

FD, contella 3, 10

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Dear Maria Rossa,

We have been discussing your article- Reproduction and Emmigration- and would like to include it in ZW 3 that should be coming out in the fall. There was some disagreement over the perspective, but the major jist of the critique was that (1) there were some issues involved that were too lightly touched on and that (2) the article, in general, reads too rough. Two sets of notes from these discussions are included in this letter so I wont repeat. But I would like to add something that isnt in the notes.

One of the problems I have with ZW is that it is very succesful in providing an analysis of working class strategies and K's crisis but that it always ends at this point. There is rarely an attempt to give direction or fuel struggles that are ongoing because yes we are nervous about 'managing' struggles that is the traditional role of the left. We will never assume this role but till now the alternative is to live with a journal (?). What I particularly like about Wages for Housework is that it doesnt stop at the point of 'analysis' but that the understanding of WFH is at the same time the demand for women to organize, transending the wgae struggle. I think the struggle for WFH is inseparable to the understanding of it and becuse of this the power of women is immediately advanced. You see, the problem I have with your article is that it reminds me of what I find fault with in ZW

This is probably unclear, but I will be travelling to

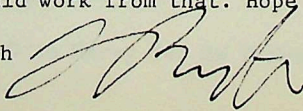
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**Zerowork**

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Italy soon and would like to talk with you about this article and other things. I am bringing a copy of the article in English with some editorial suggestions, so maybe we could work from that. Hope to see you soon

Lynda Bozarth





DISCUSSION ON THE DALLA COSTA ARTICLE:

A number of criticisms were raised in reference to the article "Reproduction and Emigration". Bettina raised a series of questions and general points which she felt were not sufficiently articulated upon in the article, specifically Dalla Costa's use of the term "refusal of procreation". Here, then, is a brief summary of our discussion on the article:

- 1) The term "Refusal of Procreation" needs to be further defined and clarified:
  - a) More evidence - for example, dietary deficiency leads to lower birthrates as do severe cuts in standard of living when women tend to take less food for themselves in order to feed their family. It's not a personal, political act, or is it?
  - b) Concept of women migrating and it's effect on procreation is different in Italy than in Africa, for example. There may be a refusal of marriage, but not necessarily sexual behavior.
  - c) Prostitution is not efficiently dealt with: in rural/urban migration (e.g. in Africa), women can't get jobs, so they go into prostitution, and from this go into factory work (est. 80% engage in this prostitution-factory transition). Phasing into urban life in this way is very distressing.

2) What does childlessness offer to women in places where she is only valued for her procreation? Is this a refusal or lessening of her own value? By refusing to procreate a woman loses social value, but also her children's wage-earning capacity by which she may survive (or receive benefits such as social security) However, one does not necessarily negate the other, although the contradictions inherent in refusing to procreate are plentiful. (By a woman's refusal or inability to have children, she may indeed lose "social value", but isn't this comparable to her "unreliability" in the work place?)

3) U.S. is unconnected with the conditions described in the article.

4) The link between emigration and reproduction needs to be clarified-- it seems as though women are controlling reproduction and the state is controlling emigration. Rather than depicting emigration exclusively as a state initiative, we must also question to what extent it is a working class initiative. (This issue comes up in Bruno's article - international circle of struggle related to emigration, which represents working class initiative to escape prosecution, etc.)

5) The decision not to procreate is not subjective in the sense that it's a personal, political decision; rather, it is a means of obtaining a higher standard of living, or having less housework, etc.

6) The article needs to be situated: the context of the article needs to be explained because the article is several years old, and also due to the fact that there has been additional material written since on the refusal to procreate.

7) Where is the article going in relation to Wages for HW?

QUESTIONS RAISED (by Phil) on BRUNO's ARTICLE:

1) To what extent is the act of reproduction the work of the whole working class, and not just the work of the unwaged?

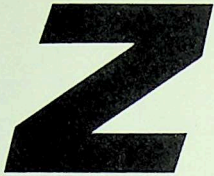
2) The question of valorisation (transformation of the immigrant ghetto from the socialization of survival-assimilation- VS the assertion of autonomous needs, and the political significance of reproduction which is not limited to women). How does this relate to the Wages for HW perspective?

OTHER BUSINESS: Phil shelled out \$40 to Harry for ZW T-Shirts, which we are now obliged to buy at \$2.50/shirt.



notes from discussion of  
Reproduction and  
Emmigrarion by  
Della Costa

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refusal of procreation needs to be more precise :  
was this a 'movement' , conscious, personal,  
individual action, linked to moe acces to birth  
control in the cities, refusal of sex, figures on abortion?

dietary deficiencies lead to cuts in birthrate because  
women usually assume the burden of a lowered standard  
of living by eating less

what does refusal of procreation have to offer women  
in a society where that is thier social 'function',  
from the paper it is revealed thta entry into the  
industrial work force is less than 'liberating'  
the direct link between emmigration and reproduction needs  
to be made clearer, immigration is not totally a state

counteroffensive, to what extent is immigration an initiative  
of the working class to raise thier own standard of living.

clarification of the term multinational

lack of material on sterilization and prostitution which are  
critical issues and essential to the subject of the paper

is there too much positivism? ,atoo often mistake of ZW,  
not a complete understandinf of the drawbacks, or negative  
aspects of refusal of procreation.

the state regulates the birthrate not only when it is too  
low, but also when it is too high as is the case in India,  
Mexico, Puerto Rico, ect., the state regulates the birthrate  
of sectors of the class.

tratment of U.S. sloppy, i.e., you would think that american  
women werent manipulated in and out of the workforce according  
to the needs of K, as they poen and close the border to  
Mexico when it suits them, or when the chicanos are no  
longer 'manageable'. Perhaps you can say that the effects of  
the war were pysicaly less violent, but while they were  
imposing sterilization and refusing education particularly  
to black women in the South, can you really say that it  
was non-violant?

what does this imply strategically for women, are women that  
secure in thier power against the state , what is the relation  
of WFH , since the emphasis was on women in the waged workforce  
as the lever of power and the source of the wage ?

We understand that since the publication of this article  
there has been much work that extends the analysis, could

you situate the article, introduction?

article reads very unorganized, partly translation, alot  
of repetition needs to be consolidated and tightened up ,  
there is no conclusion ,or the conclusion is in the introduction

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