

For a Self-Managing Republic that Annuls the Republic of Parliaments and Businesses

By Raoul Vaneigem¹

The era in which we are trying to live, in the midst of the ruins, is that of a mutation whose earthquakes are shaking the entire world: the death throes of the old civilization haven't ended; the new one is slow to hatch, as if it fears its own audacity.

1. The parodic civil war fought between conservatism and progressivism takes part in a dramatization that hides the real war, the war of mass destruction undertaken by capitalism. While retro-Bolshevism and retro-Fascism battle it out, globalized mafias poison and pollute towns and villages with impunity. And while municipalities, neighborhoods and regions that aspire to more humanity remain isolated and without voices, impotent rage and compulsive indignation let off steam with braggarts' provocations and trashcans set on fire.

2. The State and its sponsors prioritize their interests over ours. Worrying about our fate is up to us alone. Our legitimacy comes from our humanity.

3. Our struggle is inseparably existential and social. It doesn't deny personal religious or ideological options; it is the mutual aid that surpasses them and has the ability to harmonize them. In the struggles of civil disobedience, who cares about skin color, gender or beliefs?

4. On their own, the people make the decisions that concern them and their environment in accordance with the line of self-managing experiments conducted by the Spanish libertarian collectives of 1936. The Zapatistas in Chiapas, the insurgents in Rojava, and the most radical elements of the Gilles Jaunes in France are *unanimously* inspired by them today, despite the diversity of their historical, political and geographical conditions. The appearance of small societies that seek to manage themselves and to federate at the municipal and then regional levels inevitably exposes the existence of errors, confusion and "havoc," as the State's cockroaches like to put it. But everything corrects itself when there are no human deaths or guilt. What do we risk when we experiment with societies that live together at a time when we are always being treated like guinea pigs in the laboratories of dehumanization and profit making?

¹ POUR UNE REPUBLIQUE AUTOGESTIONNAIRE ABROGEANT LA REPUBLIQUE PARLEMENTAIRE ET AFFAIRISTE, which constitutes Chapter 18 of *Retour à la base*, a 68-page-long pamphlet published by the Belgian publisher Cactus inébranlable [cactusinebranleeditions.com]. This excerpt published on 20 March 2021 by the blog that Vingtras maintains on Mediapart: <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/vingtras/blog/200321/le-printemps-de-raoul-vaneigem>. Translated by NOT BORED! on 22 March 2021.