

Cities and Social Movements in International Arena

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The State–Nation crisis and the privatization of the state enterprisers in the neo-liberal globalization state formed the foundations to configure the minimum State. Global cities and transnational enterprisers were the agents to this neo-liberal globalization system. The configuration pointed to the prominence of the local government instead of the National State. However the 2008 –financial crisis restores these political agents and appears the State-Nation as an agent in the globalization arena.

The action of cities in the international context and the recognition of its role in this field, states the need of further examination to verify if they are actually political actors, although this role have been exclusively fulfilled by central governments.

The problem is assuming that globalization has changed the way of making politics as well as impacting in different levels such as the national, the regional and the local administration. The global and the local, the virtual and the real have changed the way which cities and the social movements perform their international political relations.

It will be possible to notice how globalization has changed the institutional structures, in which the relations were more balanced, predictable and static some time ago. There are different economical, social, cultural, technological and political-institutional factors that had influenced the construction of this new globalization context. The objectives in analyze this phenomenon.

First will be analyze the new “localism”, which will provide elements to illustrate the importance of studying the “governance” and its different aspects and, finally will be describe “cities diplomacy” and how “Para diplomacy” is being studied and becoming a reference to discuss the political role that cities could reach internationally.

Considering the core point of this article will be observed how cities and social movements created mechanisms that enable them to act in the international arena. On the other hand, the performance of social movements has been felt in the global and local scope. They articulate in a transnational way so the international repercussion can influence the change agenda of their countries and cities and achieve greater international mobilization. They act and articulate themselves through virtual networks or present meetings in international forums. They may intervene in different ways, as pressuring the local-national or even the global system, as well as participating of the institutional dialogue channels with other actors, among them the State and the international Organisms .The 2008 international financial crisis, the different worldwide conflicts and manifestations for better transparency and democracy on the governments of some countries, question the role of the State as a promoter of the world peace and well-being. We have many examples like Occupy Wall Street Movement (United States of America), Indignados (Spain), etc.

The theoretical basis of this work has been sustained in the sphere of international relations' critical theory and in the studies about social movements, describing important concepts as that of social emancipation and the social movements as new actors in the international system.

The methodology is literature review of cities and social movements in transnational sphere and analysis of documents of international organizations that allow the influence of cities and social movements in the organization like United Nations Human Settlements Programme – UN Habitat. The **UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.** UN-Habitat establishes networks that enable governments, experts, civil society groups, multilateral organizations, private sector, and all other development partners to jointly address present and future urban predicaments. The local governments and the representants of social movements participate in forums of this agency as World Urban Forum and Habitat Conference. It is important to see if these actors have influence on the decisions of international organization, like UN-Habitat.

Finally will be analyzed like results if cities and social movements could be considered important political actors in the international relations up against other international actors like the States and the international organizations. Related to the “internationalization” that have already been studied will be shown some ideas that would help cities and social movements better influence in the international set.

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