

RESENHA

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**INTERPLAY OF IDEAS, BUREAUCRACY, AND INDUSTRIALIZATION:
ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL IN FOCUS**

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A work that aims to comprehensively understand the industrialization trajectories of two countries like Argentina and Brazil, from a socio-economic historical perspective, and solely adopts a structuralist, synchronous, and timeless treatment of history is bound to be incomplete. A similar inadequacy arises when employing an essentially diachronic approach, such as theories exclusively focused on explaining changes, incapable of fully accounting for the structure, its properties, and forms of social organization, while simultaneously addressing its history, contradictions, accidents, and disturbances.

In a work that fluently navigates through the socio-economic historical approach, the book of Political Scientist and Professor at Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) strives to surpass inherited thinking, avoiding solely deterministic pitfalls. The research incorporates the author's well-established affiliation with analytical Marxism, his inclination towards political sociology, and his unquestionable commitment to

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methodological rigor. These distinguishing features are readily identifiable throughout his scholarly output.

By reconstructing the process tracing of industrialization in Brazil and Argentina between the years (1930-1966), the author demonstrates how alongside determinations, ideas continuously emerge – sometimes as a result of chance, the unexpected, the contingent, the indeterminate, and at other times, as a result of the accumulation of experiences within the socio-cultural trajectories of notable social agents – which generate imaginary and ideational significations that are gradually incorporated, guiding choices, formulating targeted policies and shaping processes.

The central thesis that drives the research starts from the hypothesis that the Brazilian industrialization process proved to be deeper and more structured than the Argentine one, despite the latter's higher starting point. Therefore, the assumption is that the differences between the ideas of the state elites of both countries, and the ambitions of national projects, are fundamental for the full understanding of the phenomenon.

One of the notable strengths of this book is its analytical depth and breadth. The author demonstrates a thorough understanding of the historical context, delving into the ideas and ideologies that influenced policymakers during this transformative era. By examining the various intellectual currents and political ideologies that shaped industrialization strategies, the book sheds light on the complex decision-making processes behind the industrialization efforts in Argentina and Brazil.

Thus, the work navigates through two inseparable dimensions: the first operates according to the scheme of determination, through notions postulated as distinct and defined, such as elements, classes, properties, relations, and categories. The second dimension involves a truly imaginary and ideational realm, formed by an "immensely complex fabric of meanings that permeate, guide, and direct the entire life of that society and all the concrete individuals who, bodily, constitute it" (Castoriadis, 1987, p. 230).

Moreover, the book skillfully examines the role of bureaucracy in implementing industrialization policies. It offers a nuanced analysis of the bureaucratic structures and institutions that were instrumental in driving economic development during this period.

By examining the challenges faced by bureaucracies and their interactions with political actors and societal forces, the author paints a rich picture of the complexities, sometimes controversial, realities of implementing industrialization policies. For example, the morally compelling questions about the societal underpinnings of ideas in conforming national projects and paths of development during 1930-1966. This period is pointed by moments of freedom and oppression, crises, and ruptures in both countries, probing for the roots of democracy and the ideal process of modernization and economic development thought by respective elites.

The book also provides valuable insights into the specific industries targeted for development in Argentina and Brazil. By exploring the strategies employed, such as import substitution industrialization (ISI) and developmentalism, the author offers a comprehensive understanding of the economic policies implemented to foster industrial growth. The analysis of the state's involvement in fostering industrialization, including the use of protectionist measures and the establishment of state-owned enterprises, adds depth to the examination of industrialization processes.

Furthermore, the work is characterized by its rigorous research methodology and extensive use of secondary sources. The author draws upon a wide range of archival materials, policy documents, and scholarly works, creating a well-rounded narrative. This meticulous research approach enhances the credibility of the book and provides readers with a wealth of information and analysis. Besides, the publication also helped to inspire new agendas of compared research and reflection in macroscopic social science.

The book also incorporates an appendix wherein the author, alongside Dr. Wellington Nunes, conducts a reflective exercise that extends the study to encompass seven additional countries: Zaire, Nigeria, Philippines, India, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Employing qualitative comparative analysis, once again, the inquiry focuses on elucidating the interplay between ideas, institutional construction, and political and economic elites. The conclusions reaffirm the influential role of elites in the process of modernization, underscoring their ideological dedication and political acumen in steering economic development and fostering industrialization.

Resenha – Interplay of ideas, bureaucracy, and industrialization: Argentina and Brazil in focus – Ana Carolina Bichoffe – p. 154-157

In terms of readability, the book is intense and at times exhaustive in its incessant trials and empirical demonstrations. However, the writing is engaging and accessible. The author presents complex ideas in a clear and coherent manner, making it suitable for both academics and general readers interested in the subject. The book strikes a balance between scholarly rigor and readability, ensuring that it remains engaging and informative throughout. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the economic, political, and social development of these two countries.

Bibliografia

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