

It's Revolution Or Death

**Screening Packet and
Questions for Discussion**



Introduction

It's Revolution or Death is a three-part video series imagined by anarchist author Peter Gelderloos and brought to life by the anarchist video collective subMedia. Whether consumed in three easily digestible servings, or a single movie-length sitting, It's Revolution or Death is designed to be watched in groups, and to serve as a tool for initiating hard conversations. The series exposes the myths perpetuated by states and greenwashing corporations, shines a light on movements around the world resisting ecocidal industrial capitalist projects, and provides viewers with a framework for fighting back and getting prepared for the climate crisis in their own communities. Working together, turning differences into complementary strengths, and creating diverse networks worldwide gives us the best chance at building resilient communities capable of surviving the extreme weather events and food shortages that climate change is already starting to throw our way.

We're not offering a prescription. Each unique territory will face a different set of challenges as the ecological crisis worsens, and our communities will only become stronger if we analyze these challenges and figure out the best ways to confront them head on.

What we can offer is a methodology. Based on our collective experience and what we know has already worked.

We hope that this series will spark lively and meaningful discussions between long-time organizers and new activists alike. No matter our levels of experience, we all bring with us a unique set of skills to support our movements.

About Peter Gelderloos

Peter Gelderloos is an author and anarchist with decades of experience writing and organizing around ecological issues and combating state repression. He was involved in protesting The School of the Americas and the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, in anti-police struggles, and in the squatter's movement and 15M movement in Catalonia. His writings include *How Nonviolence Protects the State* (2005), *Worshipping Power: An Anarchist View of Early State Formation* (2017), and most recently *They Will Beat the Memory Out of Us: Forcing Nonviolence on Forgetful Movements*. (2024)

About subMedia

subMedia is a digital media collective with members spread across the stolen lands of the so-called Americas. First established in 1994 as Subversive Media, over the decades we've grown from a humble video projection outfit into one of the most prolific producers of anarchist, anti-capitalist and anti-colonial propaganda in the world. During that time we've produced hundreds of videos on everything from urban insurrectionary tactics to land-based mutual aid projects. Our films have been screened in squatted social centres, university lecture halls, on the sides of barricades, and in movie theatres around the world. They've also been watched by millions for free on the Internet.

Part 1: Short Term Investments

The first installment of the series takes a look at the push for green capitalism, and questions the commonsense assumptions of its cheerleaders.

Bolstered by unwavering, uncritical support from NGOs, energy corporations portray themselves as cutting edge innovators in green energy technology while hedging their bets and maintaining diversified portfolios – packed with fossil fuel investments.

The effects of runaway climate change are already here. If the past 50 years of gaslighting have made one thing abundantly clear, it's that the politicians and entrepreneurs leading the charge for green energy will never prioritize the interests of life on earth in their pursuit of profits. So what are we going to do about it?

Discussion

Questions Part 1

- What are some of the ecological and social conditions in the territory we inhabit, and how would we like to see those change?
- What was The Great Enclosure? In what ways do capital and the state criminalize our relationship with the ecosystem locally?
- How do previous ecocides in history compare to the current climate crisis? What's different about today's challenges?
- Which effects of climate change have we already started to see locally?
- Which extreme weather events is our area prone to? Do we know what future climate projections look like for this territory?
- Many needs, like housing, food, and healthcare, are excluded from the narrow, mainstream focus on climate. How are they relevant to a thorough response to the crisis? What groups in our area are working on any pertinent issues?
- Do we foresee our local territory as one where we will need to flee to survive as the climate crisis worsens or are we in a territory people will need to flee to? What can our communities do to prepare for incoming climate refugees?

Part 2: Heads Up, the Revolution is Already Here

State and market solutions to the ecological crisis have only increased the wealth and power of those on top, while greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Nearly all the experts and professionals are invested, literally, in a framework that is only making things worse. With so much power concentrated in the very institutions that suppress any realistic assessment of the situation, things seem incredibly bleak. But what if we told you that there's another way? That there are already people all around the world implementing immediate, effective responses that can be integrated into long-term strategies to survive these overlapping, cascading crises?

We spoke with three revolutionaries on the front lines resisting capitalist, colonial projects. Sleydo' from the Gidimt'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en nation, in so-called British Columbia, Isa from the ZAD in the west of France, and Neto, a militant with the Landless Workers' Movement based in the northeast of so-called Brazil. They share their experiences gained from years of building collective power, defeating repression, and defending the Earth for all its inhabitants and for the generations still to come.

They share stories of solidarity spreading across a continent, of people abandoned to poverty and marginalization reclaiming land, restoring devastated forests, and feeding themselves communally, stories of strangers coming together for their shared survival and a better future, going head to head with militarized police forces and winning. And in these stories we can hear things that are lacking almost everywhere else we look: optimism alongside realism, intelligent strategies for how we can survive, love and empathy for the world around us and for the future generations, together with the belief that we can do something meaningful, something that makes a difference. The joy of revolutionary transformation.

We learn about solutions. Real world solutions. Solutions outside of the control of capitalism and the state.

Discussion

Questions Part 2

- What are some similarities between the struggles on Wet'suwet'en territory, the ZAD, and The Landless Workers' Movement in northern Brazil? How are they different?
- What would have to happen to build a similar occupation in defense of the earth locally?
- How can we build from our current situation?
- What important ecological spaces and resources exist nearby that we might need to defend from extractive capitalism or urban for-profit development?
- Isa talks about not forcing the other to become like us. Are there any groups that are not the same ideologically who could be worthwhile allies in the struggles to come?
- Sleydo' talks about having short, medium, and long term goals in the ecological struggle. What are some goals we can work towards in the territories we inhabit?
- Neto advises us to take an honest look at the territory we inhabit without projecting the experiences or desires we see in other territories. What infrastructure for ecological struggle already exists locally? What would we like to see? What work should we prioritize to realize our goals?

Part 3: Reclaiming the World Wherever We Stand

The third and final installment of the series seeks to bring the lessons learned in the first two episodes home. This segment features an interview with Peter in which he describes his experience working to build transformative infrastructure in Catalunya.

Not all of us are so lucky to live near a large and organized movement like those described in part two, and that's ok. For us to be truly organized as a global community, we need do work wherever we are. As Neto reminds us in part two, "We need to start from where we're standing and from a reality that we recognize." There are no answers, only strategies. This video seeks to provide guidance to anarchists just getting started organizing around the climate crisis. Different strategies work in different locales, social conditions and contexts.

Peter shares three urgent suggestions for those looking to organize around these issues:

Urgent Suggestion #1: A complete and Total Rejection of All the Institutions Responsible for This Disaster

Relying on those responsible for this crisis to save us is the worst thing we can do. It's time to act collectively outside of the state and capital's stranglehold over our lives to try to carve out spaces and networks that will give us the best possible chances of survival. Relying on nonprofits, elections, or authoritarian left movements has failed time and time again. We cannot afford to continue to misplace our trust in institutions that will not save us.

Urgent Suggestion #2: Pick a Project of Transformative Survival

The hour is seriously late. The sooner we get involved in organizing for survival, the better. If people in the territories you reside in are already working towards similar goals, it may be better to join them than to try and build a movement from the ground up. Sometimes we need to create new projects where there is a need for them and people willing to get them going. Building our collective autonomy may not appear to be directly related to our chances at surviving the climate crises, but it is! Any time we build our collective power outside of the state and capital we build power that is combative to the institutions that created this disaster, and that gives us the means to survive it.

Urgent Suggestion #3: Connect your project to a revolutionary web of solidarity

The climate crisis is a worldwide issue. We need to have a global response. Networks of people organizing around these issues exist all over around the world. We need to build an international web of solidarity and the more connections a web has, the stronger it will be.

Discussion

Questions Part 3

- Peter offers us 2 options: we can either act like a state or be a respectful member of our ecosystem. In what ways do we find ourselves acting like a state? What can we do to move towards becoming more like a respectful member of our ecosystem?
- Who are our allies? Which groups of people in our territory have similar goals to anarchists? Can we build meaningful working relationships with them?
- What is infrastructure in the revolutionary sense? What anarchist infrastructure exists locally? What would we like to build?
- Are we connected to similar anarchist projects in other areas? How can we build more connections in the global web of solidarity?
- What is the difference between a political revolution and a social revolution? In what ways can we stop replicating hierarchical organizations within our struggles?
- What is a rhizomatic effect? What can we do now to create conditions for our struggles to proliferate in the future?

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Are you with us?