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Abstracts

Back to an Island of Tranquility in a Sea of Revolt? Limits of Brazilian Liberal Democracy *Lúcio Flávio Rodrigues de Almeida*

Brazil is experiencing its greatest movement of mass liberal democracy. Unlike other South American countries, in Brazil Lula's electoral victory, in a moment of declining mass mobilization, has made possible until now the creative recycling of neoliberalism, supported from the beginning by broad contingents of the popular classes and, in addition, by big domestic and foreign capital. We evaluate the possible scenarios in this context of apparent calm in the midst of a capitalist crisis whose evolution on both a global level and in Brazil is unpredictable.

Key words: Democracy. Political power. Popular classes. Political scene.

The Social Sciences in Two Analytical Perspectives on Social Movements in Brazil *Débora Cristina Goulart*

This work presents a debate between two analytical perspectives from the social sciences on social movements in contemporary Brazil. One view takes as its point of departure the idea that the normalization and legitimation of public-state spaces is a conquest of the movements and proposes the permanent enlargement of social reforms through a new political culture that works through state spaces and the cultural relations of the movements. Another current takes as its point of departure an analysis of the dynamics of social conflict and the class struggle and takes issue with the idea that participation in the government agenda reflects a definitive conquest for social movements. Researchers from these two currents construct analyses using different theoretical and methodological prisms and we attempt here to shed light on the debate between them.

Keywords: Social movements. Social sciences. Sociological theory.

Popular Movements in Latin America: Paradoxes of Anti-Systemic Struggles? *Eliel Machado*

We theoretically problematize the political protagonism of subjects that do not belong to the hard core of the capital/labor relationship in the Latin American subcontinent and consist principally of "subproletarians" and "semiproletarians." We discuss the probable political and ideological implications of those conflicts for the proletarian struggles for social transformation.

Keywords: Proletariat. "Subproletariat."
"Semiproletariat." Ideologies. Class practices.

Traditions of Labor Struggle and the Emergence of Movements of the Unemployed in Argentina

Davisson de Souza

This article explores the relationship between trade unionism and the emergence of the movements of the unemployed in Argentina in the second half of the 1990s. From the perspective of Marxist theory, it explores the explanatory potential of the concept of *relative overpopulation* and it analyzes the protests of the unemployed as an integral part of the labor movement. It presents an analysis of trade unionism today and it critically interprets the notion that unionism is giving way to "new social movements." The central hypothesis of this paper is that these organizations are heirs of the tradition of working class struggle in the country. To develop this idea it uses the theory of ideology and popular protest developed by the British historian George Rudé, particularly his concepts of inherent and derived ideas.

Keywords: Trade unionism. Movements of the unemployed. Working class struggles.

Trade Unionism and Social Movements: Collective Action and Social Regulation in the European and Portuguese Contexts

Elísio Estanque

In this article trade unionism and other social movements are linked, demonstrating their contradictions, but showing their possible or potential complementarities. The struggle for welfare of the working class can give way to forms of rebellion and contestation or even to processes of institutionalization and dialogue. Within this framework of a permanent tension between regulation and emancipation, we discuss some tendencies at work in the long history of modern capitalism, from the 19th century to today, passing through the experiences of the European welfare state.

Keywords: Trade unionism. Social movements. Capitalism

Revolution and (Criticism of) Progress: The Contemporary Eco-Socialism of Walter Benjamin

Fabio Mascaro Querido

Beginning in the mid-1970s the emergence of the ecological crisis imposed new challenges on Marxism. Since then, the construction of a socialist and ecological perspective has been connected to the necessity of a reinvigoration of the Marxist criticism of "progress" and the modern capitalist civilizing model. Taking that basic premise as a point of departure, the objective of this article is

to underscore the importance of Walter Benjamin – especially his radical criticism of progress and modernity and his conception of social revolution as an interruption of historical continuity – for the contemporary constitution of an ecological Marxist or, better yet, an eco-socialist perspective.

Keywords: Walter Benjamin. Criticism of progress. Eco-socialism.

The Construction of the Historical Bloc: The Jacobin Road and the “Debate” with George Sorel in the Prison Notebooks

Leandro de Oliveira Galastri

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate how, through his criticism of the anti-Jacobinism of the French philosopher Georges Sorel, Antonio Gramsci theoretically elaborates the possibility of a Jacobin road to the construction of a new historical bloc. As a revolutionary alternative to the necessarily conservative process represented by passive revolutions, the “Gramscian” Jacobin alternative would consist of the insertion of the masses into the life of the state promoted by the party acting as a modern Machiavellian prince.

Keywords: Historical bloc. Jacobinism. Antonio Gramsci. Georges Sorel.

Ênio Silveira and the *Cadernos do povo brasileiro*

Angélica Lovatto

The article discusses the importance of Ênio Silveira, the editor of the *Cadernos do povo brasileiro*, published between 1962 and 1964. Along with Álvaro Vieira Pinto he was the editor of this series, which reached 28 volumes before it was interrupted by the 1964 coup d'état. This social science series was sponsored by ISEB – the Superior Institute of Brazilian Studies (1955-1964) and published by Brazilian Civilization in Rio de Janeiro.

Keywords: Ênio Silveira. *Cadernos do povo brasileiro*. ISEB.

Development-Oriented Non-Governmental Organizations and the Capitalist Crisis

Joana A Coutinho

This paper discusses NGO behavior in a context of crisis. We develop the idea that NGOs as a phenomenon played a fundamental role in the implantation of neoliberal policies, frequently acting, knowingly or unknowingly as “arms” of US and European imperialism. The question is – with the defeat of neoliberal policies, an initiative embraced by these organizations as partners of the State as part of the logic of “less State, more Civil Society” – what are the alternatives and development projects available for dealing with the crisis, given that the discourse of “sustainable and local development” defended by these organizations has been called into question?

Key words: Non-governmental organizations. Class struggle. The state.

Political Theory and Immaterial Work in Marx: An Interview with André Tosei

Henrique Amorim

In this interview conducted in June 2009 André Tosei discusses such questions as the relationship between labor value and the immaterial and cognitive transformations in production; the relationship between political economy and politics; the importance of the *Grundrisse* and their influence on contemporary social theory; the validity of the concept of social class in Gramsci; and the need to analytically break down the work of Marx.

Keywords: Political theory. Immaterial work. Marx.

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