

WE DON'T WANT A BIGGER SLICE OF THE PIE - WE WANT THE WHOLE FUCKING BAKERY!

With the con-dem government imposing cuts, fees, and other bullshit, it's right to fight back. But why stop there? Good education has always been mainly for the very rich (who can afford a private education) and the quite rich (who can afford to live in 'nice' areas with better state schools, and pay private tutors). Fuck that! We need to create a new system, not defend the old one.

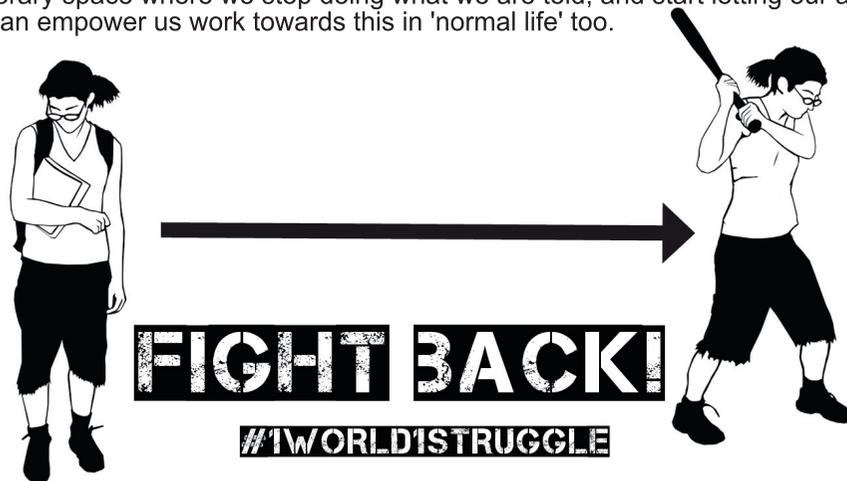
An alternative - taking what we need!

Taking what we need is an alternative response to the cuts. The ruling class don't respect our need for welfare and education. Why should we respect their laws? In Spain recently, 200 people entered supermarkets in two towns, filled up trollys with food and left without paying. The food was distributed to those who needed it via local food banks. In the UK, thousands of homeless people already provide housing for themselves by squatting unused buildings. Many of us already steal from work and shoplift in order to survive. The media call this 'crime' in order to isolate us and scare us, but the fact is, it's resistance!

But what prevents us from doing this on a mass scale? The law? The law only stops us because it is enforced by the police, yet budget cuts are already leaving them stretched. For days during the riots, they were powerless to stop us doing whatever we wanted. All we need is the confidence and numbers to stand up to them, and our own organisations to support each other and distribute things where they're needed. This is still resistance (and not revolution) but meeting our day-to-day needs without begging from the rich and the government is an important first step!

Is there any point in protests at all?

Big protest don't have to be pointless - so long as we only see them as a beggining. Marching together is a way of breaking our isolation and proving that we are not alone in our anger. It's also a way of expressing the rage and desperation we feel at being constantly under attack by the rich, the cops, and the government. Creating a temporary space where we stop doing what we are told, and start letting our anger out, can empower us work towards this in 'normal life' too.



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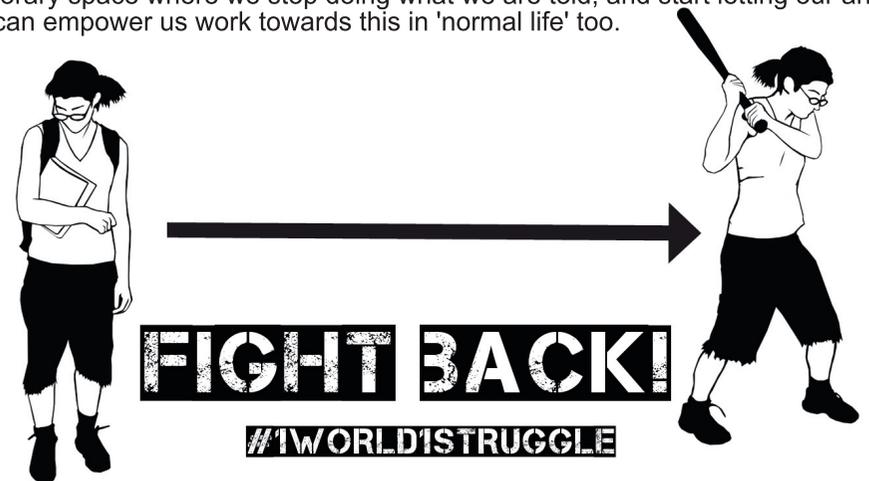
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Occupy the university - permanently!

Our places of work and study have always been under the control of the rich and powerful. This means our education, and our work, will always be run in a way that best serves their interests. At the end of the day, government policy can't change this - only workers and students can! So, in all our organising, we need to work towards taking control of the places we work and study. For us, that means education workers (lecturers, admin staff, cleaners...) and students need to have the only and final say in how our universities are run. Only then will we be treated as people rather than commodities.

Right now, we need to be working towards unity between staff and students, and creating structures we can use to self-organise. This means supporting staff resistance and working with whatever means of organisation they create. It also means creating spaces for direct democracy where students can come together and make decisions collectively, like general assemblies. (Departmental general assemblies were used to co-ordinate the student strikes in Montreal recently, which saw about 75% of students in some departments going on an education strike for seven months running!). In the short term, this will mean we can co-ordinate more effective resistance to management, and maybe win some small gains. But using direct democracy (where all decisions are made by the whole group, rather than a small committee of representatives) means that later we could start to make decisions about how to run the university itself!

Why we have to change the world, too:

The university, being the place where we work and study each day, is where we are best placed to organise and to create the world we want to see. But the university needs resources to run, staff and students need food and shelter, and at present these can only be got with money. This doesn't need to be a problem - it just means that the people who produce these resources need to fight back too. Encouraging this means showing that we aren't just in it for ourselves - that we support other people by struggling alongside them. It also means showing that we aren't just doing this because of some kind of 'youth anger' - that everyone can and should resist.

What now?

- EDUCATE - Study past and present resistance movements. Educate each other about what the ruling class is doing, and how we can fight back.
- AGITATE - Break isolation by politicising everyday resistance, and by expressing our anger.
- ORGANISE - Build unions based on direct democracy. Seek out other people who want change and work with them to build resistance.
- UNITE - Communicate with people fighting back in other universities, other workplaces, and other countries. (take part in the International Students Movement!)
- ESCALATE - Argue for more militant tactics on protests and against dis-empowering A-B marches. Get together with friends and take the initiative in fighting back.
- BUILD SOLIDARITY - Form groups to support those victimised by the police for fighting back. Support each other against repression. Link our struggle to other struggles locally and globally.

Of interest:

- Organise2013 - <http://organise2013.wordpress.com/>
- International Students Movement - http://ism-global.net/ism_en
- <http://prole.info/> - '...for the angry wage worker'

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