

# Editorial / Editorial

Contemporary thought reflects the intense polemic surrounding the possible scenarios on the future of humanity in face of radical changes that have been occurring in light of imposed social isolation due to the Corona virus pandemic. To Pierre Salama, gone are the days of the previous globalisation system as it was practiced up to now, and the moment seems favourable to the strengthening of the State. The French economist foresees a “new great transformation”. Preoccupied with an uncertain future, Slavoj Žižek claims that the impossible has happened, and the world as we knew it has ceased to spin. However, what is the impossible? What world order will appear? The Slovenian writer postulate on these issues. Giorgio Agamben develops challenging reflexions in the scope of biopolitics. Our society, contemplates the Italian philosopher, has reduced the human being to its strictly biological aspect – “the naked life”; and the measures adopted by the authorities signal the establishment of a state of exception. In the vision of James Petras, imperialist interests are empowered in this context of unrest and despair, despite the political and social precariousness that plague the United State, highlighting the poverty of large swaths of the population. The interview of the American sociologist heads the current edition.

A member of the consulting committee of *World Tensions*, a journal he has honoured with previous contributions, James Petras exhibits a riveting panorama of contemporary reality. He discusses the recent government of Joe Biden and observes signs of an administration that will be relentless in the face of countries that it considers its enemies. A profound expert on Latin America, he concludes his interview with a brief appreciation on destabilisations in the continent, the situation in Congo, and elections in Israel.

The first three articles bring distinct insights into different eras of colonialism and its dynamic of exploration. Marco Gabbas proposes an interpretation of the work of Franz Fanon, by means of an analysis of the concepts of hatred and formation of the enemy. In this way, he seeks to demonstrate the construction of anticolonialist thought, his critique of nationalism and imperialism that adopt strategies of modifications of subjectivity, by means of using language to establish the imperialist identity, with the terms 'coloniser' and 'colonised' used as a tool to psychologically mould the natives.

In light of postcolonial theory, a group of researchers of literary studies of the University of Rondônia dwell on the romance *Beiradão*, by Álvaro Maia, a writer from the Brazilian state of Manaus, whose narrative focuses on the rubber plantation worker, a figure consigned to national imagination. Fancliene Batista, Edimilson Macêdo, Ronilson Lopes, and Sônia Sampaio present a brief historical of the cycles of rubber in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, in which there was a prevalence of foreign capital towards extract latex in the Amazonian seringals, and the process of immigration towards these locations. Within a context of profound exploitation, life in the seringals was marked by misery, segregation, disease, and a relentless process of objectification of the rubber gatherers in a colonial dynamic.

Next, the authors Giordana da Silva and Alessandra Marchioni address the relationship between public debt and the process of subordination of national States, especially by northern countries with a high industrialisation and technological development rate. The authors show that the relations of power between central and peripheral countries perpetuate the colonial dynamic by means of the imposition of neoliberal agendas, utilising the process of fetishization of public debt as its main ideological component.

In the next block of articles, they share the theme of liberal, conservative thought of the new right. In the article by Fábio Bacila Sahd, we see a conceptual cartography on the character of bolsonarism, outlining theoretical discussions produced between 2018 and 2020. Political opinions of figures that are prominent in academic circles that are analysed critically, in a classificatory

effort in regard to a possible resurgence of the phenomenon of fascism after Bolsonaro's victory. Relating the Brazilian situation with other international experiences, the mentioned intellectuals can be grouped in two interpretative contemporary extreme-right aspects: neofascism and post-fascism.

The election of Jair Bolsonaro is also the object of attention of two young political scientists that discuss populism with support in theorists that problematize its interface with authoritarianism. Emanuel Freitas da Silva and Monalise Soares lopes examine the speeches delivered by the president between March and May of 2020, identifying in the defence of institutional rupture, the authoritarian face of populism. In Ceará, liberal groups inserted in higher education institutions, both public and private, grow, as can be verified in the research done by Estêvão Lima Arrais, in the beginning of 2018, on the form of organisation and propagation of ideas of five such groups. The presence of a single councillor and supporter for all groups reveals the existence of international investments, such as the Atlas Network, a centre for leadership training and diffusion of liberalism, that consists of 450 foundations, 13 of which are in Brazil.

Finally, the proud and independent insertion of Brazil into the world stage upsets the balance of the major powers. In the PT government, presided by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva between 2003 and 2010, one priority was the implementation of an assertive national defence policy. This is the theme chosen by Patricia Borelli and Adriano de Freixo. The factors listed to explain this phenomenon, from the articulation of different political interests and groups, parallel Brazil's international protagonism that would demand a robust military apparatus, through the growth of the national defence industry with revitalisations and incentives, as part of a national development strategy, besides the aviation crisis that motivated the political strengthening of the Ministry of Defence, in the figure of a civil minister that promoted substantial changes in the directory.

Iann Lobo and Osmar Resende Júnior discuss, based on the theoretical work of Mouffe and Laclau, some transformations of Marxism with a focus on the notion of contingency. This principle,

present in the epistemological foundation of philosophical and political thought starting in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is summarised in the death of absolutes in favour of the contingent. The meeting with Gramsci, chiefly the concept of hegemony, allows the authors to produce their own notion on the construction of political subjects, striving for a radical form of democracy. They conclude by proposing a reflexion on what is left of Marxism within post-Marxism.

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