

Paulo Eduardo Arantes

*Tentativo di identificazione dell'ideologia francese.
Una introduzione (1990)*

a cura di Giovanni Zanotti

The Brazilian philosopher Paulo Eduardo Arantes wrote the essay An Attempt to Identify French Ideology in Portuguese in 1990. Here an Italian translation is published with an introduction by Giovanni Zanotti. While the introduction outlines the broader context of Arantes's philosophical reflection, the essay challenges the widespread conception of French post-structuralism as the theoretical counterpart of (American) post-modernism and lays down some preliminary coordinates for a possible alternative reading. First, the phrase "French ideology" – in the Marxian sense – is used to define the entire phase of French post-war thought that includes structuralism and post-structuralism, subsequent to the Sartrean "golden age of historical consciousness" and characterized by a cultural and political "narrowing of the horizon". Secondly, such abstractness is traced back to the tradition of French and German cultural criticism – conceived in turn as an expression of the particular history of capitalist modernization in both countries. "French ideology" is thus explained as a late "recapitulation" of aesthetic modernism in a pseudo-theoretical form. In the last part of the essay, Arantes rejects any attempt to conflate the early Frankfurt School's critique of domination with the post-structuralist deconstruction of power relations. Rather, he offers an Adornian interpretation of the two main currents in post-68 critical philosophy ("French theory" and the Habermasian school) as opposite poles of the same movement – not "modernity" versus counter-Enlightenment, but a further moment of the "dialectic of Enlightenment", nevertheless lacking awareness of dialectics itself.

Keywords: *French theory; ideology; Habermas; dialectics; Brazilian philosophy*

Presentazione

Paulo Arantes, la dialettica e il problema dell'"ideologia francese"

1. Presentiamo qui in traduzione italiana un saggio del filosofo e storico delle idee brasiliano Paulo Eduardo Arantes, pubblicato per la prima volta nel 1990 sulla rivista «Novos Estudos» (São Paulo, CEBRAP, 28, pp. 74-98) con il titolo: *Tentativa de Identificação da Ideo-*