

***Take the chance for change!***

## ***The Greek election – and beyond***

A stunning majority of the Greek electorate voted for a social and democratic change. The Greeks' vote unlocked the chance for a radical change for all of Europe. Voters rejected the austerity diktat, the Troika, and the sell-out of the future of a whole country to the financial markets. They dropped poverty, hunger and illness. They dropped the Greek oligarchy, the connected political class, and corruption. They dropped desperation.

Even though the Greek referendum is widely recognised, and the Greek claims are recognised by some political actors, Berlin and Brussels stay put. At best, the level of interest rates and the timeline for redemption payments is said to be eased. But the necessary haircut is refused steadfastly.

A radical change is possible. However, the success can't depend on the Greeks alone. We owe the Greek electorate for the potential for a new start. But we are challenged to make the change happen together. A radical change can't depend on one government. A radical change depends on a broad social coalition. The democratic public, social movements and social struggle in all European countries are part of this project.

Resistance against the Troika is inseparable from resistance against all forms of nationalism, racism and anti-Semitism. This line can neither be qualified nor played off against another. In this perspective, the integration of the nationalist ANEL party in the SYRIZA government is a risk. We can't predict if it will be too high a risk. Migrants are under threat of death on a daily basis, everywhere, in Greece – and in Europe. That's no minor matter. This cooperation still is no model for us. Thus, the nomination of Tasia Christodouloupoulou, a long term human rights activist, to act as alternate Minister of Immigration Policy is an important sign. SYRIZA is distinctly aware of the risk.

We already mentioned above, that the upcoming change goes far beyond political governance alone. Let's stick to what the Greek election taught us. A historical change becomes

necessary once the leading regime is exhausted and only puts forth destruction and pain. But it needs more for the upcoming change to become reality: first, a strong subjective and social desire for change; secondly, a political actor willing to bring about the change; and, thirdly, a trigger moment.

All three doings concurred in Greece. The austerity measures of the Troika and the corruption of the Greek political elites triggered the change. Both fuelled the desire for change. SYRIZA, the activists and the electorate are willing to bring about the change. Together, they share the political conviction that the essential change can't be only Greek, but has to be European.

However, if we adopt this idea, this doesn't mean we are calling up to start an imitation game. In Spain, thousands strive for the same goal, in different forms, on different paths. Our answer is yet to come. We propose to start on two levels. The first is the practical and theoretical recognition of the (at least) European dimension for change. In different places, different actors - left parties, the non-parliamentary left and social movements - already prepared for change. BLOCKUPY Frankfurt is one of the places, where dedicated people from all over Europe gathered. On the 18th March, they will meet there again.

The second level is the invention of a political form that would allow us here, in Germany, to try out what already is on its way in Greece and Spain. There is no model. A political form can't be conceptualized on a drawing table. It has to emerge from trial and error. But as in Greece and Spain, the relation between parliamentarian and non-parliamentary politics, between the moderate and the radical left, and between parties, movements and unions is at stake. We have to step back from old routines. We have to re-invent the free and creative interplay of different social actors and subjectivities to work out conflict productively.

The cases of Greece and Spain reveal the relevance of social majorities. They reveal the difficulties. At the same time, they reveal the options and potentials for what should and shouldn't be transferred or repeated.

The time is now. Let's start out for our own kick-off for collective European change.

*Board of ISM*