

Humanities, Democracy and Economy

Our initial starting point is that the humanities have always been the formative basis of a society that subsists over time. Without them, every society becomes technocratic and tends to subsume the image of the human being to criteria that end up distancing it from its essence. The consequences are manifested in an instrumentalization of human relations that end up considering the utilitarian or pragmatic criteria as the ultimate foundation of our moral foundation. In such a situation, democracy is devoid of elements that guarantee the common good of citizens and thus ensure a coexistence in justice and peace.

From this initial statement, we wonder what role the economy plays in the development of the humanities of a country. If the focus of the problem is the absence of the humanities in citizen education, it would seem that private investment could fill this educational gap. The economist Milton Friedman indicated that for-profit institutions generate better results in their administrative and pedagogical management. The results of the PISA tests in Chile, a country with a strong policy of private investment in education, are often cited as an example of this. However, it is doubtful that the PISA tests represent an adequate indicator to measure the humanistic formation of the citizen, of which we have been speaking.

A humanistic education implies, in fact, attention to a multiplicity of factors that go far beyond the type of economic management, and require a serious and honest reflection on the general situation of the human being in the 21st century.

Within this framework, challenged by the need to find answers to this situation, the non-profit association ÁGORA HUMANIDADES & CULTURAL held the DNG FORUM (challenges for a new generation). Inspired by Martha Nussbaum's book *Not for Profit*, our association developed this forum under the question "Why does democracy need the humanities?"

Among the exhibitors were Mauricio Beuchot, internationally recognized for his work on analogical hermeneutics; Paola Delbosco, president of the National Academy of Education; Carlos Hoevel, author

of the book *La industria académica*; Juan Pablo Roldán, Marisa Mosto, Martín Susnik, José Manuel Flores Eudave, many of them graduated from this house of studies.

In this new issue of *Cultura Económica* we present the special dossier entitled *Humanities, Democracy and Economy*, which includes some of the papers presented at said forum.

Firstly, we publish the article "Analogical hermeneutics and the humanities" by Mauricio Beuchot, internationally recognized for his work on analogical hermeneutics. In this article, this philosopher presents us two contrasting positions in relation to truth: on the one hand, univocal hermeneutics with claims of clear and distinct mathematical accuracy; on the other, the equivocal hermeneutics of a postmodern nature in which there is not one truth, but many, installing relativism in thought. Beuchot considers that his proposal for analogical hermeneutics allows us to find a middle ground between these two positions, a philosophy of interpretation that generates an interdisciplinary dialogue that does not lose sight of the metaphysical foundations of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Secondly, we present the article by Marisa Mosto focused on the issue of *freedom at risk*. Considering the situation of dispersion of the current world, characterized by the vertigo and totalitarianism of the world of work and social networks, the author proposes a way out from the thought of Edith Stein.

Thirdly, we publish the article "Invisible totalitarianisms and identity crisis in the 21st Century" by Martín Susnik. The author points out how from the relativism that some authors propose, together with a debatable conception of respect for difference, the conditions for the loss of identity and totalitarian domination are generated, from the metaphysical and psychological aspects, with the particularity of that these result in less identifiable current times.

In the Essays section we include the work of Juan Pablo Roldán, who reflects on the tendency of postmodern thought to erase identities as a form of progress for humanity, in order to dismantle power discourses. According to the author, thinkers such as Jacques Rancière and Paul B. Preciado, among others, promote this response as an ethical model of "disidentification."

Finally, to close the *dossier*, José Manuel Flores Eudave refers in his essay to the topic of the *usefulness of the useless*. The author intends to show that the knowledge of the humanities, even without having a practical purpose in particular, can broaden our horizon of understanding of what the world and the human being are.

Outside of the *dossier*, we present the article by Ignacio Warnes that develops the issue of *exchange rate volatility on economic growth and international trade*. At the same time, we publish Leonardo A. Caravaggio's essay "The Happiest Countries in the World", with references to the World Happiness Report (WHR).

Finally, we publish Jerónimo Ramírez's review of the latest book by American thinker Patrick Deneen, *Why liberalism failed?*

We hope you enjoy reading this special issue dedicated to the humanities, democracy and the economy, and the other articles that accompany this issue of *Cultura Económica*.

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