

Ziviler Ungehorsam:
Wie die aktuelle sozial-ökologische Bewegung eine alte Strategie neu entdeckt

Civil Disobedience.
How the social-ecological movement rediscovers an old strategy

ed. by "System Change, not Climate Change!" - Austria, Laura Grossmann, Sabine Payr

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In today's globalized and connected world, we hear more and more about terrible things happening: wars, social injustice, economic crises, migration, and climate change are hot topics both in classical media and in social networks. Those who read journals and surf the internet could come to believe that the situation is more threatening and catastrophic than ever before.

But there have always been problems like injustice and abuse of power. As well as resistance, protests, and, most importantly, their successes.

In the last years, the occupations of gigantic coal pits by thousands of protesters have drawn a lot of attention. In Hamburg, it was possible to interfere considerably with the G20 Summit that brought together some of the main responsables for global destruction, through creative blockading. In Graz (Austria), the construction of the hydroelectric plant on the Mur river was effectively interrupted several times through civil disobedience.

Although actions of civil disobedience are spreading, there is not much theoretical discourse about them, in terms of their strategy and philosophy - at least not in public. This is why we think this book about this special form of resistance in theory and practice can be a valuable contribution.

Beside discussing theoretical, historical and ethical aspects of the issue, the chapters will focus on the question of how civil disobedience, originally a strategy of social self-emancipatory movements, came to be the strategy of more and more climate-related groups and movements. As the climate crisis has long ago left the niche of scientific debate, the climate justice movement sees itself as part of a global movement that, beyond protection of climate, environment and biodiversity, also takes on issues of social (in)justice, migration, capitalism, equality, emancipation, democracy and digitalization.

In about ten case studies, European movements will report in the book when, how, and why they used civil disobedience. In particular, we want to know how Civil Disobedience has developed and what that means conceptually and practically. The classical movements of civil disobedience, such as the Civil Rights Movement with Martin Luther King, and Mahatma Gandhi's anticolonialist resistance, were social movements in which oppressed groups stood up for their own rights. Whereas European groups who use civil disobedience today to fight for socio-ecological transformation not only fight for their own future, but increasingly consider themselves advocates for the global environment, peoples in other countries, future generations, or animals.