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Antonio Gramsci towards the challenges of science and technology.

Perspectives of cultural hegemony.

This doctoral dissertation was written under the supervision of Prof. Andrzej W. Nowak,

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Summary:

The presented dissertation addresses challenges of science and technology issues in

the perspective of Antonio Gramsci's philosophy in the context of the concepts of cultural

hegemony he developed.

The author takes on the modern understanding of capitalist progress in Gramscian-

oriented materialist philosophy frames. She is developing the original historical notions

provided by the Sardinian philosopher, adjusting them to the context of current

technological developments. The work presents the biographical and historical context of

the Sardinian philosopher and the resulting consequences for forming his dialectical

reflections. The author did 2 years of in-depth philosophical research in the Sardinian and

Italian archives and libraries, where she found original Italian editions of Gramsci's and

Gramsci's related books and articles. Part of the research was realized as a part of a visiting

fellowship in GramsciLab, affiliated with the University of Cagliari.

The main ideas proposed by Gramsci are exhaustively presented: cultural

hegemony, philosophy of practice, common sense, Fordism and Americanism, passive

revolution, and organic intellectuals. The author pays special attention to the Gramscian

understanding of logic, rhetorics, grammar, and technics due to the development of

notions that might be used to consider modern problems of science and technology. A

concept of logic seen not only as a technology of thinking (tecnica di pensiero) but also as a

political and educational force opens an exciting sphere to the critic of scientific Marxism

that, after Gramsci's reform, offers a comprehensive cultural and political project. The

main change made by Antonio Gramsci within Marxism was to direct thought to the

cultural and ideological layer, which is equally or more critical to the progress of civilization than the economic layer. Gramsci reconsiders the notions of structure (economic base) and superstructure (social and cultural, symbolical dimension of reality), turning towards cultural sources as a central reference to dialectical historical materialism.

The author pays particular attention to the reinterpretation of common sense from the technological perspective, revealing how technology is overtaking a daily way of thinking and coexisting with others in the techno-hegemonical reality. She is developing the concept of "technological common sense."

The author applies the reconstructed notions of the Sardinian philosopher to undertake an analysis of contemporary phenomena from the techno-scientific world, addressing the most pressing problems of modern development and proposing to apply Antonio Gramsci's dialectical philosophical perspective to them. She presents several case studies, both theoretical and practical, where one can see modern, anticapitalist critics or strategies of the technological world. She proposes applying reconstructed Gramscian notions to the newest technological activities, seeking in them an interesting philosophical and political answer to the most emergent problems like digital privacy, the alghorithmisation of reality, AI development and techno-feudalism.

Key words: philosophy of Antonio Gramsci, cultural hegemony, philosophy of praxis, science, technology