Overview

Reseña

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Agamben Giorgio, Slavoj Zizek et al. Wuhan soup. Editorial Aspo, 2020. 185 pages.

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The book was published at the end of March 2020, and the electronic version translated into Spanish has been revised. It has 17 articles that were written between February 26 and March 28, 2020.

The authors come from various countries around the world, including Italy, Slovenia, France, Spain, the United States, Great Britain, South Korea, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile and Germany.

Taking into account the profile and origin of the writers, the topics range from the fields of philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and psychology, among others. In all of them, the point of convergence is the pandemic caused by the coronavirus, which manifests itself clinically as the Covid-19. This has clinical manifestations in the respiratory system of human beings and, when complicated, can end in a fatal outcome with the death of the patient.

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Although each one approaches the subject from its particular approach, most agree on issues that are related to each other. All agree that there is a highly contagious virus (Covid-19). They talk about its rapid spread and its origin in Wuhan, China. They exalt the great fear of contagion and its expressions among the population.

Most point out that all the confinement caused by the pandemic is a blow to capitalism and therefore may lead to its downfall. In turn, they speak of what they call an infectious chain of global capitalism. They comment, also, that it is a weakening of the neo-liberal system, since it is speculative and presents itself in the form of pillage.

The book exposes in a continuous way that there is a reorganization of the global economy. Thus, it is not at the mercy or at the expense of the mechanisms of the market, but that it has to do with the fall of the economy of the nations, because of a capitalism that eats up the patrimony of the countries.

For the reasons explained from different points of view, they denounce that the so-called «state of exception» has originated, or rather has been imposed, which translates into an imposition to restrict the freedoms of people.

Among them, it is particularly noteworthy that, although recourse to religion is not enough to get out of the pandemic, the result has been to limit religious activity, and this restriction has meant the closure of centers of worship such as churches and temples.

Because the confinement of people has been forced, or has been forced in one way or another, the result has been increased social and economic inequality. Racism and xenophobia have also been exacerbated throughout the world, coinciding with the pandemic, with confinement and confinement forced by the state of emergency.

Some authors comment that, through or because of the system of globalization parallel to the pandemic, this situation has led to greater control within populations, and in the future it will translate into greater control; that is, control of all nations through the so-called «tolerance of cybernetic control», as is already present in China.

Finally, the personal home has become the new center of protection for the family, but this situation also induces «consumption» in another way. On the other hand, it is a form of bio political control that nations with a tendency to globalize have or will have, as is the case today in Europe, and it is a tendency from which Latin America does not escape either.