

## Academy of Social Science:

### **Research Commune on the Peace Concept of Abdullah Öcalan**

The number of wars is increasing at an unprecedented rate, with devastating consequences such as bombings, destruction, famine, displacement, genocide, femicide, ecocide, and massive cuts to social and health services in order to finance militarization, massive arms buildup, and warfare. People are suffering terribly as a result of this reality, and this highlights the need for a radical rethinking of peace theory, as established, state-centered concepts of conflict resolution and peacebuilding have proven incapable of fulfilling the promise of peace and democracy—or even just stability.

Going beyond statism—where the distinction between state and society is central to the development of peace—Abdullah Öcalan has put forward a unique concept of peace. Here, peace is inextricably intertwined with democratization, gender liberation, and ecological transformation—all rooted in the political idea that all solutions must come from society, from the smallest units, the communes, and not from the state. In his thinking, democracy is the power of communities to govern themselves. The relationship between the state and democracy, the latter being part of society, is completely reimagined. The realm of politics is redefined. Peace thus becomes a reshaping of social structures centered on care and life itself, combined with justice and freedom in their many forms—in contrast to mere pacification within the framework of a violent status quo.

Exploring these ideas on peace in greater depth and examining them thoroughly is both inspiring and multifaceted. We will establish a research commune to create a space and a community dedicated to this task. Many questions arise, inspiring us to found this commune so that we can engage with Öcalan's concept of peace and contribute to a lively debate on this topic:

- To what extent is this concept of peace based on a rethinking of the political sphere? Why does it address ontological questions such as: How do we understand social existence?
- Several new terms and concepts are associated with Öcalan's ideas on peace, e.g., “war of the state against society”, “theory of democratic solution,” “democratic nation,” “positive integration,” “commune versus state”. These are specific and require a thorough examination of his peace philosophy, which is anchored in the overarching political framework of democratic modernity.
- How do Öcalan's ideas on peace relate to those of other political thinkers in the fields of peace research, international relations, political philosophy, and other disciplines, as well as to the wisdom of social movements worldwide?
- Several questions arise regarding the potential implementation of this peace concept. Can the revolutionary radicalism of the desired changes be preserved? How can the significant role and leadership of women's organizations be anchored and sustained? What role will the state play in the future, and how can democratic society increasingly limit the significance of the state apparatus?
- How can Öcalan's peace concept be applied to other armed conflicts beyond the Kurdish question, such as the violent conflict between Israel and Palestine or conflicts in other parts of the world?

Depending on the interests and expertise of the research commune's members, other aspects and questions may come into focus. Together, we will build the research commune and discuss potential research questions, our methods, and our findings. We wish to develop research efforts within mutually supportive and inspiring, communal, solidarity-based networks. This research commune is connected to the other structures of the Academy of Social Science, the other research communes, the journal, and the artists' collective. Together, we will contribute to publications, publicly accessible

workshops, conferences, and other forms of disseminating research findings within society.

No formal qualifications or academic degrees are required; rather, the only prerequisite is a willingness to engage intensively with Öcalan's writings and his concept of peace and to contribute the insights gained to academic and public discourse.

**Join our research commune! Get in touch with us!**