

Drugs and addictions: support or obstacle to the functioning of post-modern society

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It seems that the post-modern world is confronted with an increase in the use of various prohibited, permitted (available on the "white" market) and medically prescribed "psychoactive" substances (remedies for "raising" and "lowering" spirits or the regulation of mood and other mental states and processes). Is it surprising? Not at all, if we consider the powerful factors that determine on the one hand the supply, and on the other, the demand in this enviably profitable sector of the formal and criminal economies. It is more or less obvious that (il)legal "drugs" increasingly function as "doping", enabling the user to sustain somehow the infernal rhythm, anxiety and related feeling of insecurity, and the unbearable pressure for efficiency (at work, in consumption and in private/family life).

In this perspective, their function is not "escapist", but rather "integrative". It is considered that drugs are dangerous because they lead to addiction (which is in some cases - although in disproportionately resounding and often badly understood cases - connected also with the commission of crimes). However, addiction is not related only to permitted or illicit substances, but also to activities, e.g. to heterogeneous work and spending money or even more to "playing" central social roles (and the maintenance of social order). In these cases, it usually happens that structural coercive forces have been transformed (internalized) by time into mental addictions (some kind of personality self-incarceration) and thus enable very varied capitalist violence (against societies, individuals and nature) to be continued indefinitely.

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