

Abstracts

Jair Pinheiro

Working from a Marxist perspective, this article examines the relationship between “class” and “community” in urban areas. It argues that these categories cannot be lumped together. Thus, what emerges from the analysis, is a permanent conflict in which these categories affect each other mutually, but in which neither can be eliminated.

Isabel Monal

The present text is a synthesis of talks and comments that I have delivered on this topic recently. It was presented at the opening ceremony of the Sixth Latin American Meeting of Marxist Journals, held in Montevideo in September 2000. I underscore the valorization of the concept of civil society in Karl Marx’s work. The disappearance of the State hypothesized by Marx is accompanied by the assumption of political and administrative functions by the popular organizations of society.

Maria Cristina Soares Paniago

The definitive death of the attempted Transitions from capitalism to socialism represented by Soviet socialism and European social-democracy also brought, for many authors, the burial of any possibility of going beyond capitalism. In this article, we will see that this is not the case for other authors. Our objective is to present some fundamental aspects of the current meaning of the Transition, from the point of view of Democratic Theory, as well as Marxist Theory. This analysis is based principally on the most recent work by István Mészáros, *Beyond Capital. Towards a Theory of Transition*.

Carlos Montañó

This article critically problematizes the debate on the concept of the “third sector,” departing not from the fact that it is called the “third sector,” but from the more general reforms undertaken under the hegemony of big capital, particularly financial capital. It tries to characterize the sectoralized origin of that term, which, on the one hand, impedes a vision of the totality and, as a result, undercuts a socially transformative perspective and, on the other hand, determines its clear functionality for the hegemonic project of capital restructuring. This project, oriented by neoliberal postulates, mystifies civil society and disarticulates and pacifies social struggles, at the same time that it promotes a greater acceptance of state reform, particularly with regard to social security and the state’s responsibility to treat the “social question” as a right of citizenship.

Célia Motta

The current problems faced by Brazilians, principal result of the “neoliberal” economic policy adopted in 1990, are not surprising. What is surprising is the eloquence of the discourses that implemented the “reforms” and still attempt to justify their effects. The study of some of those theoretical arguments permits us to understand the contradictory logic that promotes neoliberal misery.

Gilbert Achcar

This is a theoretical-political critique of Perry Anderson’s arguments in “Renewals,” an editorial in the introductory issue of the new version of the *New Left Review*. The pessimism that emanates from the text expresses the contemporary state of an intellectual current within the Anglo-Saxon “new left,” which arose in the 1960s. Anderson’s own analyses of the process that created “western Marxism” during the interwar period are useful for studying the trajectory of this current, whose principal exponent has been the *New Left Review*.

Paulo Barsotti

This article tries to revive the memory of the historic events that culminated in the first conquest of power by workers. This necessarily implies a reflection on concepts that in recent decades have been swept from the social horizon by liberal criticism.

Waldyr Rampinelli

In mid-1973 the Captains’ Movement arose within the Portuguese Armed Forces. Its objectives were initially merely socio-professional. With the Revolution that occurred on April 25, 1974, led by the newly named Movement of the Armed Forces (MFA), there occurred a division of the movement into three currents. The moderate officers, closest to the socialists, were symbolically led by the group of nine (among them, the intellectual mentor of the MFA program, Maj. Melo Antunes). The “gonçalvistas” defended the deepening of the revolution in line with the thinking of the non-aligned movement or the so-called “popular democracies” of Eastern Europe and had the support, for a time, of the Portuguese Communist Party and the Prime Minister, Col. Vasco Gonçalves. The third current of the MFA was the “copconistas” (their name came from the Continental Operational Command, or COPCON), led by Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho. *Lutas Sociais* is proud to publish an interview with Saraiva de Carvalho, which is of inestimable historical importance.

Andréia Galvão

This article tries to analyze the impact of the French public employees’ strike of November and December of 1995 on the process of social pension reform

that was then taking place in Brazil. Its specific objective is to underscore the positive response the strike movement received from Brazilian intellectuals and union leaders. The text presents, in a general manner, the political context in which the process of pension reform developed, as well as the plans under discussion, in order to establish parallels between the two countries in question.

Eliel Machado

The objective of this article is to rethink, from a Marxist theoretical perspective, the legitimacy crises of the bourgeois democracies of Latin America in the 1990s, taking into consideration the confrontation that social movements impose upon the State, in its role as the representative of the interests of the dominant classes and as a fundamental actor in the process of capital accumulation.

Nicolás Iñigo Carrera and María Celia Cotarelo

The authors analyze social struggles in Argentina from the 1990s up to the recent events that overthrew the government of Fernando De La Rúa in the midst of an officially declared state of siege. They point to three phases of struggle: 1993-1997 (peak of popular mobilization); 1997-1998/9 (disappearance of unity in worker struggles); 1999-2001 (new upsurge of social struggles).

Lúcio Flávio de Almeida

With the Cold War over, a lasting new world order seemed to establish itself, under the hegemony of a single planetary superpower. Within a short span of time, this order showed itself to be rather precarious, despite the recurring affirmations of American politico-military supremacy. The new social struggles have had a decisive role in producing and giving visibility to this crisis of hegemony. To what extent have their advances been compromised by the political impact of the September 11, 2001 attacks? To put in another way, is the new conjuncture favorable to the recomposition of American hegemony? The present article is an attempt to contribute to the study of the nexus between social struggles and international relations in this turbulent beginning of the millennium.