



Casa abierta al tiempo
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA
METROPOLITANA

Community revolutionary subject and social transformation

David Barkin and
Alejandra Sanchez

barkin@correo.xoc.uam.mx

June, 2018

Summary



- **Hopes fade away**
 - Historical revolutionary actor
 - Reformist state of old
- **Need for a new revolutionary actor**
 - Balance of social and productive relations
- **Forms of social transformation**
 - Post-capitalist societies
- **Community heritage: collective and planetary well-being**

¿Social change or revolution?

1. Visions of the revolution and the revolutionary subject: the Marxist tradition

The revolution

- A fundamental change in the power structures that organize and give meaning to economic and socio-political activities
- Scientific and technological revolutions
- Any kind of revolution involves a totality of transformations of social life.

1. Visions of the revolution and the revolutionary subject: the Marxist tradition

Vision of class

- In the capitalist mode of production: proletariat and bourgeois
- Symbolic revolutionary subject: embodied by the proletarian class.

Political consciousness
Class consciousness



1. Visions of the revolution and the revolutionary subject: the Marxist tradition

Vision of power and its taking

- Exercised by the bourgeois class - control of institutions and means of production
- Linked to a political power - the State

A theoretical-methodological construction

- Revolution and the revolutionary subject are inherent in the system

1. Visions of the revolution and the revolutionary subject: the Marxist tradition

The dilemmas of Marxist construction

- 1. Problem of defining class and the impossibility of class consciousness**
 - a) Alienation - individual**
 - b) The multiplicity of social labor relations - elimination of the proletariat**
 - c) The workers are not organized politically as a class --- capitalism destroys the institutionality (unions)**
- 2. Taking power (from the state)**
- 3. The theoretical-methodological construction as limiting**

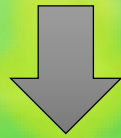
2. Other Views of the Revolutionary Actor



Post-capitalist societies:

The context of the revolutionary actors

Indigenous, rural and peasant communities



¿Why?

2. Other Views of the Revolutionary Actor

Post-capitalist societies:

The context of the revolutionary actors

1. They transcended capitalism

- a) They know the capitalist system intimately (inclusion / exclusion)
- b) They decided politically and collectively to not continue in its logic
- c) They control their means of production
- d) They exercise power (but not in the State) ---- to the extent that they manage their territory (Control over territory)
 - Popular power
 - Social power

2. Dynamic societies

- a) Collective History = Collective Consciousness = Transformation of identity and collective worldview

2. Other Views of the Revolutionary Actor

Post-capitalist societies:

The context of the revolutionary actors

Sustainability niches: Profound inheritance of knowledge of the society-nature relationship

Five principles for strengthening post-capitalist communities :

Autonomy

Social solidarity

Self-sufficiency

Productive diversification

Sustainable management

2. Other Views of the Revolutionary Actor



Construction of the revolutionary community subject

1. Subject that is born and reproduced in the community

- The community as part of a whole
- The community is founded on the principle of service
- The community does not renounce the affirmation of one's own personal identity
- The community postulates common values, respecting plurality and individual values
- The community promotes the growth of social virtues such as solidarity and fraternity

2. Other Views of the Revolutionary Actor



Construction of the revolutionary community subject

2. Its revolutionary action: Community control of livelihood

- The **control** (mobilization) of the surplus is what enables the constitution of the collective revolutionary subject
- Through collective decisions, the generation, appropriation and distribution of surplus are determined
- The surplus is intended to satisfy individual and collective needs (assuring adequate conditions of education, work and healthcare) as well as ecological needs (an important part of the surplus goes to the conservation and rehabilitation of the environment)
- Community growth: using surplus for community transformation

3. Forms of transformation



Three great possibilities:

a) Global: economic paradigm shift

b) Local: multiple revolutions, abstracted from their particular contexts

c) Environmental

3. Modalities of transformation



- Resistance - everyday life
- Rebellion
- “*R-existence*”

Thank you