

PROGRESS OF WHAT CIVILISATION?

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Abstract

This article analyses some transformations in the meaning of the word progress over time, from the 19th century, when it was in fashion, to the present day. It will briefly look at how progress has become “progresses” and has undergone a series of metamorphoses that have shaped it into growth, development and sustainability, creating new versions. The central idea of progress, however, is always one of technological and scientific expansion, and prioritised investment in it is never truly questioned. It is precisely this aspect that will be critically examined in the article, finding within it a naturalisation of progress. Finally, based on an interpretation of a tale by Eça de Queirós, *Civilização*, the need for a debate is suggested, regarding the forms of progress and civilisation that are able to encourage the political creation of conditions for a “good life”.

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