

Immigration: A Major Issue in Politics Today

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Abstract: This is a short intervention on the question of the possibility of doing politics today. It compares the forms of political militancy in the 1960s and in our historical situation, and poses immigration as the main issue in politics today. It also emphasises the crucial importance of feminist struggle, ecology, and similar struggles.

Keywords: immigration, politics, capitalism, language, colonialism.

Doing politics today, that is, being a militant, is very different from the period of 1968. Back then, we had just come out of the wars in Algeria and Indochina, and we were on our way to the sky. And now the sky is falling down.

When I started off as a militant, its horizon was France, even though we were fighting for the Algerian independence. Now we live in a globalisation, with its multiple horizons. But, what has not changed is that we still remain in the same reality of exploitation of the proletariat by capital. For me, to be active is always to fight against the capitalist exploitation, which always takes different and exacerbated forms.

We cannot be militants in the same way as we were in the past. It's up to young people to tell us about this. The palette has been enlarged: there is the ecological challenge, the cause of feminism, the problem of migration. Is it harder than before? I don't know. It's just different.

In the past, we fought against capitalist exploitation, imperialism, the exploitation of the Third World. Now, other perils have come to light, the capitalist exploitation of developing countries is such that immigration has become a major problem, just as the exploitation of man by man leads to an appalling destruction of our planet's resources and endangers the future of humanity, just as the exploitation of women by men has become a political issue.

In order to move forward in resolving these major issues, it seems to me, that we must focus on our fight towards a non-capitalist development of the countries that supply emigration, a development that is ecologically and socially sustainable (without exploitation). This could be a struggle that brings together militants from all countries. We need international militants, but now there are none and it is not easy to organise them together.

There is a balance of power with the dominants in terms of resources, including linguistic ones, with language issues playing an important role, as a medium of thought and values... The promotion of a single language would be good. Though not English, which conveys imperialist and capitalist values, but rather based on *l'esperanto*.

We are not going to recreate an International, it didn't work (and there wouldn't be many candidates for it). But we can create international bodies. We are not going to use social networks which distort thought, and which encourage brainwashing.

Immigration is a major issue. The number of people trying to flee, who are massacred at the borders, it is the culmination of capitalist exploitation. Politics means fighting against the trafficking of men and women, fighting for the integration of people who arrive in the developed countries while fighting for sustainable development at home. We have to think about this contradiction, we have to do both things simultaneously: helping people on the spot in their own country and helping those who arrive, especially those coming from the war zones.

The major political challenge is to find the means for a non-capitalist development that is neither exploitative of men and women nor destructive to the resources of the planet. Capitalism has the most devastating effects and is a savage in all aspects in the Third World countries. In the other countries, it seems to be somewhat more moderated. The Amazon is being devastated by Brazilian capital, which exploits people to destroy nature, which in this case is the lungs of the planet. People are destroyed in order to destroy the planet and make a profit out of it. People are exploited to do it.

In the end of the 1970s, there were experiences in the world that went in the right direction, such as the agrarian reforms in Algeria and Portugal, the *assentamentos* (land occupations) in Brazil.... But the landowners did not give up so easily. However, these are still interesting experiences of self-management that could be used as a model, while at the same time integrating the determination to take fundamental ecological requirements into account. Young people, such as Greta Thunberg, are doing it quite well.

It is up to us to make the connection with the social demands of fighting against the exploitation of men and women by men.

Translated by Agon Hamza