

The distinctive significance of the state in a capitalist dependent economy

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From the position of Marxist theory of dependency, the crucial and decisive component of dependent societies/economies on Latin America is the dominance of the overexploitation of the workforce. This property has several implications of which the article highlights one of them: in the context of the movement of capital, the existence of overexploitation of the workforce as the dominant form will require larger scale capitalist productive spending relative to each level of growth because consumer spending will be relatively minor, by the lower levels of salary.

The hypothesis of the article is that, in the economies of Latin America, this requirement of more capitalist productive spending will be in significant part supplied by features and functions of the State. The reasons can be found in the technical and financial limitations of capital units that operate in these economies, as well as features of the functioning of the State, historically solarized to the private interests of fractions of capital, although without necessarily configure State monopolism.

The article is organized into three sections. The first one discusses the overexploitation from Marxist categories, showing that in the concrete conditions of the Brazilian economy, for example, this dominance can be configured, extending it by analogy to other economies of Latin America. In the second section, it discusses the dynamic implications for an economy in which there is dominance of the overexploitation of the workforce. Finally, in the third section, there is an appointment of the repercussions for the organization and operation of the State, including a form of spoliation in the sense given to the term by Harvey (2004).