

## Editorial

*September 2018*

We present the newest issue of the **Law and Praxis Journal (V. 9, N. 3, 2018, jul-set)**, with a number dedicated to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the thinker, philosopher, political economist and, why not, jurist, Karl Marx. The dossier, organized by Professors Ana Lia de Almeida and Ricardo Prestes Pazello, both members of the working groups “Law and Marxism” of the Research Institute Rights and Social Movements, brings a accurate selection of contributions that reveal multiple facets of the research about Marx in its receptions in Brazil, Latin America and also in the global north. The title is “200 years of Marx: Latin American critical perspectives”. As already mentioned in the editorial of the last issue, the concept of philosophy of praxis consists in a central inspiration for our publication.

In the general section of articles we present twelve unpublished articles that embrace not only historical materialism but also themes in the fields of transitional justice, postmodernity and epistemology, history of law, gender, decolonial theories, law and economics, as well as land issues. This edition also has two translations, one from the Soviet jurist Eugen Paschukanis, part of the thematic dossier, and a work entitled “Criminology of the South”, by professors Kerry Carrington, Russell Hogg and Máximo Sozzo. Finally, the Journal brings three reviews of contemporary works. We thank the contribution of the students of PPGDir of UERJ and the translators for the realization of reviews and translations.

We would like to remind that the editorial policies for the different sections of the Journal can be accessed in our page and that the submissions are permanent and always welcome! We thank, as always, the authors, referees and collaborators for the trust deposited in our publication.

Enjoy your reading! **Law and Praxis** team.

## Presentation of the dossier “200 years of Marx: critical Latin American perspectives”

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The thematic dossier of this issue of the Law and Praxis Journal is entitled “200 years of Marx: critical Latin American perspectives”. With the choice of this theme, we mainly seek to reflect on the current crisis of capital and, among other issues, the role that the law fulfills in this context, taking the opportunity to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx (born in May 5, 1818). Considering also that in October of last year (2017) the Russian revolutionary process became 100 years old and that we are also counting the 50th anniversary of the death of Ernesto Che Guevara, the moment is full of symbolism to bring the debates involved in the possibilities of overcoming capital and legal form to the theoretical agenda, especially from a critical Latin American perspective.

Thus, there are articles in the dossier that raise questions as diverse as urgent to face under the Marxist bias, such as the various dimensions of the current crisis of capital, the struggles of workers in the present context, the role of legal form in the reproduction of capitalism as well as the specificities of the crisis and legal form in the periphery of capital, the processes of contestation in Latin America, the senses of human rights and the struggles for these rights today, gender relations and sexuality in the context of the crisis of international and Brazilian capital and the struggles of social movements in the present moment.

Marx's legacy for the construction of knowledge does not suggest to stick to the limited menu constructed by the social division of intellectual labor. For this reason, the present dossier is composed of reflections from researchers from the most diverse fields of knowledge, from economics to law, from sociology to psychology, from philosophy to education.

The set of texts of the dossier can be perceived in four large blocks. The first one is intended to present reflections that reposition the Marxist critique of law from Latin American political conjunctures. Among these reflections are the texts of the organizers of the dossier: on the one hand, Ricardo Prestes Pazello (UFPR) synthesizes his thesis on the "insurgent law", which is a proposal to rescue and merge Marxist readings on the critique of law, under the scrutiny of Latin American geopolitical positioning on the periphery of the capitalist system; on the other hand, Ana Lía Almeida (UFPB) proposes an analysis on how to understand law in the context of a class society, one of whose merits is to approach the context of the Brazilian institutional coup in the last period.

Still in the first block devoted to the field of law, Moisés Alves Soares (SOCIESC) undertakes a Marxian study of such a phenomenon in the context of one of his most decisive works for the elaboration of his critique of political economy, the *Grundrisse*. Closing the dossier, in turn, Roberto Efrem Filho (UFPB) conducts research on gender and sexuality issues, always with a perspective of dialogue with the Marxist tradition of analysis, in the judicial context of one of the burning problems of the Brazilian conjuncture, the arrest of the ex-president Lula.

The critique of juridical form, however, presupposes criticism of value and capital, according to the teachings left by Marx. That is why the second block of issues in the dossier appears in the political economy. This is what can be read in the text of Flávio Roberto Batista (USP), which analyzes the problems of the crisis and the world of work, as well as their relations, in the Marxist prism. This is undoubtedly a very current theme, which draws attention to the escalation of barbarism affecting capitalism, transposed by legal equality and freedom.

Another contribution to be emphasized here is the renewal of the debate coming from the Latin American Marxist critique of dependent capitalism. This is a

series of studies dedicated to reinforcing a Marxist theory of dependency. With the Mexican Adrián Sotelo Valencia (UNAM), there is an update panorama of this current, written by the pen of one of its most important cultivators on the continent. Similarly, following this inspiration, Roberta Traspadini (UNILA) promotes a reassessment of the agrarian question in Latin America, concluding for its centrality and permanence in the contemporaneity. Finally, Evelyne Medeiros (IFCE) rescues the problematic of the regional question from the starting point of the unequal and combined development, reorienting interpretations regarding the relation between archaic and modern in peripheral capitalism.

These studies give the tonic of the renewal that Marxism suggests 200 years after the birth of the author who inspired such a profuse theoretical and practical current. That is why the dossier also hosts even more varied discussions, inscribed around issues ranging from socio-environmental to individual psyche. Thus, the text of Maria Beatriz Oliveira (UFSM) proposes to answer a sensitive question, that always requires a new exegetical rearrangement, regarding the place of an ecological dimension in the work of Marx, noting that his criticism of the exploration of nature, as well such as work, is crucial in times of humanitarian crisis like the one we are facing today.

The sociologist Maria Backhouse (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena) presents a nodal contribution to the current Marxist reflection - that related to the problem of the original accumulation of capital and its continuity. It is true that she does so in a heterodox form and in dialogue with the work of the post-colonialist Stuart Hall. Although this is the only non-exclusively Latin American reflection on the dossier, and it takes advantage of all the debate on the subject as well as on the ideological issue in influential author of the end of the twentieth century.

In addition to these studies, the article by Ilana Lemos de Paiva (UFRN), Isabel Fernandes de Oliveira (UFRN) and Daniel Araújo Valença (UFERSA) appears as an important subsidy for the renewal of Marxism, attacking the theme of psychology and its relations with Marxism, with special emphasis on the centrality of work for the understanding of the individual as a social being. In the same way, the article by Simone

CIt (UNESPAR) proposes to assume a very creative and methodically Marxist starting point, to perform a critical listening of samba.

As a kind of conclusion of the present dossier, the markedly philosophical texts that rescue the theses of the philosophy of liberation appear. Both have as their characteristic to underline the necessary dialogue of Marxism (of Marx, but not only) with the critical social thought of Latin America. If none of the poles is self-sufficient, the bridges that connect them become very important. On the one hand, Diego Augusto Diehl (UFG) emphasizes Marx's suspensions and ruptures with Hegel, according to the philosophy of liberation. Already Celso Luiz Ludwig (UFPR) seeks to evaluate the impact that the reading of Marx had on the work of Enrique Dussel, the most relevant builders of a philosophy of liberation, demonstrating how their affinities are given, although there are projections that go beyond Marxism itself.

An important note must be inserted in the dossier, namely the publication of a text by the Soviet jurist Evguiéni B. Pachukanis (1891-1937), translated by Ricardo Prestes Pazello and revised by Marcel Soares de Souza and Moisés Alves Soares, especially for this issue of the Journal. The text is entitled "Lenin and the problems of law" and it stands by itself as to its relevance: in him, Pachukanis, the most important Marxist critic of law, takes stock of the positions of the leader of the Bolshevik revolution on the legal phenomenon and, above all, points to the necessity of the political use of such a phenomenon, albeit critically. A crucial study for the field that relates Marxism and law today is either to remove positions of inertia from this practical problem or to reject a romantic belief in the use of that same law.

The plurality of spices that make up this dossier evokes a great banquet that Marxism can provide. Undoubtedly, it is a wealth of criticism of capitalism that, among other things, generates hunger. But, undeniably, a table laid, although with many provisions missing. The development of Marx's legacy after 200 years of his birth, however, testifies that the critique of capitalism and its essential forms (from value to law) must continue to be given.

This is the intention that guided the present organization of texts, as a result of the work of articulation of researchers, as well as the development of research in the

context of the Law and Marxism Thematic Group of the Institute for Research, Rights and Social Movements (IPDMS), which has existed for more than 6 years and of which we are members. The partnership between the IPDMS and the Law and Praxis Journal serves as a stimulus for the continuity of our work and provides access to the community of researchers and members of popular organizations to a set of reflections committed to rigor in research and also with social struggles. Even for this reason, it sets itself up as a critique of the world in which we are, especially in a moment as dark as what happens in Brazil, under the sign of the *coup d'etat*.

Free Homeland! We will win!

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