

Introduction

One of the major problems of the contemporary world is the inequality that exist between the economic and social conditions in different countries, inequalities that are the basis of the theories of the world where it appears as a dichotomy between the center and the periphery (Wallerstein, 1985). While in some countries the Industrial Revolution and the intense technological progress taking place for the past two centuries have allowed a huge increase in income per capita, spreading well-being among the entire population, in most countries however poverty is a source of great misery still prevalent. So the world is clearly divided into two: one is the center of the most industrialized countries, home to just one third of the global population but consumes over 80% of the revenue produced in the world; on the other hand, a much larger group of countries of the so-called Third World, the periphery of the world where the remaining two-thirds of humanity struggle daily for survival. 56% of the world population lives in poverty; 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, 2.8 billion live on two dollars a day. These two large blocks can be renamed as countries of the center and the periphery, developed countries and developing or underdeveloped countries.

The theme of development remained the main tool to legitimize the actions of the colonial period, continuing to sustain relationships of domination between the so-called First and Third World, traditional and modern, simple and complex. And it is from this vantage point that we can introduce the concept of cooperation for development as reconnected to the guidelines accrued in colonial policies since the Treaty of Versailles.

It is after the Great Depression, that it was recognized that the colonial powers had the obligation, and even convenience in their own interest, to promote the economic and social development of the conquered populations. It was understood in fact that public aid, was a useful tool for the economic and social development of countries in the periphery of the world, the promotion of which was to represent itself a collective responsibility of the world community. as a form of social-spatial justice (Dansero, 2008).

Cooperation for development therefore includes the use of public fund budgets, or charitable funds of non-governmental organizations, non-profit organization (NGO), to promote economic and social development of the beneficiary countries. Sometimes, however, through the cooperation whose aim is to "help" other nations to "develop" by exporting the same model used in the rest of the planet without explaining what the reasons are and what development aid is. Often working with good will is not enough, there is a need for conducting a thorough study of every individual situation, in every place and in every independent community. Geographical studies can make an important contribution to a critical level in the vast field of development studies, as well as in field work and other practices of development cooperation. These studies bind together places that are specific points in space, creating links, collaborations and additions at different scales of action. There are many actors who may be involved in these practices, local institutions, community based organizations, governments, national and international organizations, all with different methodologies and approaches to social - spatial inequality in the world.

My interest in these subjects was born from my experiences in cooperation over the past two years, with an association currently active in Kenya, Tanzania and Syria; I personally participated in the missions in Kenya (Korogocho) one of the biggest slum in Nairobi. For this I applied and was accepted to participate in the program EXTRA – A scholarship program that facilitates students an allocated amount of time in foreign institutions with the premise of thesis development. I have thus spent three months in Nairobi attached to the public programs and education department at the Nairobi National Museum, which is the headquarters of the National Museums of Kenya. The goal of this thesis developed, modified and consolidated itself during my presence and interactions with the heads of public projects of education, art, health facilitating a firsthand contact with the projects.

The first part of my work focuses on the description of the theories and relations between the center and periphery, as related to the socio-economic world system division.

Particular attention is given to urban development and urban space in developing countries with the relations between centers and peripheries of these megacities and the problem of social - spatial justice for the different social classes living in the peripheries.

The second chapter focuses on cooperation for development as a tool to achieve social-spatial justice in the peripheries. I have described the relationship between space and development and highlighted the different practices of cooperation aiming to achieve local development.

The third and the fourth chapters focuses on Nairobi and the Nairobi National Museum as a case study. It describes the formation of this megalopolis, its urban development, the peripheries that surround the city center, the slums and the social-economic conditions of the residents in these neighborhoods. These informal settlements are described by providing a brief summary of their establishment, their characteristics and their social, economic and cultural problems. These are the typical places where cooperation for development puts into action its practices, but who are the actors? How is all this related to the concepts of center and periphery? And what are the methodologies used to work with the community?

The research question therefore stands as what efforts are the National Museums of Kenya as an institution, a museum for the people and of the people, is taking to bridge the huge gap between the center and outskirts of the city, region and country? Are these sustainable and sufficient? Can education and art promoted through an institution like a museum in particular promote urban and community development? My interactions with the facilitators and project managers and the projects themselves have helped me to answer these questions. During my stay in Nairobi I lived in the suburbs of the city, living in this environment informed my viewpoint to provide as full descriptions as possible whilst remaining objective and truthful to the situation.

This work aims to study the relationship between development, territory and cooperation, taking a keen interest from a geographical perspective thus providing motivations for reflections in addition to the study of the social phenomena on the territory of Kenya as a nation and particularly the capital, Nairobi.