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Multiculturalism and the New Geography of Nowhere

Map (of contents):

This contribution wants to analyze questions that are by now structural in the contemporary age, such as globalization, mobility of populations and the continue deterritorialization of ethnic cultures. We are talking about phenomenons that, in total, are modifying the territorial and geographic vision of national countries, the borders, the physical space of places represented especially by the community of resident inhabitants. The hypothesis of populations mixture, in fact, is showing in different territories of world, with the consequence that the variety of intercultural relationships modifies the link between subjects and regional cultures, bringing geographical territories on crisis. The crossing, the transit, the temporary or definitive stop are an example of that *metropolitan nomadism* that characterizes this our age of great mobility. The territorial crisis nursed already in the after war social sciences but it increases during the sixties as a fact connected above all with the USA, a country made foreign to its own inhabitants because of the effect of an ultra-mobility, as indicated by Packard in his text *A nation of strangers* (Packard, 1972).

In the philosophical reflection this brings to an inversion of the unifying visions, such as they were considered one time by the Unitarian Utopia (only one population, a common destiny, the same vision of the world, ecc.). It is , instead, empowered the idea of heterotopias, that involves a change in the spaces conception. For some scientists, the experience of variety and the principle of pluralism should show themselves according to this principle of heterotopias that is pertinent above all with the advent of the multicultural society. Rather than looking absolutely for the unity (the utopia), for example the Italian philosopher Vattimo (max representative of the weak thinking) writes, "in front of the globalization, that is the multiethnic, multicultural, multilinguistic society [...], in the world of the generalized communication, we can both try to save absolutely the unity and assume the plurality as inevitable horizon of our existence. This last one is the sense of passing from utopia to heterotopias" (Vattimo, 2005). It means that: more cultures together and more mixed sense horizons (*global mélange*) open other spaces and other places. The deterritorialization can increase this new *nowhere geography*.

- **Nowhere**
- **Cosmopolis**
- **Crossborder**

- **Globalizing the planet**
- **Migrants of the millennium**
- **On the road... to affirm Social Work**

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