

Academy of Social Science:

Research Commune on the Peace Concept of Abdullah Öcalan

will start work

Abdullah Öcalan has proposed a new phase of the Kurdish liberation struggle and announced a *call for peace and democratization* on February 27, 2025. After years of total isolation on Imrali prison island, he released a new book, the *manifest for peace and democratic society*, and various messages and letters. All these build further on his *road map to negotiations* of the year 2009 and all his political philosophical writings around the idea of democratic confederalism.

Öcalan elaborates on his earlier ideas of peace, particularly the balanced relationship between humans and nature and the women's liberation as foundation for radical change toward a self-organized, moral-political, democratic society. Continued armed struggle cannot achieve the desired goals. With a guaranteed space for free expression of thought and democratic participation, peace and the development of a self-organized communal society could flourish. Öcalan adds new terms and concepts: positive integration, deliberative democracy, *kastik katil*, the principle of commune. These new terms are invigorating the debate about the nature of the intended transformations. Öcalan explains his peace and democracy initiative as a necessary new phase of the same revolutionary struggle for cultural and political self-determination, women's liberation, ecology, and radical democracy – with other means. These inspired intense, lively and controversial debates in political, intellectual and all social spheres internationally.

In addition to expressions of appreciation and support, there are also signs of confusion and misinterpretation. The last led some to skepticism that the revolutionary movement is being turned to a reformist compromise and liberal democracy. Others doubt that handing in weapons could be helpful in times of increasing authoritarianism and fascism.

In other cases of peace processes with revolutionary movements, many of the radical aspirations, depth and complexity of transformative goals have been lost along the way. A pacification occurred, the main structures and practices of order and social, political, economic life continued as before. Liberalism permeates peace-building, society, and keeps people busy, for example, with funding applications for their well-intentioned community organizing projects. Often, patriarchal violence and divisions of labour continue.

It is evident that further research is necessary to comprehensively grasp Öcalan's concept of peace and to contribute analyses and comparisons to the ongoing discourse. The unique and particular nature of his approach to peace must be thoroughly delineated. Its potential applications to the Kurdish question and other violent conflicts in the Middle East are another aspect that requires further research.

Establishment of a research commune

This situation makes it all the more important to create working structures to examine Abdullah Öcalan's concept of peace in depth. We intend to establish a research commune comprised of individuals who are committed to exploring specific aspects of Öcalan's peace concept and undertaking a comprehensive examination of his writings and to implement various forms of communication to facilitate a systematic analysis.

Within the commune we coordinate the specific sub-projects of participants, discuss all works, and integrate it into the wider activities of the Academy of Social Science. Publications, workshops with a larger community, conference presentations, and other forms of disseminating research results in society are prepared jointly.

No formal qualifications or academic titles are required, just enthusiasm for systematically engaging with Öcalan's writings and concept of peace, and incorporating the findings into academic and social discourse.

Join the research commune! Get into contact with us!
Send an email to [xxx](#)