

## Greek Revolution

During the protests against police brutality in response to the string of killings by Eureka police, many people said we as a community need to aim towards making radical social change so that people being murdered by police would end. At the same time that we were gearing up for anarchist book fair in Manila (California, at the same time the death of 15 year old Alexandros Grigoropoulos December 6th at the hands of police ignited a revolt that would spread across Greece and across the world.

The wide spread revolt grew out of riots and street fights against the police state and capitalism by young Anarchists in the form of police stations banks and upscale businesses. Then it grew from street battles to occupations of universities and secondary schools, a TV station was taken over by protesters to communicate their revolutionary vision in their own fight had words, a conservative union hall had been taken by union members. Those are only a few tall tale signs that this uprising was turning into a popular revolt rejecting capitalism and the state for its callous and systematic prioritizing of profit over people and tyranny over freedom.

There is a history in Greece of young people fighting the powers that be. According to an interview of a Greek anarchist on the ground by Crimethinc ex-workers collective, "In 1973, the young people were the only ones who took the risk to revolt against the seven-year-running-dictatorship, even if this was not the only cause of the end of dictatorship, it remains in the collective memory that the students saved Greece from the dictators and the domination of the U.S." So when anarchists across Greece rose up against the state, the public was already sympathetic, partly due to that history, but also due to the involvement and influence anarchist ideas have on regular people in Greece in everyday life.

Anarchist movement in Greece is one of the largest in the world considering the population thanks to it's ideas methods and actions. Anarchists actions like stealing from the supermarket distributing products for free to the people became very popular and well accepted. Attacks on banks have become very popular in light of the financial crisis. The fact that Greek anarchists no longer have any subcultural influence within their movement (as a conscious choice) since 1993 helps quite a bit anarchists in Greece can listen to any music or dress however but no style is confused with a political identity. Coordination of protests and actions is due in a big part that there are more that 50 anarchist social centers in all universities and anarchist neighborhoods in every major city and hundreds of Affinity groups\*.

The protesters occupied universities workplaces bureaucratic organizations, they decided what actions would come next by on the ground democratic assembly with big groups (anar-



\* Occupied Polytechnic University Building

chists have practice in for 30 years in Greece) or consensus in small groups. These protests were decided on by whoever was involved This was Anarchy in action. Though the economy is really bad and the state did murder a child it must be stressed this revolt was not a result of a reaction to conditions alone but was made possible by movement building organizing that had come before it. If that wasn't the case if people had the strength without having to get organized to get it) to give the bosses political and economic a run for their money every time we got mad about the way we're treated (all the different ridiculous oppressions) we would've had a revolution in the USA by now.

\* Affinity groups as many readers may know are closed groups of friends who have 100% trust to be able to do actions together

### SOURCES:

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