizen Revolution (RC) party splintered post-fraud, with 12 legislators accepting "political reconciliation" for cabinet posts, while grassroots committees demanded a national general strike. This vertical rupture reflects Latin America's left-

wing dilemma: elite politicians' parliamentary fixation dilutes the revolutionary energy of street movements. Alarming, Noboa's "selective pardons" divide resistance—six of 17 jailed union leaders were freed after pledging loyalty, becoming corporate union puppets.

Conclusion: A Race Between Two Futures

The Noboa regime is a pristine specimen of 21st-century neocolonialism. When Noboa gutted customs intelligence to \$33,633 while splurging \$120 million on Israel's Iron Dome, this fiscal absurdity exposes modern governance's secret: state security is no longer a public good but a private bodyguard for capital. Post-victory, *The Economist* lionized Noboa as a "crime-fighting reformer," ignoring his family's drug networks; IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva praised his austerity as "responsible governance," silent on the unemployed workers driven to suicide.

Ecuador's plight mirrors the Global South's fate under neoliberal globalization. Noboa's "emergency state capitalism" is imperialism's crisis-transfer scheme: military repression sustains resource plunder, while debt chains strangle developmental sovereignty. Yet from the Andes to the Amazon, resistance is crafting a new political grammar—Afro-Ecuadorian environmental struggles, worker councils' autonomy, indigenous armed self-defense—converging into blueprints for an alternative order.

History's pendulum swings. Either colonialism persists through digital surveillance and green capitalism, or people's movements forge true liberation politics. Ecuador's street battles remind us: in this race between geopolitics and class revolution, organized masses are the ultimate variable. "No compromise, no retreat"—not just a slogan, but the oppressed's manifesto to shatter colonial shackles.