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THE CONCEPTION OF TRANSFORMATIONS IN URUGUAY DIALOGUE WITH THE AGROECOLOGICAL INITIATIVE¹

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Abstract: In the current historical context, capital subjects nature and human beings to a constraint with devastating effects. Simultaneously, the collapse of the formal autonomy of democratic institutions, blocks the conception of overcoming transformations. The presentation is part of a project carried out in Uruguay from the social sciences. The objective is to contribute to prevent and overcome this situation from the investigation, design and experimentation of transformations. The first chapter of the paper describes the problem. The second chapter outlines hypotheses of ways to improve, in dialogue with the Uruguayan agroecological initiative. It proposes the recognition and redefinition of public research and education as a possible home for the conception of transformations.

Keywords: civilizational crisis; conception of transformations; investigation; education.

INTRODUCTION

In the current transition from modernity to postmodernity, capital subjects nature and human beings to a devastating constraint of unprecedented dimensions.

The presentation is part of a project carried out from the social sciences. The objective is to contribute to protect and overcome this historical context, from the investigation, design and experimentation of transformations.

The study has, as a starting point, and an end point, the identification of Uruguay's own and unique conditions. It follows the methodological orientation inaugurated by Karl Marx, who proposes to investigate and experiment with overcoming existing abstract determinations, through the conception of concrete singulars.

The first chapter of the paper is dedicated to the description of the problem identified in the conception of transformations.

In dialogue with the Uruguayan agroecological initiative, the second chapter outlines hypotheses of ways to overcome the problem. It proposes the recognition and redefinition of public research and education as a home of transformations.

The reader will be able to consult the investigative trajectory followed by the author in the text titled "The conception of transformations in Uruguay. The role of public education and research" (Massera, 2020).

PROBLEM

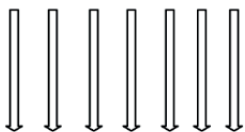
Uruguay is a small cattle country. Originally, the Artiguista Revolution (1811-1820) combined the delivery of land to the inhabitants of the countryside, valued cultural development and established the necessary requirements for the existence of a democratic republic. In the last third of the 19th century, the Sociedad de Amigos de la Educación Popular (Sociedad de Amigos de la Educación Popular) movement was capable of elaborating, conquering, and sustaining the formal authorization of the autonomy contract that protected them from the constraints of traditional society and from the political power of shift. Since then, girls, boys and young people from all social classes have shared the rich cultural heritage of humanity in its modern Jacobin and humanist version in the classroom.

During the 20th century and up to the present, Uruguay is distinguished by the progressive construction of an alliance that brings together intellectuals, the working class, students, the middle class, national authorities and institutions of civil society and the State. This movement sustained the autonomy of public education and society before the established powers, contributing to the peculiar democratic structuring of Uruguayan society and State. A political and cultural phenomenon probably unique.

However, the research carried out shows that the ability to conceive transformations was reduced precisely by democratic institutions.

The following image expresses the democratic organization of Uruguayan society.

Political power



Territory

The arrows symbolize State and civil society institutions, centralized, specialized and autonomous, which arrive separately and parallel to the national territory.

The observation of the behavior of the institutions shows that each one, making use of its attributes, proceeds separately, exclusively appropriates its specialization and becomes an analytical autonomy that reduces and frequently blocks the possibility of bringing together specialized institutions and professionals.

The active creation of centralized, specialized and autonomous democratic institutions, then causes the transformation of institutions into forms, exclusively analytical subjects, of a heteronomous nature, external and independent of society that, from their exteriority, constrain it, causing the reduction of its conditions. of conception.

It is possible to verify that what is at stake in the existence of democratic forms is the necessarily unsettling effect of the immediate constraint of capital on human beings and on itself.

The existence of democratic forms with formal autonomy from capital is a conquest built from society. Enables the conception of regulatory mediations with the following functions:

- Protect workers and society as a whole from constraint immediate capital.

- Promote conditions of expanded reproduction of the productive function of the capital.

- Hindering the conception of transformations that allow opening the way for overcoming of capitalist society.

Thus, the analytical nature of democratic forms provides support and permanence to capitalist society for centuries.

In the current transition to postmodernity, that elaborate edifice collapses.

Two concomitant phenomena become visible: a) Capital disqualifies itself as a factor of development and radicalizes its devastating action on nature and human beings. b) Democratic institutions collapse.

Finance-investor capital becomes dominant: It leads an unrestrained assault on nature and deprives millions of human beings of their livelihoods. It originates a market of products and services of a speculative-addictive nature, impacting on physical and mental health. It substitutes the meticulous and public Taylorist-Fordist prescription of work for the prescription of the results to be achieved by the worker, surreptitiously and malignantly entering his body and subjectivity. It incorporates scientific and technological knowledge and registers the production processes in computer platforms, radicalizing these effects just in time.

Democratic institutions become mere vehicles for the demands of capital, leaving in abeyance the protective role they played in modern capitalist society.

CIVILIZATIONAL CRISIS

This new historical situation obliterates the conception of overcoming transformations. The collapse of the democratic institutionality opens the way to the now immediate constraint of capital and the democratic institutions themselves on society, blocking

the discovery, expression and development of human capacities and the natural world.

In the same way as the phase changes of the past, this crisis has no known exit. But it differs from previous historical transitions because it threatens the permanence of human life and closes the opening of paths that allow sustaining the conception of overcoming transformations.

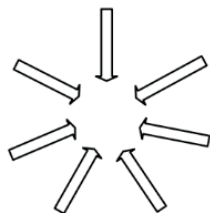
It becomes necessary to think again and for this to create new conditions of conception, which are not the result of the existing ones.

At the starting point of the search for exits, they are not already constituted

- The subject of conception.
- The space of autonomy where the subject can be built.
- The institutional home that protects and houses it.

OPENING PATHS

The hypothesis developed by the research finds its expression in the following image.



The figure symbolizes the convergence of wills behind the objective of protecting and overcoming the constraint of capital and of the democratic forms themselves. The challenge requires recovering and giving new meaning to our democratic past. Conceive relationships between human beings and with nature, which allow us to think again, access and persevere in the power of being and healing together.

In a special way, the research carried out is found and nourished by the Uruguayan agroecological initiative.

DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT

In Uruguay, the right to freedom of thought before the economic and political powers was historically conquered and built. The experience of building personal and collective criteria remains valid in the memory of society and the State.

This property that distinguishes the country, allows us to imagine the following trajectory:

In and from the territory,

- Alliance of people and communities together with institutions, local and national, of teaching and research, civil society and the State.
- Research, design and experiment transformations from the identification of relevant problems and the conception of new relationships and determinations cognitive, social and political.
- Obtain recognition of that autonomy of thought and action by the participating institutions.

The Uruguayan agroecological movement exhibits the first steps in the constitution of a new historical subject and its space for autonomy. In and from the territory it aims to produce the convergence of: rural women and women from the suburbs of cities, family producers, students, researchers and teachers, primary, secondary and university education institutions and municipal governments and municipalities; who are already working together. And it begins to outline an epistemological rupture, which allows attending to the set of dimensions necessary to create and sustain sustainable concrete totalities that recognize and investigate the positive virtualities of the Uruguayan natural world and its people.

CONCEPTION AND DETERMINATION

The research carried out makes it possible to specify that accessing the conception of new relationships between humans and of these with nature requires changing the existing relationship in capitalist society between determination and conception.

It becomes necessary to build a new historical-social sense that allows to modify the nature of the determination from a new mode of conception.

As outlined in the Uruguayan agroecological initiative, in the birth of this new sense, the relationship with nature, work, the product, thought, in short, are not determined and pre-defined in and by the analytical constraint of capital and democratic forms. On the contrary, the subject is no longer the capital, but the citizen alliance that investigates, designs, experiments and evaluates. His new mode of conception becomes the determining factor. Thought and human action are at the origin of work, the product, the market, which become determinations of a new type, enriching and sustaining life.

The effective existence of the space from which to conduct this trajectory becomes a decisive condition.

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

In Uruguay, public research and education can become today a space for calls and a home for the conception of transformations.

A first condition is to recognize that existing knowledge and research and teaching methodologies are an expression of the search for protection and reproduction of the analytical determination of capital. It becomes necessary to recover and give new meaning to the modern past of research and education, as part of overcoming the dominant analytical and partial common sense, both academic

and popular.

Secondly, it is necessary to imagine the public research and education space, with its formally protected autonomy, as a place of initiative for convergence of local, national and international actors and institutions around research, design and experimentation. of transformations relevant to the territory.

The research carried out allows us to indicate a specific and new Master's degree space as a significant place for an initiative calling for the opening of roads from and in the territory.

The Master's degree space is configured from the presence, in the territory, of the Doctors and their laboratories of origin:

- Defining, identifying, investigating relevant problems, designing paths and experimentation goals, together with the population, teachers and researchers residents and/or in service, and participating institutions.
- Training resident and/or service professionals as people participants in the transformation of their own professions and specialized work.
- Preparing proposals for new institutionality and local public policies and nationals to elevate the participating institutions and the corresponding local and national political authorities.

The alliance of national and foreign postgraduate institutions, with local and national research and teaching institutions - primary, secondary and university education -, of civil society - unions, companies, producers, etc. - and of the State - public companies, Ministries, etc. -, will be present in the original design of the Master and in its institutional implementation. Schools, high schools, technical and university education, teacher training, organizations of the population, will become places of research, design and experimentation.

REFERENCES

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