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### **Epilogue – What is the “South” in Southern City?**

Conceived as an epilogue, the chapter will take into account the work done by all the contributors to the book and will discuss some of the most relevant theoretical issues at stake in the investigation of the “Southern City.” In this abstract we limit ourselves to mention some of these issues.

There is first of all a need to emphasize that the Southern city is a site of conflict and uprising. After discussing different approaches to social struggles in Southern cities (say, from “plebeian revolt” in Latin America to movements of the poor in South Africa and different variants of popular politics in India), we will focus on the movements that in the second decade of the century have swept several world regions, from the Maghreb to Iraq and Lebanon, from Chile to Hong Kong and Istanbul (see Bevins 2023). We will note that such movements and uprisings have often anticipated and spurred analogous mobilizations in the so-called Global North, in a way reshuffling the relations between “center” and “periphery.”

This moment of reshuffling will provide us with one of the main conceptual threads for writing the chapter. We will provide a genealogical account of current uses of the “South,” and “global South,” discussing such notions as the Third World and the Tricontinental and above all focusing on Gramsci through a discussion of Ranabir Samaddar’s reading of “The Southern Question.” Following Stuart Hall (1986), we will on the one hand highlight the international dimension of the “Southern Question” (see also Chambers 2015), while on the other hand we will pay attention to the displacement of the “margins” toward the “center,” which turns the “Southern Question” into a global one.

After doing that we will discuss in more detail the urban reference in the phrase “Southern city.” A short discussion of the single issue of the paper *La città futura*, written in 1917 by Gramsci on behalf of the Socialist Youth Federation of Turin, will introduce a focused analysis of the geographical coordinates of modern urbanization. Issues of scale and colonialism will figure prominently in the outline we will provide here. At stake for us is an emphasis on the dramatic transformations of the very urban form engendered by global processes of the last decades. Going beyond the vexed notion of the “global city,” we will focus on the ways in which financialization, logistics, and platformization have led to the emergence of what is currently discussed in terms of a planetary urbanization (see for instance Brenner 2018). Far from being a homogenizing process that levels spatial differences, planetary urbanization provides a framework to analyze the multifarious ways in which the Southern city often anticipates and drives metropolitan developments at the global level. Instances from different parts of the world will be discussed to illustrate this point.

The chapter will close harking back to the question of uprising, unruly behaviors, and social struggles in the Southern city, in an attempt to outline the main political challenges this notion raises today.

#### References

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