

Some reflections on:

Resistance, change and alternatives: Tracing a modern left strategy

It is worth highlighting that knowledge transforms our views, ethics, values and opinions about the state of affairs. The running water of the roman aqueducts was once seen as unprecedented progress, while nowadays drinking water which passes through lead pipes hardly seems a good idea at least to those knowledgeable enough and capable of acting upon their knowledge. Yet, this progress does not signify that clean drinking water as a public good is available to oppressed and exploited masses in the peripheries of our globalised world which has finite resources. Neither is economic and social progress linear as neoliberals believe or declare.

There are a number of defining aspects of the global situation. We can trace and understand to an extent the current workings and the ongoing transformations or trends of the global capitalist economic system. The activities of production, consumption and distribution as well as the functions of governance, justice and education are conducted sub optimally given our best current understanding of things. Capitalism seems capable of consistently producing and increasing inequality across regions and social classes, implementing an ever deepening exploitation while producing social effects ranging from undesirable to monstrous. While there is ample evidence and reasons supporting the last proposition, its nature is partial. A systematic alternative that could be demonstrated as being superior is what seems to be lacking. No matter how bad existing capitalism is, it does exist. Unless there is a viable alternative, critique by itself cannot succeed in producing change. The fundamental issues of production, consumption and reproduction of a society need to be addressed. What goods and services shall be produced, and in what quantities? How shall goods and services be produced? For whom shall goods and services be produced? The essence of any proposed alternative must be able to address the expressed critiques and known problems at hand while catering at least with equal success to the needs that exist. In doing so, a historically informed analysis is indispensable. One must also take under account the finite amount of natural resources, the constraints on knowledge and technology, the complexity and interconnected nature of economic activity, the global character of human civilisation in the light of evolving phenomena such as oligarchisation, financialisation and transnationalisation of capital. The answer to the problem described, the design of an alternative economic system, is neither simple nor self implementing. However, it will effectively change the level

and nature of political dialogue enabling the use of new policies by the forces of resistance and make the struggle much more efficient. Like a roman aqueduct, capitalism has become outdated, inefficient and dangerous. At some point in time, sooner rather than later, we should stop using it.

On the way forward, moving on from the theoretical basics to resistance, change and alternatives, we inevitably need to think on organizing effective solidarity and setting the basis for common action.