

Abstract:

In his texts, Theodor W. Adorno subjects the organization of Western societies to harsh criticism in the second half of the 20th century. Especially in the *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, of which he is a co-author, he criticizes the current form of rationality, which he puts in context with the oppression, domination and commodification of the surrounding world and others. In this bachelor's thesis, I deal with the interpretation of Adorno's concept of dominion as a concept whose critique can potentially help us to better articulate the problematic aspects of our current relationship to non-human nature and to others. For a better understanding of this issue and its connection with environmental philosophy, I chose the theory of social ecology by Murray Bookchin. In his book *Ecology of freedom*, he talks about the creation of hierarchical relationships in human communities as the main cause of man's domination over non-human nature. Both authors contextualize the dominion we exercise over nature with the dominion we exercise over others. Bookchin then draws on Adorno in his critique of rationality, and both criticize the instrumentalization of reason, which instead of cognition serves as an instrument of control. At the same time, both present possible solutions to the current situation, which consist in an intentional effort to provide others and non-human nature with a greater degree of autonomy. While Adorno presents this critique rather enigmatically in *Negative Dialectics* within the framework of the characterization of the relationship between subject and object, and presents as a solution "the object's preponderance" and the "understanding of the subject in its constellation", Bookchin comes up with the concept of "wholeness" and calls for an intentionally symbiotic relationship with non-human nature, which is supposed to be based on intellectual knowledge of the surrounding world and the provision of a higher degree of autonomy.

Keywords: Theodor W. Adorno, Murray Bookchin, enlightenment, domination, environmental philosophy, climate crisis

