

Editorial

The Brazilian consciousness about Latin American reality is increasing. However, it is necessary to mention that we struggle against a huge ignorance about our continent and our shared history. The university system has been the main instrument for the reproduction of an Eurocentric alienation that dominates the national scenario and, at the same time, represents the academic defeat of a vigorous intellectual project that we are building against wind and tide. The result can be seen without magnifying glasses: the academic studies are unable to explain Latin American actual political and social processes. However, they are preserved because this is a norm that leads to a voluntary servitude of our students – in the grade and, mainly, in the post-grade. Even more important, these studies are chronically unable of producing a social theory from the tropics, reason why they remain reproducing fads and authors consecrated in other spaces. Within this context it is understandable the reason of the small interest of critical intellectuals from Europe, United States, China or India, regarding the ‘academic production’ of our universities.

This journal was created to open a new channel of expression of new thinkers and for all those who analyze the dramatic Latin American reality from a radically critical perspective. It is natural to carry, still, the traces of our space of practice: no one can get out the hole by pulling the own hair. We have a clear conscience that the Brazilian students are submitted to the burden of a system of subtle and efficient control destined to preserve the traditional national indifference in relation to Latin American issues, which are as ours as the air we breathe. Even so, we observe that the rebellion is alive as well as the the intellectual curiosity – enemy of the canonic repletion. We are very content with the space achieved by REBELA. However, let’s keep in mind that a radical and permanent changed will only be possible when the winds of the social revolution blow again in Brazil. By now, it is unquestionable that the rebellion of the streets represents a vitality, but still anarchic. The contradictions of the Brazilian capitalist development are enormous and cannot be accommodated in the ‘theories’ of the ‘new middle class’ or of a ‘potential’ country. These ‘theories’ are no more than ideology and succumbed as quickly as the echoes of the first shouts of protest in the main Brazilian capitals in the journeys of June. They will return, no doubt about it. Stronger and more conscious, we hope.

In Latin America, despite the contradictions and setbacks of the revolutionary

processes, history is effectively open. In Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Chile or Brazil, the peripheral capitalist development is unable of producing answers to the historical demands of social justice, equality and sovereignty. The bourgeois promise remains, in the capitalist periphery, captive of a social order that cannot make more than renew the ideology of a promising future to come soon, a future always postponed by the exigencies of capital accumulation that produces barbarity in the name of civilization. This is the deep reason why the authors who have their texts edited here remain searching for the roots of the present issues and constitute a good motive to stimulate the Brazilian curiosity about the other Latin American countries.

In this issue of the journal you can identify the misery of neo-developmentalism, based on the ideology of our countries' 'debt reduction' when, in fact, debt is increasing; in the same way, you will notice the ideology of the 'theories of democracy', which intend to legitimize democracy and to occult the necessary dose of state violence to maintain rebellion under strict control. The liberalism of social sciences avoids the uncomfortable issue of state terrorism, so evident in Colombia. In the same way, while the developmentalists consider the production growth rates as trustful indicators that we are going in the right direction, Latin American countries expand the production of agricultural and mineral products, confirming a position in the international division of labor that conspires against the promises of bourgeois progress. To finish with, the attention of our authors remind us of the always decisive lesson of the Córdoba Reform, a journey still very unknown among us and decisive for the intellectual process of that we have to construct.

Our Journal has gained the official recognition of CAPES. It is the result of an arduous work that will now move into new horizons and become even more vigorous in order to, within the context a captive university, avoid academicism also in this trench of critical thought originated in our network. We also thank the revisers that evaluated manuscripts submitted for this volume of REBELA: Joysi Moraes, Deise Luisa da Silva Ferraz, Rafael Kruter Flores, Paulo Abdala, Adriano Saraiva Amaral e Pâmela Marconatto.

Greetings,

Nildo Ouriques