

Only their indignation

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Those who protest should not say how to solve things? My answer to this question is a big and resonant "No".

The "Indignados" [*indignants*] Movement that started in Spain nearly six months ago became a world phenomenon when it extended to New York, where it was called "Occupy Wall Street". In the last October 15, activists, almost all of them young, gathered in 951 cities of 82 countries to express their indignation about neoliberalism and financierization, which led to the 2008 global financial crisis. They do not have propositions, and they do not intend to seize power. They just want to show their concern and their indignation – two more than just feelings, given the evils that this neoliberal ideology and the neoclassical economics that justifies it “scientifically” have already caused, given the Great Recession in which rich countries are today immersed, and because, if the crisis in those countries continues to deepen, this may be tomorrow the present of the developing countries, relatively spared for the moment.

A young man from "Occupy Washington" was interviewed by *Folha* (Oct.11). The reporter wanted to know the difference between his movement and another one, called "October 2011": “they are more traditional, they sit, they make a list of demands; we need revolutionary changes within the system or another system”. The reporter insists: **How do you intend to get it?** “We are not discussing this now. We are focused on building our basis, attracting people to the discussion... We want a maximum of movements like this around the country, we want to show that we mean it, that we are dissatisfied, even if this takes weeks, or months, or years. Until this change happens, we will be here.” I don't believe they will, but we must stress that this movement is impressive and admirable. Is it really? Capitalism's 30 Neoliberal Years (1979-2008) were indeed a huge social and political regression. And the evils they caused are not yet over. But what is the legitimacy of a protest without solution proposals? Those who protest should not say how to solve things?

My answer to this question is a big and resonant "No". The young activists do not have responsibility for the present crisis, nor the possibility of solving it. We are responsible for it, we the elders, the elites, those who have dominated and ruled. It is up to us to find solutions. They can raise the issue with the

energy of young people, they can debate, make suggestions, but it is up to us to decide. And we, who have often been correct before, who contributed to the progress or to the development that is ultimately occurring since the national and industrial revolution in each country, who in the post-war years produced Capitalism's 30 Golden Years (1949-1978), we have failed since the 1980s when we allowed only 2% of the people to reap all the benefits of progress, and we are failing even more now, when the consequences of the neoliberal years show their whole dimension.

Three years after the crisis some analysts affirm that it was squandered. That we learned nothing. It is not true. We have learned something, and we are trying to regulate the banks, and bring the State to its role as the institution par excellence of the country's collective action. But the changes are being timid. The privileges remain enormous. The young protesters are welcome. They are entitled to a future. And they only have their indignation to demand it.