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Any discussion about national economic policy "has to start from the disagreeable fact, that for Mexico, as a peripheral country in the global context, it is practically impossible to break the rules of the world's economic system," professor Lorenzo Meyer told *The News* Wednesday.

Opposition parties in the new legislature "can very probably reduce the Value Added Tax (IVA), but they cannot change the fundamentals of economic policy," Meyer said.

Although the new opposition bloc in the Chamber of Deputies now represents a legislative majority, Meyer says that "the opposition lacks the muscle to impose alternative policies, it cannot overcome the will of the President, the Senate, and economic interest groups."

Today's economic system, according to Meyer, is like nature, in that it doesn't have any moral dilemmas. "It gives generously to people like (Grupo Carso's) Carlos Slim, but not to the people of Chiapas," Meyer said.

Furthermore, according to Meyer, Mexico's economy is no longer in the hands of Mexicans. "Whether the Mexican stock exchange goes up or down does not depend on us," Meyer said. "It depends on the global market."

The historian and author also regretted that the government "at one point decided that it would be exports, and not the internal market, that would be the engine of the development process."

"It used to be that there were at least symbolic alternatives, like socialism in its various forms, and so-called Third World policies. Now there are no alternatives," Meyer said.

Today, according to Meyer, Mexico faces a different reality. "We have a very limited economic sovereignty, some might say it doesn't exist at all (with regard to) economic decisions."