1st May 2015 (Online Article)

Historical Note

This online article was published on 30/04/15 on the website of Syspirosi Atakton.

Content

1st May 2015

May Day was instituted as a day of honour for the struggles of the workers. Historically, it is connected with the massive strike that began on May 1st 1886 in Chicago, with the participation of 400.000 workers demanding an 8-hour working day.

Since then, a lot of blood was shed, many struggles were won and others were lost. The exploitation of human by human remains the dominant modus operandi of our societies.

Capitalism, in its neoliberal form, being the hegemonic school of thought in the current society, quickly delivers us the elemination of all the economic and social rights that were won and applied in many parts of the world in the past decades.

Day by day, we also wiwtness the collapse of the hope in the left-wing administration of the system; experience shows us that the state as a mediator of the differences, does not actually exist, and thus it was completely and irrevocably incorporated in the process of capital accumulation.

What else can it mean, when natural welath and public-interest corporations are privatised? [Things that traditionally belonged to the state, were considered common wealth, but also a source of power for the state, along with army and the police]

The Cypriot experience of Left-wing Administration, as well as the on-going Greek one, shows how difficult it is to enforce anything without the elite’s approval. And this was never about the good intentions of the left-wing reformists or the more radical parties.

It has to do with the correlation of power in the institutions of governing, that has shifted towards the elite.

“There’s no alternative”, say the elite in every occasion, using their tools: economists, the media, the politicians. Is it so?

The historical experience shows that things are not static. No power is indestructible.

Let’s reframe our objectives. Let’s put back in the core of our struggle the overthrow of capitalism, and not the day’s wage that keeps us under constrains. Let’s organise our struggles in horizontal structures, so no self-proclaimed leader can sell us out.

Only then the hope for a society of equality, solitarity and enviromental justice, can be a real prospect.

Only then the humankind and the planet that hosts us will have a future.

Sispirosi Atakton

Needs Turkish Translation, Online Articles, Syspirosi Atakton (Group), Decade 2010-2019, 2015, May Day, Undefined Location

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Last update: **2026/08/01 10:53**