

## **Evolutions and Revolutions**

By Mañanita Ochoa

Nature is always in a state of evolution and adaptation, but once in a while this state suffers violent structural changes that produce dangerous discontinuities. These physical phenomena: earthquakes, swells, killer storms, and human beings that are born with pig's tails or devil's horns are some examples of nature's revolutions. Even though revolutions are very costly because of their violence, destruction, and the effect they have over insurance premiums and price fluctuations that worry so many people, revolutions are as unavoidable as volcano explosions. But some revolutions are not natural and these are the ones that can and should be avoided. Why worry and panic innocent children, when you can sing them lullabies to get them to sleep and assure they are productive at school the next day? This is the main responsibility of good and dignified parents. Why create problems in the economy and human relations if they are not going to lead to a more productive and coherent society?

What we've seen in countries such as Venezuela and others in which revolutionary governments appear from time to time like childhood pandemics, is that people get excited about the possibility of a "revolutionary" miracle, but end up left holding an empty bag.

Those wonderful "missions" that entered the Venezuelan ghettos and built our hopes up with the prospect of bringing basic medical services to those that most needed it, have mostly failed, except for that one we keep in a glass case for naive revolutionary buyers coming from abroad as revolutionary tourists. They tell me there are more than 1,800 Cuban medics that have fled their missionary jobs. And some of these opportunistic traitors are now trying their luck in Miami and Santo Domingo, where things work better than in the Venezuelan ghettos.

The sad thing is that we have destroyed, in our pursuit to become revolutionaries, what little capacity we had of providing decent medical services through the Ministry of Health. Because the revolution has truncated the evolution and functionality of our former institutions, we are no longer able to provide vaccinations or treatments for dysentery and dehydration in children, all basic medical practices which, if applied in time, can save lives. The old institutions might have been bad or at best mediocre, but they provided basic services. At least we weren't being attacked by bubonic plagues and we had eradicated malaria and polio.

Nowadays we are vulnerable to any plague or epidemic known to man because we do not even have mercurochrome. The scarcity of medicines and Venezuelan medics is so great that medical treatment and prevention for both rich and poor has collapsed.

Give me evolutions and not revolutions. We'll give the revolutions to the French, who have made a myth out of them, but have been content with the myth for 200 years. Once and never again! They now just sing to the tune of the Marseillaise, especially after the French Revolution killed more people than the medieval plagues. That revolution brought

upon them the Napoleonic wars, which transformed a brave and capable soldier into an insufferable emperor, that ended up defeated and vanished to Saint Helena. It would have been better if Napoleon, the warrior, had limited himself to writing the Napoleonic Code. But no one is perfect. That is precisely why gradual evolutions are always better than arrogant, confusing, and destructive revolutions.