

La nouvelle conscience révolutionnaire et l'argument du choix rationnel

Abstract: This article aims to prove, after an analysis of the problem of revolutionary mobilization in Marx, that the new revolutionary conscience announced by the alter-globalist “movement of movements” must face up the same difficulties (theoretical and practical) as the old concept of "class struggle". The difficulty I would like to point out is known in the field of political theory as the *free-rider problem*. This problem was analyzed by Mancur Olson, in his theory of collective action (1965). Olson demonstrates that the revolutionary mobilization in the class struggle is not rationally possible because of the egoistical behavior of the individual that seeks personal advantages, that is to minimize costs and to maximize benefits. The mobilization would be possible only if there were compulsion. I apply this argument to the problem of the mobilization against the capitalism in the era of globalization. The theorists of the new revolutionary conscience point out that the initial conditions and the aims of the new mobilization are quite different which changes radically the point of view and leads the new theory of revolution beyond the liberal critiques. But this new “drama” of the revolutionary mobilization is out of tune with the rational choice, as the old arguments of the collective action theory represent a strong objection against the post-marxist approaches.

Keywords: collective actions, social movements, revolutionary mobilization, free-rider strategy, globalization.