

Abstracts

Reform or Revolution? Hannah Arendt and Herbert Marcuse in the 60s.

Maria Ribeiro do Valle

This article is centered on the debate on revolutionary violence between two significant intellectuals, Herbert Marcuse and Hannah Arendt, who lived and thought during the 60s, as well as the repercussions of this debate in Brazil. While Marcuse returns to the Hegelian-Marxian tradition, Arendt rejects it, recuperating a significant part of the [não conheço a palavra “filão”] of liberal conservative thought and the conceptualization of politics of ancient Greece, which excludes all of those who belong to the realm of necessity.

Students and workers in May of 68

João Bernardo

May of 68 is generally presented as a student movement, forgetting that at that moment there also occurred the largest general strike in French history. This article attempts to demonstrate that the theme of the working class and capitalist exploitation was decisive even within the student component of the movement.

Negativity and utopia in the Alterglobalist Movement

Michael Löwy

The alterglobalist movement is the most important phenomenon of the anti-systemic resistance at the beginning of the century. Turning radically against the capitalist nature of domination, its dynamic has three principle components that are both different and complementary: the negativity of its resistance, its concrete proposals, and its utopian quest for another world.

Facing the State

Jair Pinheiro

This article engages in a critical dialogue with some studies on the relationship between urban social movements and the state and defends the theoretical validity of the theory of social classes for the analysis of those movements.

The defeat of the Republic

Lincoln de Abreu Penna

This article deals with the significance of the republic and develops some ideas about its relationship to the monarchical regime. It also situates the problematic of the republic in the context of a society marked by the dominance of neoliberalism, the most recent form of the capitalist phase, in order to demonstrate the difficulty that republican values face in surviving fully.

Opposites that don't attract: Civil society for Gramsci and the neoliberals

Débora Cristina Goulart

This article discusses the concept of civil society in Gramsci as an important theoretical source in Marxist thought down to the present, in contrast to the neoliberal concept of civil society. We debate with some authors who dedicated themselves to the study of this [não conheço a palavra “sardo”] thinker, whose work has generated innumerable “interpretations” and adverse and conflicting uses. Therefore, in this brief incursion we use Volume 3 of *The Prison Notebooks*, identifying the Gramscian contribution of a group of authors who develop a profound critique of neoliberal thought.

Vehicles of mass communication and the struggle for hegemony in Brazil
Pedro Estevam da Rocha Pomar

In the Brazil the military dictatorship promoted the creation of an oligopolistic media system, which consolidated itself and today presents an important obstacle to the realization of democratic reforms in the country. The PT and CUT, the largest leftist organizations, stopped building mass communications media that could oppose the oligopoly. Looking at the experience of the daily newspapers of the PCB in the 1940s and 1950s, which was in some sense victorious, suggests that the lack of potent counter-hegemonic media outlets in the hands of the PT and CUT is more closely related to the conciliatory, "center-left" strategic concepts of the majority wings of these organizations than to material or legal difficulties.

Rosa Luxemburg and the Workers' Councils and Soldiers in Revolutionary Germany

Tatiana de Macedo Soares Rotolo

This paper aims to elucidate Rosa Luxemburg's views on workers' councils. This vision, deeply influenced by the events of the German Revolution (1918-1923), manifests itself in the councils, which are the incarnation of Rosa's ideas about socialism. For her, socialism and democracy cannot be separated. Also, revolution and the socialist society need to be projects led by the popular masses. Thus, Rosa views the councils as a real and possible solution for the construction of socialism. However, it must be noted that her ideas were immersed in contemporary events, allowing her only to suggest the councils as a viable

alternative. A more elaborate reflection was not possible for Luxemburg, mainly on account of her murder at an early age, in January 1919.

For a world where many can fit: Zapatismo and the non-frontiers of resistance and hope

Alexander Maximilian Hilsenbeck Filho

This article limits itself to proposing some interpretations that we hope can shed some light on the role played today by some social movements in Latin America that can be understood within the framework of the class struggle, particularly the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, which is rooted in the countryside and indigenous communities.

Thirty years later, another reencounter – notes toward another debate

Aníbal Quijano

Since the launching of Reencounter and Debate thirty years ago, the nature of world power has undergone profound and significant transformations. Questions have arisen regarding the crisis of "historical materialism" – the Eurocentric version of of Marx's intellectual and political legacy, which misrepresented his theoretical proposals, converting them into a doctrine – and the crisis of bureaucratic despotism, called the "socialist camp." This article intends to reconfigure some elements of the Mariateguian debate that are fundamental for the epistemological, theoretical and political renovation now occurring, confronting the current tendencies of world power and the alternative options of the dominated/exploited/repressed of the world.

In search of the “inexpensive government”? The Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca as an experiment in political (re)creation

Cássio Brancaleone

In mid-June 2006 there arose in the Mexican city of Oaxaca, capital of the state of the same name, the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO), fruit of a vigorous mass social movement that temporarily paralyzed the majority of state agencies in that region. This study attempts to explore the possible political significance of that popular experience (which is still occurring), guided in particular by the interpretation offered by the principle documents produced by the collective bodies that comprise APPO, while also taking into consideration its connection to contemporary Mexican social reality and to the so-called anticapitalist struggles.

Peculiarities of the the political history of contemporary Brazil: Notes toward an evaluation of the cycle of supremacy of the PT and CUT

Valerio Arcary

Brazilian capitalism lost its growth impulse in 1980. National wealth doubled in the almost thirty years since then, but the population also did. In last the twenty eight years, however, Brazil only “exploded” politically two times: during the campaign for direct election of the president in 1984 and during the campaign against Collor in 1992. In last the seven years, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela experienced revolutionary situations, but Brazil did not. The democratic system preserved stability. The explanation of this peculiarity rests, among other factors,

on the role of the unions, the CUT, the PT, and, also, Lula. These served as a non-improvised leadership of the opposition to neoliberal adjustments implemented during the 1990’s.

They’re here to stay for a long time: national questions in contemporary Latin America

Lúcio Flávio de Almeida

In this article I develop an analysis of some aspects of the new wave of national questions in Latin America, attempting to discern their potential to be appropriated by anti-systemic movements.

Social and political struggles in Bolivarian Venezuela

Marcelo Buzetto

The political and social struggles in Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela have provoked innumerable polemics on the character of the transformations occurring in that country. We attempt a critical analysis of the Venezuelan situation, taking into consideration, principally, the position of the social and political forces that defend the deepening of the so-called “Bolivarian Revolution”.

Resurgence of a paradigm

Ricardo Sánchez Angel

The purpose of this article is to make some observations on the extent of the category of the working class. I explore the concepts of class, class struggle and class consciousness. I emphasize the need for a diachronic and historical perspective to grasp that it is in the struggle of workers for the fulfilment of their demands and conditions of dignity that they become a social class.