

# **The Response of Greek Social Movements to the Capitalist Crisis**

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## **Abstract:**

Greece is at the forefront of a social war raging throughout the south and, gradually spreading towards the north of Europe. Within the huge gap of social (re)production left behind by this war, the constituent power of social movements emerges as a resurgent force with the potential to address these needs and desires and, correspondingly, shape life in common.

During the five years of the crisis Greek movements have responded with the aim to provide the material bases for social reproduction by means of solidarity, collaboration and participatory democracy. From solidarity initiatives to social cooperatives and commons' communities citizens have built their own counter – institutions from the bottom up, setting alternative social dynamics in motion and decisively entering the central political stage.

For grass-roots militants in Greece it is today more than ever obvious that time / space is needed to be gained from the disciplinary power of capital and the iron fist of the neoliberal state in order to amass sufficient social power for radical and society - wide transformations.

As Murray Bookchin has rightly stated, "if we do not do the impossible, we shall be faced with the unthinkable".