

## Human Scale Development... away from bullets and machines

### Long Abstract

Most of the rural population lives in what can be described as a Hobbesian state of nature facing a reduction in the opportunities of participation in the market economy as independent and sustainable units. This is explained mainly for the expansion of the production model based in massive mono-cropping driven by the expansion of the modern state.

The expansion of the modern state implies the continuous conquer of the territory, and of the people, in order to access to resources, transforming the ecological and cultural environments. This conquer expresses as the continuous substitution of a peasant self-sustainable production model for another whether agro-industrial and/or extractive. This substitution is given by the territorial harmonization of the rural areas with the prevailing development model based on accumulation. Thus, the substitution of production models, associated to different notions of development, has generated a process of "*detrterritorialization*" or void integration of the territory that leads the uneven presence of the state. As a result it is evident the low capacity of the state to provide the tools of formalization of property rights on the land, curtailing the decision power on the liberty of land use and therefore on the human development itself.

The concept of territory faithfully represents the limited nature of resources, which poses the paradox between the cumulative expansion model and the concept of human development to the alleged impossibility of redistribution. In this paper a new conception of development is presented as the process of how individuals organize themselves within a social set (community) to produce and consume through autonomous (not necessarily mediated by the market) and sustainable ways of relationship.

There is an evident help from the liberal state (prevailing model of modern state) in perpetuating the center-periphery separation at the regional and local spheres, and the positioning of the global peripheries (so called third world, global south, among other euphemisms) only as exploiters of raw material. This constitutes simultaneously to the improvement of the desired development in terms of human development and also a auto-sabotage against any efforts to built regional powers from the margins. Despite the existence of a real, material, dependency, of the "center" from the "periphery" and not monetary as it exists in the other direction, the state in the "periphery" is still tied to the *status quo*.

For these reasons, it is crucial leadership of civil society for the emancipation from the historical resilience to unnatural development ideas. Notwithstanding, it is also necessary a comprehensive planning that frames all local autonomies, capable of mobilizing different groups and communities, allowing these strategies to transmute from only survival options to social and political projects organically articulated across all levels society.

In line with the primary purpose of human scale development, which is to deepen democracy, making it more direct and participatory. Though the approach here presented, can be eventually possible to reverse the semi-paternalistic role of the state in the "periphery", with impact not only in reverse internal asymmetries, but also those with external actors. With this methodology, it is possible to think the practice of development holistically, not only removing from it violence in all its forms, but incorporating compensatory elements for peacebuilding.

The idea of human scale development despite of being a "from below" approach, does not deny the existence of the macro-processes of development, in fact, it supports an "aggregation without bureaucratization" or an "articulation without cooptation", and advocates for bringing to this re-conception of the development (human scale) an ethics of wellbeing.