Ecosocial Transition and Debates from Latin America

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Abstract

The first two parts are more general, involving theoretical frameworks and definitions, Anthropocene, Collapse, Transition. In the other two parts I present a situated analyzes on the Energy Transition, some debates and its impacts in Latin America.

In the first part, I introduce the framework concepts: Anthropocene, Collapse and Transition, analytical categories that from my point of view are intrinsically related. Anthropocene in Latin America is connected with different models of development, specially with in latin american littérature we call neoextractivism. Likewise, I will reflect on the dimensions of the collapse, as part of the Anthropocene and its relationship with the Transition, with Ecosocial Transition.

From my perspective, the Ecosocial Transition must be understood in terms of comprehensive and profound social change, which encompasses all spheres of social life, as a change of socio-ecological regime. The socioecological transition is a larger horizon that should cause us to ask more radical questions about what kind of society we want to live in, what type of Anthropocene we are proposing for the future. In this framework, we call energy transition the passage from a conception of energy as a commodity, as fossil matrix, as having serious impact on the environment, private and concentrated, to another on. That conceives of it as a common good, renewable and sustainable in the full sense, common and decentralized. Therefore, it is not only about decarbonizing the energy model, but also about transforming the production model and, more generally, the system of social relations and the link with nature.

In the second part, it is important to underline some dominant visions about Energy transition: Corporate Energy Transition and the discussions about Just Transition.

It is difficult to find this type of systemic transition in the global context. For example, the experiences linked to the energy transition are basically associated with the proposals to change energy sources, to replace fossil and nuclear sources, to a transformation of the matrix, which does not include the energy system. In global terms, there are several aspects that intend to impose their vision of energy transition. As a starting point, a first great universe is the Corporate Energy Transition. I examine two leading cases of Corporate Energy Transition and its impact in Latin America: lithium and balsa wood.

Finally, I analyze the European Green Pact and its relation with the notion of Just Transition. This concept was created by the labor unions in Canada and the USA. It is
interesting how the concept has established itself two decades later as negotiable content in multilateral processes. I will ask in what way the discussion on the Just Transition is present in Latin American labor unions.