

BIERNAT, Carolina and Karina RAMACCIOTTI (eds.), 2011, *Políticas sociales. Entre demandas y resistencias. Argentina 1930-1970*, Buenos Aires, Editorial Biblos. 208 pp.

The purpose of this compilation is to discuss the multiple arenas that states have at their disposal for carrying out social policies. Thus, it deals with those contexts that enable reflection and the implementation of solutions without ignoring the fact that on the terrain of social policies, interaction exists between a variety of actors and specific agencies, which agree on and dispute broader spaces of power and legitimation. To achieve these goals, this compilation includes a variety of theoretical approaches, from the social sciences to social history, and employs the following categories in the analyses: "social intervention of the state," "social policy," "state institutions," and "agencies of the state," as well as "politics" and the "state" in order to understand the logics developed in Argentina in the period 1930-1970.

The book dialogues with other works that study the state and its actors from renewed perspectives, and its fundamental contribution consists in confronting an object of study – social policies – that is heterogeneous but little researched until recently in the field of history, though studies in sociology and political science on the subject are more numerous. Social policies are analyzed by taking into account geographical and institutional complexities, while also recognizing the subjects who benefit or are addressed by such policies through analyses that are locally situated, and, in turn, serve to enable discussion of broader issues, such as temporal continuities and ruptures.

Before discussing each of the studies, it is important to point out that in this review, the commentaries are organized on the basis of a chronological approach to the issues and not on the basis of the structure of the book. Starting with the period beginning in 1930, Claudia Daniel in her study entitled "Statistics on the Constructions of the Social State (1930-1943)," analyzes the relations between the compilation of labor statistics and government interventions. The compilation of these statistics implied the legitimation of certain practices and prepared the ground for public policies between the coup d'état of 1930 and the military intervention of 1943. In addition, despite the gathering of information from workers, this did not translate into consistent policy intervention because the discourses as well as the data and procedures used reflected the struggle between capital and labor.

Adrián Cammarota, in "Youth, Gender and Education in the Perspective of the First Peronism," explores the experience of a school club in the Partido de Morón, Province of Buenos Aires, in its role as a promoter of cultural and physical activities. In addition, he analyzes youth representations projected by school institutions and the subjectivity of

these actors. Among the author's principal hypotheses is that these spaces incorporated values anchored in morality, biology, and in ideological baggage colored by nationalism and religion (which provided elements of continuity from previous periods). At the same time, the author stresses that these institutions were also characterized by some autonomy and self-organization that differed from the proposals of the authorities, and that co-education was important in that it created new types of relations between adolescents of different sexes.

The chapter on "Social Assistance and Peronist Governments in Córdoba" by María José Ortiz Bergia explores the trajectories of charitable societies in the jurisdictions of the Province of Córdoba and the relations that they established with local public powers. The author seeks to demonstrate that the charitable aspect of these societies was slowly eroded as a result of multiple factors, including competition with other actors and entities, the scarcity of economic resources, and the nationalization of various entities that had been previously monopolized by these societies. However, these societies also reorganized themselves, explored new activities for financing, and employed a new vocabulary in addressing their subjects. The author suggests that these factors are useful for understanding the process of restructuring social policies in the 1940s and concludes that the phenomenon of state centralization had a selective and partial character and, at the same time, these organizations continued their social activism during Peronism, albeit to a lesser extent than in previous decades.

In "Housing Policies in Jujuy during the First Peronism," Marcelo Jerez investigates this policy sphere in three districts: San Salvador de Jujuy, La Quiaca, and San Pedro. While the author does not deny the importance of solving problems in the areas of education, health, and public works, which all urgently needed state intervention, he does find that during the period analyzed, the deficit in housing units continued to be an urban problem despite direct government measures (construction of housing) and, above all, indirect measures (providing mortgages or lots, and expropriation of land). The principal beneficiaries were government employees, in a context of rapid urban growth. In addition, the author points out that these measures resulted in a resignification of these years in the collective memory due to the wellbeing that was achieved.

Jeremías Silva, in "The Training of Penitentiary Agents during Peronism," analyzes Peronist policies on jails. The author finds that the government adopted its policies from the conservative agenda. This interest in the processes of training prison professionals and other labor reforms invites us to reflect on the complexity of Peronist reforms, which tended to construct a more ample political imaginary, linking the problematics of public policies in the same period as well as studies about criminalization.

Finally, in regard to the post-Peronist years, Daniel Testa, in "SOS Vacines! Tensions between the State and Civil Society (1957-1971)," analyzes polio vaccination campaigns in Argentina with attention to the links between scientific knowledge and intervention policies through the development of legislation and campaigns for the prevention of this disease. The study reveals the relationships between medical knowledge and the political will on the part of the government and the measures it takes in a context marked by the process of legitimizing international and national health organizations.

This collection makes a very valuable contribution to the study of social policies, government intervention agencies and their primary beneficiaries, as well as to the study of Peronism. On the one hand, it invites us to think about the issue of periodization because it challenges the great national political periods as ways of ordering and explaining these problematics. The authors show that chronological flexibility allows us to appreciate ruptures and continuities in the symbolic universe and in the practices of the actors and the agencies involved. On the other hand, we want to note the multiplicity and originality of the sources explored by the authors, because they are rich in their heterogeneity and because of the scant attention they have received up until now. For example, the authors analyze various government documents (official bulletins, censuses, records of sessions of legislative bodies, etc.); testimonies; the national, provincial, and local press; and archives of secondary schools and social organizations, to mention just some of the sources. Finally, although all the authors make an effort to link their research to contemporary problems in order to provide them with relevancy, only some achieve this goal.

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