

Degrowth from the Fringes: Practices in Brazil

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In Brazil, amidst the transition to civilian government and democratization, many practices of people at the bottom seeking social justice and environmental protection arose. Although their practices are not called so, they are exactly the movements and projects that Latouche's degrowth theory and Löwy's ecosocialist theory refer to. The movement is richer in scope and content than the examples taken up by these theories. And the popular movements have resulted in many public policies and institutions.

In contrast to green capitalism and the SDGs, degrowth theory and eco-socialism theory argue that the root cause of environmental deterioration lies in capitalism. Degrowth theory advocates embedding economic activities in local communities based on the principles of reciprocity and coexistence, and ecosocialism advocates a shift to collective ownership of the means of production and an environmentally planned economy based on popular consensus.

In a situation where catastrophe has become a real issue, a post-growth society is an urgent issue. In order to solve this problem, and in other words, for humanity to survive, we have no choice but to fundamentally change the way society, economy, and politics have existed up until now. Degrowth theory and eco-socialism theory provide materials and guidelines for this. The people's practices and movements in Brazil, and the resulting institutions, can serve as a beacon for a post-growth society. It seems that global warming has passed a critical point of no return. Still, each of us needs to follow the example of the hummingbird and throw a drop of water into the fire that burns the forest.

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Conditions for Facing Degrowth and Decolonization: What Latin American decolonial theory suggests

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Despite the overwhelming influence of the modern West, there are non-Western values that have been nurtured in a hybrid way with indigenous values. On the other hand, there are values that embody modernity in their own right, but which have been peripheral or underlying, and which are not modern but proto-Western. A similar example can be found in the relationship between the post-development theory, which flourished in the 1980s in Latin America and the rest of the Third World, and the degrowth theory, which is emerging in contemporary Western Europe and has a not-so-distant connection to it. However, it would be virtually impossible to make a great leap and establish a direct connection from the post-development theory to the degrowth theory. To reexamine the quality of economic growth, in this paper, I will review the essentials of post-development theory and its evolutionary form, decolonial theory, and point out that people living in Global North are inevitably colonized, that is to claim that they are colonized by modernity in a submerged era, culture, and place. Finally, I will discuss the significance of "degrowth" as our own decolonization, and I will offer some perspectives on the coming post-SDGs.

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Development of State Capitalism and Debt State Capitalism in developing countries

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This paper examines the development of state capitalism and debtor state capitalism in developing countries as part of elucidating the stages of modern capitalism. Regarding the development of the capitalist systems of state capitalism and debtor state capitalism in developing countries, we will clarify the structures that are common to and differ from those in developed countries. What they have in common stems from the contemporaneity of the stages of modern capitalism, while their differences stem from differences in the structures of excess and deficiency in capital accumulation. Debt state capitalism and state capitalism in developed countries both have a structure in which the importance of national finance in capital accumulation increases, and an increase in the scale of finance relative to the size of a country's economy promotes capital accumulation. The basis of this is the position of state capitalism.

On the other hand, the nature of state capitalism in developing countries has two aspects: first, an increase in the ratio of national finances to GDP, although this is less pronounced than in developed countries, and second, a strong state leadership system. Regarding debt state capitalism in developing countries, many developing countries have a national structure of increasing external debt. Debt state capitalism in developing countries has the aspect of being the “dark side” of the phenomenon of capital globalization caused by the overaccumulation of capital in developed countries. However, the external debt of developing countries tends to be shortened in the short term and reduced or eliminated in the long term due to economic growth and increased capital accumulation in developing countries. In this way, debtor state capitalism in developing countries is not formed based on the structure of state capitalism, unlike in developed countries.

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