

Forms of popular struggle, democracy and constitution

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Large projects and cuts to the welfare state: where's the democracy?

The notable regression of political democracy; with a progressive increase in presidential powers and a divestment of the authority of representative assemblies, ever further from those they should be representing, thanks to electoral formulas and political parties that are increasingly unstable and ineffective institutionally, along with an unprecedented attack on the guarantees of social rights (primarily education and health care) and workers' rights.

The idea of a Constitution for the people or, more broadly, the constitutionalism of the second half of the 20th century which designed a project of social emancipation and the redistribution of resources is being overwhelmed by an economic model that promotes profit for the few and which imposes its diktat on politics.

It's a model that wants unnecessary large projects while it destroys the public school system; an essential foundation of an established democracy and inextricably linked to equality.

Those who struggle against unnecessary large projects are, therefore, fighting for an effective democracy, exercising what is the essence of democracy: participation, an active participation from below.

Student movements, the struggles of temporary workers, the NO's at Mirafiori and Pomigliano, the popular sites in defence of territories, they are all forms of popular struggle that evoke social democracy or the common good.

They remind us that democracy is conflict, above and beyond the rhetorical mystification of governance, that democracy can't survive without disagreements and tension with socio-economic conditions that are equal and worthy of everyone; a pre-condition for every form of pluralism and difference that isn't discrimination but freedom of expression.