Engels in Manila: The Conditions of the Urban Bottom and the Packaged Food Question.

Heriberto RUIZ TAFOYA.
Graduate School of Economics,
Kyoto University

Berlin, Germany
September, 14th, 2017
I. Engels in Manila

II. The Urban Bottom (UB)

III. The Packaged Food* Question
*Includes canned and bottled.

IV. Versus the Alienation of UB populations: New types of interventions are need it.

Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017)

Photo Credit: Author, 2016
Tatalon: 20% population economically depressed

Source: Imagen from Google maps
• The Pauper, Lumpen Proletariat, and Proletariat.

• **The slum food question**: Slums in Manchester and London.

> ‘The *potatoes* which the workers buy are usually *poor*, the *vegetables wilted*, the *cheese old* and of poor quality, the *bacon rancid*, the *meat lean*, tough, taken from old, often *diseased*, *cattle*, or such as have died a natural death, and not fresh even then, *often half decayed*’
> (Engels, 1987 [1845]: 88).

• **Lack of means of subsistence**, ground for **revolutionary** movements

• **The housing question**. Property rights do not solve the problem and sleeps revolutionary actions.
No surprise

- The development of productive forces during the 20th century
- Overcrowded houses, prostitution, illegal activities. Insanitation, diseases, fires, floods, etc.
- Level of violence (brutality) and drugs addiction.
- Outsiders’ interventions based on religious interests.

Little surprise

- Size of the mega-cities and its health & environmental impact
- Politicians such as Estrada and Duterte
- Human traffic, organs traffic, etc.

Surprise *(Higher intellectual and theoretical curiosity)*

- Few rural immigrants experienced a regular job in a factory.
- The use of electric devices in slums and cheap slum internet services (Piso net, 1 Philippine Peso –PhP- 5 minutes of Internet)
- Indian microfinance specialists in Manila (Mumbai agents)
- The use and increasing exchange and consumption of affordable Corporate Packaged Food.

Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017)
The Packaged Food Question

What is the importance of Corporate Packaged Food (CPF)* in contemporary slums?

How CPF is transforming the social relations of contemporary slum populations?

What are the effects of CPF in the political economy of contemporary Slums?

*Noodles
Snacks
Candies
Biscuits

Powder Coffee
Powder &
Liquid Milk
Powder cacao

Soft drinks
Powder juices
Yogurts,
Yakult and
Teas (if available)

Seasonings,
Sauces & Vinegars
Canned food
Packaged meats

Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017)
The Packaged Food Question

Food consumption* in Metro-Manila Slum populations (% of total food intake)

Note* Consumption refers to food intake. It assumes ZERO waste of the obtained food and beverages. N=31 households in three different slum areas of Metro-Manila

The Packaged Food Question

Food consumption* in Metro-Manila Slum populations (% of total food intake)

The Packaged Food Question

Identified CPF per Slum Woman

n=61 slum women

Channels of Corporate Packaged Food into Slum’s households

- Supermarkets
- Wet markets
- Carinderias
- Fast Food chains
- Family workers*
- NGOs
- Gov agencies
- Religious Orgs
- Politicians
- Friends & Relatives
- Local market
- sari-sari
- Street vendors

As gifts
As part of the salary
As merchandise


13 channels of CPF food

The Packaged Food Question
CPF as source of daily revenue (USD)

Source: Author (2017)
The Packaged Food Question

Dependency on CPF for living

More dependent on CPF

Daily revenue per dependent/\%CPF total income

Dependent = Vendor + persons living on the business’s revenue.

Source: Own elaboration (2017)
The Packaged Food Question

Lack of time (and energy)
The estrangement and objectification of oneself as human being

Effects: Deskilling and Alienation

- Self-serving, self-preparation and deskilling (cause-effect)
- Individualism over collective micro-practices

Photos Credit: Author, 2016
Conclusion: new interventions are need it.

Versus alienation:

Revolutionary movements led by the proletariat. (Yes, but how, where, by who and to whom?)

Construction of the hegemony by the political party and the intervention of an organic Intellectual: The “specialists” and the “directors”.

New version(s) of a organic intellectuals, able to:

• Listening rather than leading
• Suggesting rather than directing (except if the slums request it)
• Teaching how to use of technologies (including technologies of packaging, bottling, canning and processing food)
• Connect Urban and Rural or vice versa. (e.g. Brazil, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, Philippines)
Thank you!

Heriberto RUIZ TAFOYA.

hrtafoya@gmail.com
heriberto.tafoya.65m@st.kyoto-u.ac.jp
### Categories of Labor, Life and Residential Hierarchy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Labor-life hierarchy</th>
<th>Residential hierarchy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper</td>
<td>New entrepreneur = new rich</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper new intermediate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Middle new intermediate = new middle</td>
<td>subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower new intermediate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>New labor = new poor</td>
<td>slum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower labor</td>
<td>informal settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very bottom</td>
<td>homeless</td>
<td>street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own Elaboration based on Hideo Aoki, 2016.

### UB in Political Economy, main propositions:

1. UB does not pretend to eradicate the Political Economy categories of *Lumpen-Proletariat* and *Proletariat*.
2. UB refers to the specificity of living -on Time and Space- *in the bottom of a social pyramid*.
3. UB *is specific* in the exclusion and marginalization at the bottom (*Below*).
4. UB also avoids the *flaw of naming "poor"* to the whole slum populations.

Heriberto Ruiz Tafoya (2017)