

# Abstracts

## **Jair Pinheiro**

The 2002 election presented a low level of political and ideological polarization, which distinguishes it from the other post-military regime elections. This character is a product of the political options and strategies of the principal candidates, which are the object of the analysis undertaken in this article.

## **Zulene Muniz Barbosa**

In this article I analyze the "temporalities of politics" in Maranhão, underscoring the political domination of the Sarney group in the management of regional and local politics. I emphasize the points of rupture and lines of continuity between, on the one hand, the "New Maranhão" and "New time" project and, on the other hand, the social struggles that developed in the state in favor of a different political project.

## **Valério Arcary**

Twenty years ago the Brazilian capitalist economy stopped growing. In the last decade, in particular, a brutal economic adjustment was undertaken. However, we want to underscore a paradox. During this time, Brazil experienced the longest period of liberal democracy of its republican history, twenty years of successive elections. The question, therefore, is: what are the limits of the democratic regimes on the periphery of capitalism, both in general and in Brazil, in particular? What has been the historical relationship between liberal regimes and democratic freedom?

## **Michael Löwy**

From 1959 on, Che Guevara's thinking evolved, distancing itself from the doctrines propagated by so-called socialist realism. Although it left many questions open, his work, abruptly terminated, confronted vulgar Stalinism, examining the development of Marxism as a new civilizing project.

## **François Houtart**

This is an analysis of important organizational and political problems resulting from the success of the World Social Forum in the context of the rise of

struggles against neoliberalism and the global hegemony of capital. It points to some proposals that aim to confront these problems, principally that of the political efficacy of the FSM.

**Júlia Gomes e Souza**

The article has as its objective to analyze the anti-globalization movement, which was important in the occurrence of the three meetings of the World Social Forum. We talk about what is utopian in this embryonic movement, analyzing the current historic moment, in order to examine the possibilities for the transformation of the existing model of society. In order to do this we seek to define in general terms what we understand as utopia. Then we characterize the crisis through which modern capitalist society is passing. Finally, we present some reflections on the anti-globalization movement.

**Lúcio Flávio de Almeida**

The goal of this article is to raise some theoretical-political questions regarding the critical analysis of the relationships between imperialism, sovereignty and dependency in the current phase of the trans-nationalization of capitalism in crisis. The axis of the argument points to the necessity of overcoming state-centric and globalist perspectives, since both, beyond their incompatibility, share theoretical-ideological assumptions that hide the class character of the bourgeois state.

**Eliel Machado**

We analyze problems relating to the struggles of some Latin American social movements which, in making demands on the state concerning their own interests, come into conflict with authorities who are undermining both internal sovereignty (ie, not attending to popular demands) and external sovereignty (ie, submitting to the dictates of transnational capital).

**Marcelo Buzetto**

This is an analysis of the contribution of a number of Marxist thinkers on the national question, nationalism and anti-imperialist struggles in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the moment we are living the revival of the Marxist debate on imperialism can contribute to our understanding of national questions and the wars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Miguel Mazzeo**

Taking as the point of departure the present debate within the left on the centrality or lack of centrality of state power in contemporary capitalism, we propose some political and theoretical reflections on the state and its importance for popular movements that struggle for social transformation.

**Célia Tolentino**

This essay proposes a comparative discussion of Italian and Brazilian cinema during the 1950s and 1960s with regard to their portrayal of the countryside. It demonstrates that this is a recurrent object of love and hate for both. We suggest as a preliminary hypothesis that the complexity of the treatment given to rural society during these years - a period in which both countries are trying to leave agriculture behind economically - is one of the consequences of a factor that is common to the process of late capitalist development in both countries. That is the conflict between modernization and modernity and the complicated construction of national identities that flows from this conflict.

**Horácio Martins de Carvalho**

What constitutes a just and good agrarian structure? The criteria for responding will always be class criteria. In this article we present some conceptual elements in an attempt to broaden the scope of the debate on agrarian reform in Brazil and to suggest some perspectives on the struggle for such a reform. This has to do with, on the one hand, the analysis of the interests of the dominant classes and class fractions, of the organization of these interests by the state and of the capacity of the hegemonic fractions to ideologically involve sectors of the popular classes. On the other hand, it has to do with the capacity of landless workers to define their objectives clearly and to make the alliances necessary to reach them.

**Alain Bihr**

This article condenses my principal conclusions from a critical re-reading of *Capital*, conceived as the first step of a broad project seeking to elaborate a general theory of the capitalist mode of production, in the sense of a conceptual constellation capable of serving as a frame of reference for all the partial analyses of capitalism, past and present. The strategic hypothesis of this project is that such a theory can and should be elaborated based on a conception of the reproduction of capital. It is important to re-read Marx in order to determine his contributions (and his limits) for the elaboration of this conception.

**Renata Gonçalves**

In this article we examine certain aspects of the ongoing changes in class relations, especially in the composition of the working class. Reviewing some movements that emphasize "general" struggles above so-called "specific" ones, we emphasize that the living conditions of the proletariat have become, in general, more precarious and that the female presence within the proletariat has grown, principally within the segments most affected by precarious

conditions. These changes underscore, even more crucially, the importance of gender relations for social struggles, considering that capitalist class domination is produced by producing and reproducing "differences" that, in the end, reinforce prejudice, including gender prejudice.

**Luciano Vasopollo**

This article is on the new models of capitalist accumulation in the post-fordist era and the conflicts between capital and labor inherent to them. It underscores the flexibilization of labor and its consequences, including structural unemployment and the impoverishment of the worker, in addition to the roll of information and the necessity of a minimum social income to guarantee the survival of the unemployed and underemployed.

**Irma Antognazzi**

Advances in productive forces are the platform that can enable the liberation of man from the tedious work of producing his material livelihood, as long as these forces are utilized and directed by peoples rather than minority sectors. We propose, therefore, that we think about the possibilities created by the new methods of managing production and the processes of globalization that imperialism is producing, but from the point of view of peoples and popular power.

**Célia Regina Congílio Borges**

Order? (Dis)order? Through what has tended to be called productive restructuring, we attempt to show the contradictions that emerge when one country, the U.S.A., tries to impose on the world a new world order, rooted in the deification of the market. Fortunately, social movements are reacting. Bring on the disorder!

**Maria Angélica Borges**

This text discusses economic theory, with regard to its edification as a science and its relationship to social conflicts. The Economic Science is born as Political Economy - influenced by History and Philosophy --- edifying the previous understanding of the complex reality of capitalism during the period of the double revolution, Industrial and French. In order to confront this issue, from a historical point of view, we emphasize the dialectic ontology in our research, touching on the classics of economic theory and representative social movements in the centuries of the industrial era, mixing the pertinent mediations with scientific socialism in the Marxian vein.

**Lincoln Secco**

The history of the workers' struggle against capital has shown several forms. The first experiences with labor control over the means of production occurred during the cooperative movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This article analyzes cooperatives and trade unions during the period between the Paris Commune and the Spanish Civil War.

**James Petras**

The demands and insecurities of the labor market have brought the loss of self-esteem among workers, manifested in various forms of violent behavior or apathy. On the other hand, the experiences of unemployed and community self-help movements have shown themselves to be mechanisms capable of recuperating that self-esteem.