

Thesis Propositions

The Politics of Control: New Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Bolivia's Soy Complex

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1. New relations of production have enabled agro-industrial capital to control land and its productive resources without necessarily having tenure rights to the land. *This Thesis*
2. Hidden forms of exclusion are leading to the disappearance of the peasantry and smallholders and a further concentration of power and resource control within the agrarian sector. *This Thesis*
3. A market oligopoly controls the upstream and downstream components of Bolivia's soy complex, appropriating the majority of the surplus value produced. *This Thesis*
4. Smallholders have become adversely incorporated into new value-chain relations and caught in contradictory class positions which hinders class consciousness and organized forms of resistance permitting a functional dualism in the countryside. *This Thesis*
5. Bolivia's soy complex is exclusive and extractive – socially, economically and environmentally – and is better characterized as a type of agrarian extractivism rather than industrial agriculture. *This Thesis*
6. Poverty and inequality are relational problems and cannot be solved with residual or technical fixes.
7. A property rights-based approach to resource distribution fails to capture the increasingly complex relations of access which enable people to benefit from things.
8. Sectoral and social articulation is central for robust and sustainable development and requires synergies between agriculture and industry and the rural and urban.
9. The convergence and unity of social movements can be a powerful force for change, so long as a high degree of autonomy is maintained from the state apparatus.
10. The logic of power is similar to the logic of capital in its incessant drive for accumulation.
11. “The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to *change* it” – Karl Marx