

Protest and conflict: discursive spaces and emerging leaders

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SMALL TO LARGE MINORITIES

This paper studies the mobilization and strategies of populations affected by violence in native populations of Ayacucho and Iquitos, sectors considered "marginal", historically forgotten or ignored and which experienced dramatic events. We speak of "two large minorities" because although demographically or politically may be marginal, they raise fundamental issues for the national democratic construction bringing the way that overcomes the hard-core exclusion barriers to bear. The study shows the countless and limited attention of their requests (referring to the dispute over the environment protection or memory and repairs) and self-assertion processes. We recover their practices, organizational trajectories and statements, trying to overcome the slant that interprets processes and configuration of actors from the social and political scene in Lima.

We researched the role of human rights and the rights of native peoples in regional agendas. We proposed the hypothesis that although the rights of native peoples joined the national agenda in 2009 due to dramatic events in Bagua, they would not have priority on the regional agenda and the rights of people affected by violence may have a strong impact on the regional agenda of Ayacucho, but little impact on the national agenda. The study confirms these statements. However, national or regional government agendas and the public debate encouraged by civil society and mobilization are different. Indigenous organizations have long-standing and have promoted initiatives and projects for communities, the populations affected by violence are the conversational partners before the regional government achieving public resources for registration. Likewise, they tend to centralize the scattered efforts becoming voices recognized by their peers. In practice, a process of re-appropriation of human rights notions occurs as

a discursive strategy, strengthening organizations and allowing them to act together on justice and reparation. Unlike previous decades, the strengthening of organizations observed in Iquitos is accompanied by processes of self-assertion of natives' condition and preparation of statements. In both cases, there are new generations of young people who participate actively in mobilizations and organizations.

Organizations channel demands and proposals, but also act as an expression of individuals demanding recognition and representation. Thus, the State not only faces conflicts, but a challenge regarding the mechanisms of social and political inclusion of social individuals who appear as "emerging" for the centralized policy and urban society, but they were always in their local and regional scenarios.