

What's next for grassroots movements after Syriza's capitulation?

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Abstract:

The neoliberal attack that started in Greece in 2010 produced at least two types of responses: On the one hand are those who demand the restitution of the welfare state as an instrument of redistribution, the reinforcement of the state as mediator of social antagonisms and the return of economic growth with the aim of alleviating mass unemployment. On the other hand, there is a multitude of movements that propose going beyond the state and the capitalist economy as organising principles of social life; movements that have begun to construct radical alternatives here and now based on proximity, solidarity, self-management and participation.

The electoral rise of the Syriza party resulted from the consolidation of the first imaginary, that of an "institutional" response to the neoliberal attack. In its rise to power, it created a hegemony within the anti-austerity movements, contributing in their demobilization.

For two years there has been an uncomfortable relationship of these movements with the Syriza party. However, in its 6 months in power it has betrayed each and every promise towards the social movements, instead opting for the continuity of the previous political framework and making alliances with the capitalist class and the entrenched oligarchic interests. To top this off, it has voted in a package of reactionary austerity measures that will further compress the lower classes and will attack and enclose the commons.

But, worst of all, they have convinced the bulk of the population that "there is no alternative" to the measures of neoliberal restructuring.

Where do the grassroots movements stand after their divorce with the Syriza party? What are the prospects for reactivation of the popular resistances after the complacency of the last few years? What is the role of the autonomous and horizontal movements in the context of the renewed attack on people and nature that this new memorandum will bring about?

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