

Introduction to Raoul Vaneigem's "Unity and Differences on the Insurrections in France and Chile"¹

By EVADE CHILE 2020 #²

Every day it is increasingly clear that is the people in their own territories who can immediately change and improve their material and subjective conditions. Those of us who continue to encounter each other in the ebb and flow of the waves of contestation against capitalist normality³ share the feeling of having departed from our isolation, of having found ourselves in unexpected encounters with everyone else.

The experience of collectively recognizing the growing misery in which our lives have sunk, and the awareness that it does not need to be like this, have catalyzed an explosion of anger, the impact of which threatens to tear down the foundations of the social organization that impoverishes us. Just as the beginning of the twentieth century saw the first proletarian offensive against global capitalist society and the 1970s saw a second wave of contestation, now we are confronting what seems to be the third wave.

With this in mind, we posed the following questions to our comrade, Raoul Vaneigem:

Are the insurgent masses of Chile and France, as well as all those other insurgent territories around the world, closer to ridding themselves of the burden of the old world and attaining freedom than they were in 1968? In other words, how different or similar are the conditions that announce life and propagate death, then and now, in these territories?

As you know, those who lit the spark of the insurrection in Chile are part of a generation of young people who lost all the fear that was

¹ Originally written in French. Published in a Spanish translation by EVADE CHILE 2020 #. Translated into English from the French by NOT BORED!: <http://www.notbored.org/unity-and-differences.pdf>.

² Text provided by and translated into English by its author(s). Copyedited by NOT BORED! 11 February 2020.

³ In October 2019, a strong protest movement emerged in Chile, first in Santiago, and then across the whole country, in response to increases in subway fares.

accumulated during the decades of military dictatorship and “Democratic transition.” In light of your life experience, what can you say to the young insurgent generations of today?

What follows is his answer. We hope that reading it can nurture debates that push us to move forward with more determination in the creation of new relationships outside the roles imposed by money. The new life is already creating them without waiting for any “Constituent Process”: it is the immediate solidarity against the domination of utilitarian reason, the outburst of anonymous and collective creativity, here and now, in the streets, the neighborhoods, the squares, the subways, and the occupations. Feared by the functionaries of Capital, this gives us energy, changes what we do, what we feel, what we think.