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The role of the State: economic development and respect to human rights, a necessary debate (Letter to the readers)

The *Brazilian Journal of Latin American Studies (BJLAS)* is specialized in disseminating scientific knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities. Aligned with the intellectual project of the *Latin America's Integration Inter-Units Graduate Program (PROLAM/USP)*, **BJLAS's** editorial line takes the integration of countries in the region beyond interstate relations, also seeking to articulate the scientific and intellectual production of Latin American thinkers and researchers.

BJLAS issue 41 highlights the work of authors who debate the centrality of the role of the State in consolidating - or dismantling - national development and human rights.

The scenario in which the first is inserted in is the international system of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in which, in a public hearing, sectors of the Bolivian indigenous movement denounce the State for disrespecting the Plurinational Constitution regarding the

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protection of nature and respect for the territorial rights of indigenous peoples. Despite the title that alludes to international forums, the article ***AUTHORIZED IN WASHINGTON DC.: Bolivian Indigenous Organization at the Inter-american Commission on Human Rights*** is a reflection that leads us subtly to the plots of internal disputes that exist in Bolivia, to assume the political hegemony of the plurinational project. The article is the result of research conducted by anthropologist Renata Albuquerque, from Faculdade Cásper Líbero and from University of São Paulo (Brazil), which, analyzes the role of society against the State and also highlights conflicts within the indigenous movement - those who support or oppose the government - and indicates how much of local history exists in international affairs.

In the same vein, the recent discovery of large oil fields in Guyana, the young South American republic, is the historical scenario of the dilemmas analyzed in ***PETROLEUM AS A LEVER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: analyzing opportunities and challenges for the Cooperative Republic of Guyana***. Written by William A. Clavijo Vitto (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), political scientist and international finance expert, the article covers the controversies involved in the process of defining a project of economic growth and national development based on the exploitation of natural resources. Without delving into the political debate, the author brings up central aspects of what economic science has called the "*natural resources curse*", which are the obstacles to development that the interests of national and transnational sectors impose on the exploitation of natural riches.

The controversy of national economic growth and development with protection of human and environmental rights sets the context of the study ***BACKGROUND AND PROBLEMS OF TRUSTS IN MEXICO. Reflections on Mining Development Trust (FIFOMI)***. Analyzing the trusts - a State financial and legal tool to encourage public purpose projects - is the intellectual commitment of social scientist Alejandro Cruz Bermea, from the University of Salamanca (Spain). The absence of political

transparency and corruption, institutional instability, as well as political and social pressures are part of the scenario of adversities faced in the guarantees and advances of human rights.

The role of the State in scenarios of deep crisis and social need is the theme of **A LOOK AT SOCIAL PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA AGAINST THE PANDEMIC**. This current and relevant debate is the result of research in the field of public administration by Adriana Aranha (University of São Paulo) and Carla Bronzo (School of Government João Pinheiro, Brazil) . The article provides a detailed description of typologies of social protection systems along with an assessment of policies in eight South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. The careful choice of each country took into account the level of strength or fragility of contributory systems. Thus, the article identifies the cash transfer mechanisms used in each country, as well as the challenges and alternatives for containing the crisis. The authors' conclusions corroborate that, despite the impact of policies related to the institutional capacity of each country, the role of the State and the type of social protection were essential to face structural issues related to the reproduction of inequalities in Latin America.

The last article of this first set of articles analyzes relations between States in Mercosur and points out the transition from a market-based regional integration model - when neoliberal-economic-oriented governments impose themselves in Mercosur - to a model formulated by more progressive governments that allow social movements and organizations to participate. Hence the title **EDUCATION POLICIES WITHIN THE MERCOSUR'S POST-HEGEMONIC REGIONALISM: An analysis from the documents of the social summits of Mercosur and its Strategic Social Action Plan** written by two researchers from the Federal University of Latin American Integration (Brazil), Mariana Rocha Malheiros and Tereza Maria Spyer. Through a detailed analysis of social policies-related documents and the demands of non-state actors, the authors assess social

demands, mainly in the field of education. They conclude that there is an important counter-hegemonic potential in the action of social movements and organizations in regional instruments such as Mercosur. However, the main limitation for this intervention depends on the political-institutional changes in each country, especially after the return of neoliberal-oriented governments.

In the next block of articles, **BJLAS** presents comparative studies in which present-day issues point to the need of rethinking both theoretically and methodologically the articulation between State actors, private interest organizations and social movements.

The first study focuses on the social impact of two solid waste management models in two large Latin American cities, São Paulo and Mexico City. The study results of a research at the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales (National Autonomous University of Mexico), carried out by Leila Giovana Izidoro. The author makes a well-considered critique of environment financialisation projects and public-private partnerships in the urban infrastructure sector and states that alternatives were implemented after the neoliberal administrative and normative reforms with the stimulus of international financial institutions. To develop her critique, the author researches **WASTE PICKERS IN LATIN AMERICA: a comparative case study between São Paulo and Mexico City**. It compares regulatory reforms, the participation, or not, of workers in legislative change, as well as the implementation of more or less mechanized processes in the work of recycling waste. The conclusions bring relevant data on the situation of vulnerability and the degree of autonomy, or not, of workers and variables that depend on the type of partnerships established, sometimes with the private sector, sometimes with workers' cooperatives.

In the next article, **INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC BASE: A comparative analysis of the Colombian and Brazilian regions**, the economic base theory is proposed to explain and compare aspects such as the growth of jobs or of the driving sectors of the regional economy in two

different countries in the region. The study results of an international partnership between researchers *Cristian Orlando Avila Quiñones* (Universidad Nacional Abierta ya Distancia, Colombia), *Carlos Julio Moreno* (Fondo para el Financiamiento del Sector Agropecuario, Colombia) and *Nilton Marques de Oliveira* (Federal University of Tocantins, Brazil). The comparative exercise is interesting as it puts into action a theoretical-methodological tool capable of visualizing not only the sectors of each economy that generate more employment in the region or those that participate the most in the economy, but the tool also crosses location/regionalization data for each sector of the economy based on local geography.

The next study comes from the field of comparative law and has the title: **LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE LUDOPATH AND LIBERATION OF GAMBLING: a comparative analysis between Brazil, Colombia and Spain**. The study debates a theme that challenges liberal legal thinking, namely the criminalization/liberation of games of chance and the use of the dependent or addictive situation of the gambler, that is, the gambler's pathological condition, as an argument for the definition of the norm. The comparative law allows the authors, *Lucas Fernandes da Costa, Víctor Gabriel de Oliveira Rodríguez and Eduardo Saab Marchiori* (University of São Paulo), not only to identify the laws on gambling in each country. It also allows opening the ethical debate on health policies related to this economic activity.

The last article we present in this issue of **BJLAS** is an interpretation of the work of Cuban writer Pedro Juan Gutiérrez, *Trilogía sucia de La Habana*. In a decolonial perspective, the study follows the theoretical path of the Brazilian literary critic and intellectual, Silvano Santiago. **THE LATIN AMERICAN LITERARY DECOLONIZATION BY GUTIÉRREZ: An anti-exotic review on the work Trilogía Sucia de la Habana** is written by journalist and cultural scholar Daniel Mendes (Federal University of Bahia). The article integrates a line of interpretation of Latin American cultural, intellectual

and/or artistic production that values the elements of originality, resistance and counter-hegemonic imprinted in the style, themes and aesthetic forms of works produced in Latin America. It also denounces literary criticism that, purposefully or not, privileges interpretations that value or corroborate Eurocentric perspectives on Latin American artistic expressions.

The **BJLAS** finalizes its issue 41 with four important book reviews that make us reflect on the world we want to be in the not-too-distant future. The common theme amongst the books reviewed is the need to critically think about modernity. ***Thinking reality if you want to transform it*** by Joana A. Coutinho (Universidade Federal do Maranhão), Ph.D. in Social Sciences, invites us to read unpublished writings in Spanish by Caio Prado Jr. who instigates to reflect on the colonization processes, political organizations and our particularities about Brazil and Latin America.

The second book review, ***DECONSTRUCTING CONCEPTS: revenge wars and international relations*** by Laurindo Paulo Ribeiro Tchinama, Ph.D. candidate in International Relations (Santiago Dantas Graduate Program), addresses a proposal to rethink the concept of war, and therefore the concept of State developed by Western modernity when presenting the study of Alberto Montoya Correa Palacios Jr., "*Revenge wars and International Relations: a dialogue with Political Anthropology about the Tupi-Guarani and the Yanomami*". The book tries to compare the concepts of revenge war, based on the context of Brazilian indigenous peoples, and interstate war, based on the Westphalian concept of Nation-state putting into test the Eurocentric epistemological dominance in the field of international relations.

The next book review continues to defy modernity and the global and digital capitalism that emerged from it and which is constantly developing through it. Murilo Motta, Ph.D. candidate in International Relations Santiago Dantas Graduate Program, does so by questioning ***HOW TO BE A CITIZEN IN THE WORLD OF ALGORITHMS? Review of***

“Ciudadanos reemplazados por algoritmos”, by Néstor García Canclini.

The review provides an analysis of the role of neoliberal governments in hegemonic options for technological development, arguing that it needs to be replaced, in favor of new forms of social organization that prioritize plurality and democracy.

We close this issue with a critical look at the world of arts, especially Latin American cinematographic production. In **A critical book review of "Latin American cinemas in circulation: Looking for the lost audience"**, the doctoral student in arts (Universidade Estadual Paulista), Gabriela Andrietta, analyzes the insertion and access of Latin American audiovisual productions, especially those from Brazil and Argentina, into the globalized society amidst a context of increasing concentration in the sector due to the transition from the analogue to the digital model, the lack of articulation between countries or blocs that co-produce cinematographic productions and the uncertainty on whether streaming platforms democratize access to Latin American productions given these platforms are market-oriented.

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