

Abstracts

Nestor Kirchner and the Misfortunes of the "Center-Left" in Argentina

Atilio Boron

The current article develops on a research agenda that I formulated for the first time in a short text in 2004. Today, as the fourth and final year of the mandate of President Kirchner (who was sworn-in on May 25, 2003) draws to a close, it becomes possible and necessary to make an objective assessment of his administration. This is not only justified by the need to understand the turbulent experience of Argentina in recent years, but also because kirchnerism is inserted in a much broader field of phenomena, which for a lack of a better word could be considered representative of the "turn to the left" within Latin American politics.

Oil and the United States' Policy in the Persian Gulf: The Relevance of the Carter Doctrine

Igor Fuser

The logical reasons for American invasion of Iraq can be found in the US' 50 years of military involvement in the Persian Gulf. The purpose of these interventions has been to control the huge oil reserves in that area. In 1980, the White House proclaimed a foreign policy directive, the Carter Doctrine, which justifies the use of US troops in order to allow the free flow of oil from the Gulf to major markets of the West. Under George W. Bush's administration, the Carter Doctrine has been associated with a national energy policy that demands the maximization of oil extraction throughout the world. The result of these strategies has been the increasing use of military force as a way of ensuring the security of oil supplies.

Economic Liberalization and "Democratization" with the Barrel of the Gun: The Iraq Question and the So-called Consensus around Liberal Democracy in the Post-Cold War

Fhoutine Marie Souto e Mariana Silveira Bueno

In the wake of the United States' invasion, the democratization process in Iraq is the main goal of George W. Bush's "crusade" in Middle East and his so-called war against terrorism and for the defense of the "moral values". The regime change imposed under the barrel of the gun is part of a strategy to extend United States's orbit of influence in the world. The consensus of globalization, that joins together democracy and neoliberalism, constitutes a strategy to contain the decline of US power, and is associated with market liberalization, regardless of the internal problems of the occupied country

Nacional Ideology and Geographic Discourses on the Brazilian Nature

Rogata Soares Del Gáudio

This text analyzes the contribution of geography and the teaching of geography to the construction of the national ideology, particularly the role of the discursive organization around both "its generous and Edenic nature" and "its infernal nature". It argues that, for Brazil, in the context of the quasi-absence of foundational myths based on history, it is the geographic discourse about Brazil's territorial extension, exuberant nature, and "pacific and orderly" people that has contributed the most to the construction of "our national ideology".

Social Struggles and National Questions in Latin America: Some Thoughts

Lúcio Flávio Rodrigues de Almeida

Since the end of 20th century, Latin America has become the fertile ground for new social movements that, in their majority, in contradistinction to several these about the so-called globalization, are oriented by new model of nationalisms. I will present a theoretical distinction between national ideology and nationalism, by stressing the importance of different social appropriations of both. I will then examine how, from their own social composition, these movements have creatively appropriated the national question. These appropriations vary with respect to the relations movements have with the dependent States in the social formations where they emerged. Finally - and maybe this is the great novelty of these movements - I will examine the ways in which they combine the national question with an ideal and a practice that transcend national limits, pointing toward some sort of new internationalism, specially in Latin America. The main empirical reference will be the ideas and practices of the Brazilian Landless Movement (MST).

Latin America: Four Power Blocs

James Petras

Contrary to the simplistic dualism that predominates in the majority of the analyses, there is four power blocs in Latin America, each with their different degrees of opposition and accommodation to the interests of the United States.

The Foreign Policy of JK and his Dangerous Relations with Portuguese Colonialism
Waldir José Rampinelli

This article analyzes the political support given by Juscelino Kubitschek for the maintenance of Portuguese colonialism. In the fourth UN Commission, Brazil defended the view that Portugal did not possess colonies but rather over-sea provinces. Hence, this article analyzes the reasons why JK supported the Portuguese colonialism.

A Critique to the Rural Sociology of José de Souza Martins

José Flávio Bertero

The author examines critically the rural sociology of José de Souza Martins and, contrary to him, argues that non-capitalist forms of production are constitutive parts of social reproduction. Since it is submitted to the general laws of capital, the countryside no longer possesses any specificity. This fact renders unviable the so-called agrarian question.

Generating A Counter-Power, from the Bottom Up and to the Left (or How to Change the World, Revolutionizing Power from the Bottom Up)

Carlos Antonio Aguirre Rojas

The author proposes a reflection about the differences, the content and the relationships between the diverse levels and forms of power, such as state power, political power, and social power. He seeks to sketch out how a popular and subaltern counter-power can be configured, and examine the forms in which this counter-power is being produced by current anti-systematic and anti-capitalist social movements

Working Classes in Movement: Some Theoretical Aspects

Jair Pinheiro

A critical analysis of some theoretical contributions already consolidated in the study of social movements and at the same time, some notes in order to analyze them with respect to the concept of classes.

Labor Rights and Confrontation Policies against British Unionism: 1979-90.

Pedro Fassoni Arruda

The relations between Margaret Thatcher's government and unions were tense. The stagflation of the end of 1970's motivated a change of attitude of the Tories, who broke the social consensus of

the postwar period and initiated a counter-offensive in order to weaken unions and eliminate rights that had been conquered in the last century and half. The return of the Tories to power in 1979 was the beginning of a battle of capital aiming at the reduction of the social and political power of unions, strengthened during the previous Labour governments. The hostility of the power bloc toward unions was sufficiently evident when Thatcher declared them "public enemy number one" of the nation, identifying them as the main obstacles to the implementation of neoliberalism and the project of modernization of the State.

State, Social Movements and Agrarian Reform: The Two Phases in Celso Furtado's Thought before 1964

Julia Gomes e Souza

The present work studies important aspects of Celso Furtado's thought prior to the military coup of 1964. This article highlights the regional question and, within it, the agrarian reform issue in order to encourage the debate on the relationship between State and social movements.

The (Un)Making of the class in the MST: Dilemmas of the Anti-Systemic Struggle
Elieil Machado

This article discusses, as the title suggests, the limits and the potential of the struggle carried out by the MST against neoliberal capitalism that was implemented in the 1990s, which in a certain way has placed the MST in front of a politically and ideologically difficult dilemma: to grab the means of production while at the same time struggling for socialism.

Neoliberalism and Class Domination: A Marxist Analysis of Contemporary Capitalism. Interview with Gérard Duménil.

By Paula Marcelino and Henrique Amorim

The present text is an interview with economist Gérard Duménil during his visit to Brazil in the months of October and November 2006. The interview is centered on his views on questions regarding contemporary capitalism, such as neoliberalism, social classes, and the position of Latin America in this economic order. Of particular importance is the fact that Duménil, in collaboration with Dominique Lévy, has been working on a specific periodization of capitalism that argues that neoliberalism is a new hegemony of finance, similar to the one that existed at the end of the Nineteenth Century and early Twentieth Century.

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