

# Editorial / Editorial

We dedicate this issue of *World Tensions* to the interdisciplinary academic debate on different forms of direct and structural violence. Our aim is to contribute to reflections on the current context of conflicts and oppressions within local, regional, and global scopes, with a focus on an agenda of international relations guided by notions of human collectives' right to life. The authors of this thematic issue have accepted the challenge of thinking critically about this period of growing uncertainty and potential catastrophe that threatens all life on our planet.

The initial articles are of a theoretical nature. A professor of International Relations of the Federal University of ABC, Gilberto Maringoni works with the hypothesis that there is a misconception in defining populism based on the personal characteristics of political agents, and thus endeavours to investigate the objective conditions that beget the *historical opportunity* for its advent. The author understands contemporary populism as a political expression of crises of representation resulting from the loss of collective references, brought about by neoliberal policies targeted against workers, which alter the contours of social classes. On the other hand, the research developed by André Luiz Valim Vieira, lawyer, and doctor in Social Sciences from the Paulista State University, discusses the concepts of resistance and civil disobedience as political tools of public organization and manifestation aimed towards confronting illegitimate attitudes, legal or otherwise, from States and rulers.

Afterwards, we present two studies on the long-standing dynamics of hostilities in the Middle East. Rasem Bishrat, Palestinian and Doctor of Philosophy from Jamia Millia Islamia / New Delhi, analyses the influence of the United States on the rise to power of the

Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. He states that American policies converged with the group's objectives in taking over the government. Despite three decades of peace agreements between Israel and Egypt, Mubarak's government has failed in obtaining popular support in seeing to the region's great power's interests, especially the Zionist State's security and the fight against terrorism. Israeli oppression and Palestinian resistance in occupied territories are the themes of Fábio Bacila Saad. A professor of history at the Federal University of Tocantins, he observes that the 2021 uprising is a recent episode of an over a century-old struggle against British imperialism and Zionist colonialism. In the current article, these events are analyzed with aid from reports from the Special Committee of Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in Occupied Territory (CEIPT).

Facing so many conflagrations in the international system and China's growing relevance, further attention is sparked on the efforts of the Chinese State in realising public policies aimed at social mobility since the 1980s. In her academic work, Isis Maia, a young graduate student from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, examines the political-institutional singularities and the intergovernmental mechanisms for the implementation of policies aimed at eradicating poverty in such a populous nation. For the author, China is a unitary multiethnic state of socialist orientation for complex vertical arrangements of decentralization and subnational autonomy.

The researchers that sign the articles that conclude this edition dwell on different aspects of Brazilian society. The growing violence against peripheral populations and the political activism of mothers that witnessed their children murdered by the police is the research topic of Mario Magno de Oliveira Silva, Vera Regina Rodrigues da Silva, and Caio Barbosa Portela. From the Postgraduate Anthropology Program of the University for International Integration of the Afro-Brazilian Lusophony, the authors discuss the social movement of resistance against State terrorism, intersected by maternal relations, struggle, pain, and grieving in a perspective where gender, race, and class intersect. Next, the Mozambican student Catarina da Esperança Maquile de

Melo narrates her rich trajectory in the Doctorate of Public Policies in the State University of Ceará, facing the challenges of being a single mother in a foreign land. Founder of the Association of Zambebian Girls, Catarina comes from a society where gender and literacy inequality of women are rampant; however, even in the face of personal, familiar, and social adversities, she has given a different meaning to her own life. Finally, the article on the 1964 coup that remains relevant for the understanding of the paths of the so-called Brazilian democracy. Holding a master's degree in history from the State University of the Centre-West, Alcir de Lima investigates the role of the means of communication in the legitimization and consolidation of the military dictatorship, building a narrative with the values and doctrines of the barracks, together with a strong appeal to morality and emotions. The objective is to analyze the imaginary of the revolutionary war in the discourse produced by the Gaúcha Press.

We wish you a pleasant reading!