
Experimenting Principles of the "Real" Democracy: Political Mutations of the "Indignados" Movement

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Abstract

Facing the rise of an "antidemocratic" camp legitimizing authoritarianisms and populisms in western countries, how can we show or visualize social movements supporting the opposite political view, fighting for a "real" democracy, not only as a better political system but also a "way of life"¹?

Starting in Spain, on the 15th of May 2011, a wave of protests, wrongfully described by the medias as "spontaneous", initiated a process of social and political changes. These changes ranged from extra-institutional protest movements (occupation of central and public places, creation of neighborhood committees or self-managed – autonomous - social centers) to the apparition of "movementists" political parties who claimed " the spirit of the 15th of May " and who managed to win local election's (municipals or regionals).

The aim of this presentation is not to show the causes of citizen movements but to present the effects of those collective actions started in May 2011 on the current daily life of Spanish people.

Who are today's indignados (outraged people)?

How do they live up to those principles of horizontal power relationships, transparency and inclusion, of active non-violence to serve an ideal poorly disseminated by mainstream medias? Furthermore, we will examine the limits of these principles in the real life.

This presentation will feature some audiovisual content to illustrate work I conducted in Madrid and Cordoba comparing the socio-political mutations resulting of those movements.

¹Literally, a conception of democracy as a " form of life ", expression of the book Antidémocratie from Sandra Laugier and Albert Ogien, 2017.

Keywords: social movements in Spain, democracy, local social change, transparency

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