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*Inter-Ação is the quarterly journal of the Faculty of Education and Graduate Education Program FE/UFG, from Federal University of Goiás. Its goal is to blind ad hoc reviewers and members of the Scientific Council, unpublished work resulting from theoretical studies and research on education, including, mainly, the following topics: Cultural and educational processes; State Policies and educational practices; Education, labor and social movements; and Fundamentals of educational processes.*

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## PRESENTATION

### **No to be forgotten! A dossier committed to the history and memory of Brazilian education**

*Apesar de você  
Amanhã há de ser  
Outro dia...*  
[Chico Buarque]

In the early 1960s, part of the country was in total turmoil due to a failed coup attempt in 1961 by military groups supported by businessmen, landowners, the church, and others. During the Cold War, the heads of the armed forces forbade the investiture of João Goulart, the vice president of President Jânio Quadros, who had resigned because they considered him a leftist [c o m m u n i s t]. The Legality Campaign, led by Leonel Brizola, upheld the constitution by keeping Jango in office and preventing a coup. If it hadn't been for that, the coup would have been expected three years earlier.

From 1961 to 1964, President João Goulart moved to contain powerful groups while proposing necessary and fundamental reforms that still threaten the elites today, such as agricultural, university, urban, electoral, and other reforms. Against this backdrop, military groups, with the support of the United States of America and other sectors of Brazilian society, planned and carried out a coup that took place on April 1, 1964. The undemocratically imposed military coup lasted for twenty-one years under the cover of authoritarianism, persecution, censorship, imprisonment, exile, torture, death, disappearances, and other actions that greatly harmed the Brazilian people.

More than half a century after a time of pure pain and intense repression, the epigraph of this presentation includes a fragment of the song "Apesar de você" (In spite of you – free translation), by Chico Buarque, because in the face of a time that cannot be forgotten, today is a new day, and although much has not been done to punish torturers and bring justice, it is essential and necessary to publicize and problematize the issue of the dictatorship.

Thus, six decades after the military coup, the *Journal Inter-Ação*, which is committed to the dissemination of educational sciences, especially human rights issues, is publishing a special issue in 2024, Volume 49, in a dossier-type publication entitled: *Educação, Democracia e Estado Autoritário: 60 Anos do Golpe Militar no Brasil* (Education, Democracy and the Authoritarian State: 60 Years of the Military Coup in Brazil), to provide debates in the field of educational research on the 60th anniversary of the military coup in Brazil. We know how much the teaching spaces, knowledge production, confrontation, rebellion, and struggle for democracy were attacked, violated, and persecuted from beginning to end by the executioners of the military dictatorship.

We are publishing this dossier with articles written by researchers from all over Brazil, to highlight the diversity of topics covered. An educational mosaic that was interrupted and traversed by the brutality of the military state, but that added up to reactions, stories, and memories that, confronted with different theories, manage to dialogue with the past and to the present.

The types of education presented in the memory and history of education include writings on basic education, higher education, and social movements. The public schools are confronted as a space of legitimization of the coup, through the

reactions of the struggle for democracy on the dates imposed by the military as a place of celebration. The confrontations of the student movement, the youth movements, the women, the silencing of the history of the militants in the armed guerrilla war, the solidarity experienced by women in times of leadership are all topics that are recorded in order to broaden the debate on a period of actions and reactions.

There are also the consequences of the military coup in the present, such as the imposition of militarized public schools, public security populism, female reactions, conservative curricula, attacks on Freirean concepts, the relevance of the installation of the National Truth Commission (CNV), history textbooks, the ambiguous role of the Catholic Church (before and after the coup), as well as the struggle for democratic education in the face of neo-conservative attacks on human rights policies in Brazil.

It is the university's role to discuss times without freedom, of anti-democratic impositions, to keep the memory alive, constantly and continuously about this period in Brazilian history. It is our duty to make visible issues, objects, facts, and people whose stories were obscured by the power of the military weapon. We have to bring studies about the resistance of people and groups that actively participated in this period and guaranteed our rights to freedom and democracy.

Finally, without being able to finish, because it is a subject that cannot be seen as done, we must remember the recent conservative movements that include, among other actions, the armed coup to depose the president elected for a second term in 2016, Dilma Vana Rousseff, a militant imprisoned and tortured in the military dictatorship, the promotion of torturers and the denial of the period as a time of violence and military imposition. We can't forget the perversity of the silence of this period, since it has allowed, among many other actions, the calls for the return of the dictatorship, provoked above all by a national government [2019-2022] that, in addition to praising the military dictatorship, has been a denier in times of pandemic, causing the death of almost a million people by the Covid-19 virus.

Recently, on January 8, 2023, we experienced another coup attempt by not accepting the victory of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. This shows the risks we face from a fragile, young democracy. Military groups, together with other conservative segments, under the slogan of the extinct Cold War, of the communist threat, are investing, among other things, against democratic, free, secular, and autonomous education.

Confrontation is necessary! Knowledge is important, because we, university communities, don't write under assumptions, suppositions, or hatred. We write academically, with documents, with listening, and with evidence. This dossier is an assessment of that. It's a piece of material made up of research, confrontation, and a lot of dedicated time. Maybe this material will help us to think that the military dictatorship was a period that shouldn't be commemorated with pomp and parties sponsored with public money, as the military does, but with debates, studies, and carefully made analyses.

Good reading!  
Good reactions!

Diane Valdez (PPGE/FE/UFG)  
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