



## "Estado/sociedad": una anacronía regresiva [

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text (article)

Analítica

This paper discusses the theoretical relevance and political expediency of distinguishing "State" and "society" as separated entities. I do not think that, in our language, it is easy to overcome this dichotomy: as it is not easy, for example, to surmount the distinction between body and soul. But at least the attempt will allow us to acknowledge what we are implicitly saying when using it. Therefore, I will sustain that the use of the State-society dichotomy has led to prosopopoeias that do not help to the understanding of social complexity: "the State did...", "the State violates...", "the State is present", etc. Moreover, this dichotomy works as one of the foundations of capitalist hegemony, inasmuch as: a) it portrays the State as an entity ("the Power", liberals dixit) that stands apart from and dominates a civil society that is seen as a reservoir of associations of the most varied type; b) it conceals the fact that the State is in fact a relationship that is constantly played out in all spheres of human life. Both things tend to dilute or distract our attention from the main form of domination (capitalism), portraying it as the simple sum of producers who create or exchange goods, together with other associations that perform various socially useful tasks; (c) this confusion allows the dominant sectors to appear as champions of civil society and liberty vis-a-vis state domination. In order to uphold this interpretation, the work is organized in the following way. In the first section, I will make a brief reference to the literature that explains the modern State as a creation that emerges with sovereign monarchies in Europe and which exists until today. In turn, this will allow me to: 1) claim the need to establish the pertinent discontinuities, which derive from the transformations in sovereign ownership; and 2) show the consequent anachronism entailed in maintaining the opposition of State and society, which has just naturalist origins, once sovereignty was

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