

Next Emerson Sharing, Florence

Saturday 9th February 2019

Version for comrades only as some details are sensitive

I can do a more public version later ;)

The below notes were made on the back and inside cover of *The Failure of Revolution* by American anarcho-primitivist writer Kevin Tucker, a zine kindly gifted to me from W. I was slightly late to the sharing after bumping into M., who first introduced me to *Mondeggi Bene Comune* in Hong Kong in 2016.¹

Whilst the facilitator spoke in Italian, a video shot in the first-person perspective was projected on the screen behind. The video brought the viewer, on a bicycle, towards a forest, through a land art piece composed of branches forming an arch and later up into a treehouse, where a red squirrel was climbing around and eating remnants left by the person(s) living in the treehouse (perhaps the person holding the video camera).

Hambacher Forest

B. was then introduced and began sharing the current situation at Hambacher Forest in Germany, and the resistance against the coal mine and deforestation (2012 to present day).² He spoke about the constant evictions that happened last year, and how land activists welcome all types of actions against authorities, both violent and non-violent. Sometimes the police would come in the night, in a group of 20 people to make small evictions and arrests. The resistance was fought in the trees, on the land and in tunnels. The visuals reminded me of the treehouses and anarchitectural cabins at the ZAD (Notre-Dame-des-Landes).

The fourth large-scale eviction happened in October 2018 and led to the death of a journalist falling from a great height. The eviction was paused and the government cancelled the cutting season (deforestation) in 2019 and 2020. This has since led to a strong reoccupation, that is now stronger than ever before, with many treehouse villages, some connected (I later learnt that some treehouses are up to 20 metres high).

At the end B.'s sharing, he mentioned that what's happening in Hambacher Forest is 'interesting' and that we should, "Go there, find out what's happening."³ I heard someone in the audience cautious about an 'activist tourism.' I started reflecting on my own trip(s), what has come from them and what will come. I've elaborated on this trip in my previous text, *Working for the Commons Par2*, however her comment pushes me (again) to keep thinking about territorial struggles and how we can be stronger by collectively sharing and reappropriating tactics and strategies used around the world — both past and present.

Following B.'s sharing, some people asked questions and shared comments. These are listed below:

¹ www.tinyurl.com/CommonsPar2

² www.hambacherforest.org

³ www.insurrectionaryam.tumblr.com/search/hambacherforest

- An Italian man shared his thoughts about how the architecture in Hambacher Forest is fundamental in allowing autonomous living. It allows recycling of materials, creativity and imagination to happen, which all contribute to a 'construction of a space.'
- Someone who had previously visited Hambacher Forest shared that building and living in a treehouse is dangerous and requires the support of 'activist climbers' who are at the occupation. For example, the climbers have high security standards, use strong knots, 14mm diameter rope and have intensive weekly climbing workshops. Some workshops are exclusively for transgender people and women, creating safer spaces.
- An elderly Italian man shared his support for the Hambacher Forest resistance and said, "I hope that governments one day know that they have exploited our planet to the maximum."
- Somebody asked about Hambacher Forest's relationship with the activists in the nearby city of Cologne. B. and another German comrade answered that the relationship was strong and many activists in Cologne moved into the forest. They also mentioned that some activists are growing vegetables on the outskirts of the forest and in places with more sunlight.

Shared websites:

- www.klimacamp.org
- www.robinwood.de (shared later when we said bye at Next Emerson)

Sorry I'll finish the below notes soon

Free the Soil

www.freethesoil.org

Slovenia

Monthly radio show

Slovenia and Romania anarchist bookfair

Romania

Initiated a year-long gardening school

Seed saving

Sicily

Collaborating with Sudanese, Egyptian, Ghanaian and Cameroonian asylum seeker and refugee (ASR) communities.

Harsh laws against ASR communities: 1-3 years prison for occupying land and buildings and 8-12 years for occupying roads.

Salamanca Uranium Mine

Proposes a camp in Spain in parallel to next RTF.

Hemp

We should plant hemp to destabilise power.

Comrades

- The ZAD is a strong axis.
- It's important to really produce food.
- We should debate what world we want and what we want to see.
- Some people were satisfied with the cancellation of the airport, but the fight still continues with its world.
- All the projects shared tonight demonstrate a different relationship with our territories. What is central, isn't the yield produced, but the real fight to attack the normative with new perspectives.
- Perhaps we can think of a stronger form of action, such as misinformation [similar to how Brexit campaigns confused people with voting Leave].