

Peemans, J. P. (2014). *Democracy, violence and the role of the State in the modernization of East and Southeast Asia*, in: Múnera, L and De Nanteuil, M. *The vulnerability of the world. Democracy and violence in globalization*. Bogotá: Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

It outlines some points that can illustrate the importance of place of relations between the States and the peasantry in the modernization processes and the various forms of violence that characterized in the period of 1950-2000.

Reviews the violence of relations between States and the peasantry in the starting phase of national modernization, 1950-1980; the years 1980-2000; the new forms of violence in extrovert neo-modernization; the recomposition of popular actors and their relationships with dominant actors; the impact of power relations between ruling elites and popular actors on the evolution of political systems; and it draws conclusions about it.

The democratic State is the result of the process of modernization of the whole of society, carried out by the universal laws of evolution towards progress, which Western countries show as the way to the success of the world. But the State is also responsible for the initiation of modernization based on the ability to mobilize the material and human resources of a traditional society, identified with a backward agrarian world, to put it at the service of the accelerated transition towards a modern society based on industrialization and urbanization.

The Southeast Asian experience is on the side of the recomposition of the relations of force between the actors of the political economy of development. On the one hand, there is a block of increasingly radical and aggressive elites that defend their privileges and a unique path of development centered on the logic of accumulation. On the other hand, there is an emergence of disorganized popular actors, of which various categories of peasantry are part, which require future security relations in relations with land and access to natural resources to ensure their survival and improvement of the life conditions. States in East and Southeast Asia are involved in this evolution towards relentless, violently conflictive, and increasingly chaotic modernization, trying to control evil rather than good. The task of reinventing a state capable of promoting balanced development in deeply unstructured societies, due to the type of modernization underway, seems to be an insurmountable challenge.

A major problem for reflection on democracy and sustainable rural development is the long-standing and persistent refusal of mainstream political and economic actors to consider a diversity of possible development paths and not just the single path of modernization focused on the demands of globalization. Sustainable development means prioritizing the search for urban and rural development strategies, aimed at improving the quality of the population.

To emerge from the cycles of founding violence, which continues to be reinvested, another development path would mean an evolution towards a model of substantive democracy, which is not on the agenda of the ruling elites, but will be at the center of the conflict and the future struggles.