

London Communalists

Studying 'The Communalist Project' - "Activists + Theorists Unite!"

You are invited to a free public meeting, firstly to discuss readings from the article 'The Communalist Project', and secondly a presentation on possible projects to further Communalism in London: 18th December 2017 - 6pm-8pm to be held at: 88 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH

In the essay, *The Communalist Project*, Murray Bookchin situates Communalism vis-à-vis other left ideologies, arguing that the world has changed significantly from the times that birthed anarchism and Marxism; he contends that these older ideologies are no longer capable of addressing the new and highly generalized problems posed by the modern world, from global warming to post-industrialization.

Key words: Social ecology, Libertarian municipalism, Confederalism

Excerpts from:

Bookchin, Murray: "The Next Revolution."

Verso Books, 2015-01-06. iBooks

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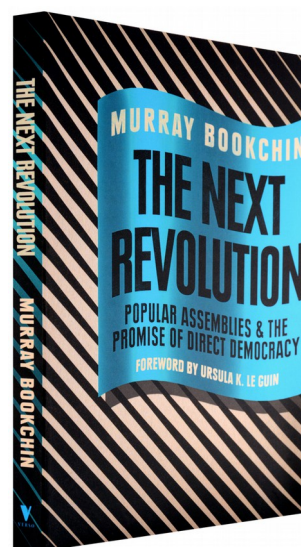
explained below: <https://www.versobooks.com/books/1777-the-next-revolution>

What is Communalism? "It is my contention that Communalism is the overarching political category most suitable to encompass the fully thought-out and systematic views of social ecology, including libertarian municipalism and dialectical naturalism. As an ideology, Communalism draws on the best of the older Left ideologies—Marxism and anarchism, more properly the libertarian socialist tradition—while offering a wider and more relevant scope for our time. From Marxism, it draws the basic project of formulating a rationally systematic and coherent socialism that integrates philosophy, history, economics, and politics. Avowedly dialectical, it attempts to infuse theory with practice. From anarchism, it draws its commitment to antistatism and confederalism, as well as its recognition that hierarchy is a basic problem that can be overcome only by a libertarian socialist society."

- ... fully thought-out and systematic views of social ecology
- ... libertarian socialist tradition
- ... socialism that integrates philosophy, history, economics, and politics
- ... infuse theory with practice
- ... commitment to antistatism and confederalism
- ... hierarchy... can be overcome

What is social ecology? "In addressing the sources of our present ecological and social problems, perhaps the most fundamental message that social ecology advances is that the very idea of dominating nature stems from the domination of human by human. The primary implication of this most basic message is a call for a politics and even an economics that offer a democratic alternative to the nation-state and the market society."

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- ... a democratic alternative to the nation-state and the market society



What is libertarian municipalism? “Libertarian municipalism represents a serious, indeed a historically fundamental project to render politics ethical in character and grassroots in organization. It is structurally and morally different from other grassroots efforts, not merely rhetorically different. It seeks to reclaim the public sphere for the exercise of authentic citizenship while breaking away from the bleak cycle of parliamentarism and its mystification of the “party” mechanism as a means for public representation. In these respects, libertarian municipalism is not merely a “political strategy.” It is an effort to work from latent or incipient democratic possibilities toward a radically new configuration of society itself—a communal society oriented toward meeting human needs, responding to ecological imperatives, and developing a new ethics based on sharing and cooperation. That it involves a consistently independent form of politics is a truism. More important, it involves a redefinition of politics, a return to the word’s original Greek meaning as the management of the community, or polis, by means of direct face-to-face assemblies of the people in the formulation of public policy and based on an ethics of complementarity and solidarity.”

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... structurally and morally different
... reclaim... the exercise of authentic citizenship
... work from latent or incipient democratic possibilities
... involves a consistently independent form of politics... a redefinition of politics... as the management of the community, or polis

What is confederalism? “What, then, is confederalism? It is above all a network of administrative councils whose members or delegates are elected from popular face-to-face democratic assemblies, in the various villages, towns, and even neighbourhoods of large cities. The members of these confederal councils are strictly mandated, recallable, and responsible to the assemblies that choose them for the purpose of coordinating and administering the policies formulated by the assemblies themselves. Their function is thus a purely administrative and practical one, not a policymaking one like the function of representatives in republican systems of government.”

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London Communalists Project – with CoCreative Learning A Reading / Action Group:

The purpose is to read and discuss the set of essays in Murray Bookchin's book, *The Next Revolution*, and other relevant, well-researched/argued, material

In the longer term (within five years), the project will aim to build and coordinate a Communalist movement in London:

Year 1 - Survey and study of relevant material from Murray Bookchin, etc...

Year 2 - Analytical investigation of the non-democratic status quo

Year 3 - Develop non-violent strategies to transcend said status quo

Year 4 - Generate a broad-based coalition to create the fertile ground for a democratic political machinery

Year 5 - Field as many parliamentary candidates as possible at an upcoming election (around the mid 2020s) to stand with the pledge to carry out the will of a well-informed, progressive citizenry.

Full text of the current draft Constitution can be viewed/downloaded at...
[https://cocreativelearning.org/index.php/CoCreative Learning](https://cocreativelearning.org/index.php/CoCreative_Learning)
Regular monthly meetings: Mayday Rooms, 88 Fleet Street, EC4Y 1DH