

Vi drømmer om en verden uden penge. Det kan virke uoverskueligt, men vær realistisk, *forlang det umulige!*



Penge er ligesom en virus der spreder sig til nye miljøer, nye systemer. Det ser ud til at udviklingen mest kun går een vej: Den forkerte. Man plejede at kunne rejse på tommelfingeren, om to år er alle på Uber og samler kun folk op hvis de kan betale. Flere og flere relationer bliver inficeret af pengeøkonomien og dens tankegang.

Modstanden mod penge kan være en drøm om at vi een gang for alle ved en revolutionær begivenhed slipper af med pengeøkonomien. Modstanden mod penge kan også ses sådan at vi skridt for skridt forsøger at begrænse de områder som penge overtager. Når vi skaber rum uden penge så er det en konkret modstand mod penges fremmarch. Praktisk hverdagssolidaritet og kommunisme er pengeøkonomiens værste mareridt.

Vi lever i en verden hvor vores liv købes og sælges i bytte for overlevelse, hvor alt levende og dødt bliver reduceret til varer for blot at indgå i produktionen af endnu flere varer. I denne verden bliver værdien ved ting og meningen med liv reduceret til et nummer, et tal, noget målbart. Målestokken for denne værdi er dollars, pesos, euro eller kroner, penge. Men ingen mængde af penge og ingen mængde af varer som penge kan købe kan kompensere for tomheden i sådan en eksistens eller for den indsigt at denne slags reduktion til tal kun kan foregå ved at dræne verden for kvalitet, energi, eventyr og alle andre vidunderlige sider af livet.



### **Kritik af pengesystemet og kommer fra mange sider:**

- Reformbevægelser prøver at nationalisere pengeskabelsen og regulere bankerne.
- Liberalister drømmer om guld eller Bitcoin, penge styret af markedet men frie af centralbankerne.
- Religiøse bevægelser prædiker mod renter og griskhed.
- New age typer taler om at ændre penges sjæl eller DNA så de kan “blive gode igen”.
- Andre arbejder på lokale valutaer som kan hjælpe os “tilbage til den hyggelige landsbykapitalisme”.

Det er altså ikke nok at læne sig tilbage og vente på at pyramidespillet kolliderer. Ingen af de nævnte løsninger går til rødderne af vores problemer. Det gælder om være på forkant med udviklingen, analysere situationen, opbygge alternativer og eventuelt fremskynde krisen. Når så den næste krise kommer (og den vil komme, spørgsmålet er hvornår og hvor seriøs den bliver) og alle kigger sig omkring og forsøger at forstå hvordan det kunne ske og hvad vi kan gøre anderledes, så skal vi stå klar med både gode spørgsmål og svar! Som læsere af Naomi Kleins Chokdoktrinen vil vide er det lige præcis denne strategi har gjort at det man kalder Chicago-skolen har formået at omsætte deres drømme og ideologi til virkelighed. I tiden efter Anden Verdenskrig var der bred enighed om en økonomisk politik som handlede om genopbygning, velfærd og statslig indblanding i økonomien. Milton Friedman og de andre fra Chicago-skolen drømte om mere magt til markedet og udviklede deres ideer og forslag til politiske tiltag. Derefter ventede de til tiden var moden, hvilket vil sige indtil en katastrofe indtraf (ganske ofte hjalp de katastrofen godt på vej ved eksempelvis CIA-støttede militærkup) og folk så sig om efter andre måder at gøre tingene på. Så slog de til og sendte deres eksperter og økonomiske rådgivere. Det ser man stadig den dag idag i Ukraine og andre steder hvor systemer kolliderer. Det er vigtigt at vi stiller os på sidelinjen og er klar med nogle helt anderledes måder at gøre ting på og med nogle helt anderledes forslag til hvordan verden burde indrettes.

Det er ikke kun et spørgsmål om at have en bunke pamfletter liggende på lager til den dag hele lortet

kollapser, men også et teknisk og materielt spørgsmål om at være i stand til at tage vare på hinanden. Modstand mod penge er både at gøre sig så uafhængig af pengeøkonomien som muligt og samtidigt at lære at opdyrke sociale relationer der ikke bygger på penge men istedet på solidaritet og gensidig hjælp.



*“If you erase the debt record, we all go back to zero”*

### **Hvad er penge? Hvilke slags penge findes der?**

#### **Hvordan skabes penge?**

Man plejer at sige at de overføres fra en konto til en anden. Det er lodret forkert. Hvis en bank vil skabe penge kræver det kun at nogen vil låne pengene. Banker skaber penge ved at trykke på en knap på deres computer. Der er flere nuancer, men grundlæggende er det sådan det foregår.

#### **Hvad er sammenhængen mellem penge og gæld?**

Penge skabes gennem gæld, men hvis pengene til renter ikke samtidigt bliver skabt, hvor skal man så få penge til at betale renterne med? Hvorfor virker det som om snart sagt alle har gæld? Hvem skylder vi alle de penge til?

#### **Hvordan kan man studere penge?**

Penge kan analyseres fra mange synsvinkler: Feministisk, marxistisk, filosofisk, antropologisk, i forhold til racisme, teknologi, miljø og klima, osv. Hvilke tilgange er relevante og hvad kan forskellige fagligheder og teorier bidrage med?

#### **Idéer til hvad du kan gøre her og nu i dagligdagen:**

- Brug bitcoin eller kontanter fremfor bankpenge (Dankort). Når du bruger bitcoin eller kontanter er du sværere at overvåge og du gør det samtidigt lettere for andre at “gemme sig i mængden” på samme måde som at du ved at deltage i en bloc bloc gør det lettere for de andre i bloc'en at undgå overvågning og straf.
- Prøv at undgå at bruge penge. Prøv at bytte dig til ting i stedet for at købe dem. Nægt at tage imod penge for dine varer eller ydelser, foreslå at få noget andet til gengæld i stedet for. Der er helt sikkert masser af mennesker rundt om i verden der lever så godt som uden penge, også her i de såkaldt rige lande.



- En britisk mand (på billedet herunder) levede 2½ år uden penge og skrev en bog om det (Det kan indvendes at det kun kan lade sig gøre at leve lovligt uden penge hvis man i forvejen er rimelig privilegeret med f.eks. et netværk af venner og familie som er klar til at bytte og låne én ting). Hvad kan du gøre?



- Skriv små beskeder på pengesedler ligesom Rage Against The Machine:



**Hvordan kan pengeøkonomien undergraves eller ødelægges?! (Don't try this at home!)**

- Spred mistillid til pengesystemet. Falskmøntneri giver 12 år. Det er der nok en grund til.
- Hæveautomater er ideologiske maskiner – De bilder dig ind at dine penge “er nede i banken”, at kontanter og bankindestående er den samme ting. Kan man angribe disse maskiner på andre måder end simpelthen at overmale eller sabotere dem?
- Prøv at genforhandle din gæld. Eller nægt fuldstændigt at betale din gæld tilbage.
- Brænd pengesedler (forbudt i Danmark) eller vis på anden måde ved eksemlets magt at penge ikke har magt overalt.



**Her er et par røverhistorier fra den virkelige verden:**

An excerpt from a communique from some greek anarchists:

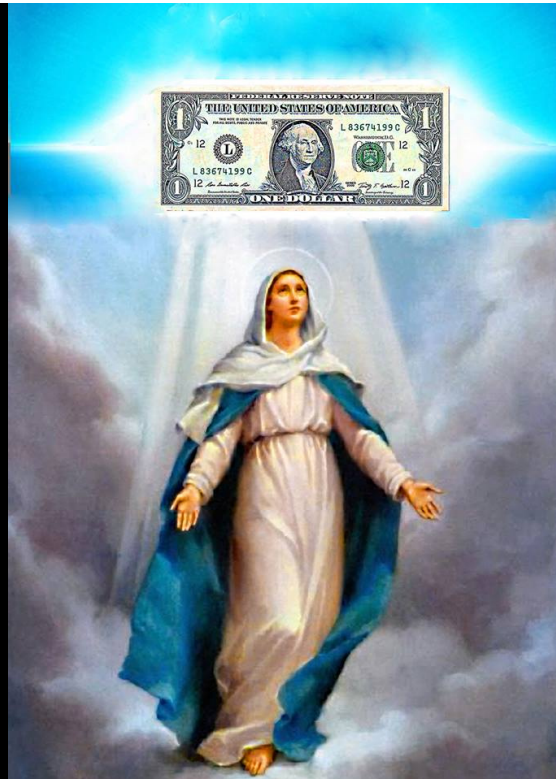
“On 14/06/10 we stormed into a super-market of the chain Masoutis on M.Kyriakou street, we took basic need goods (olive oil, pasta, milk etc.) and destroyed the anti-theft systems and the surveillance camera while we also smashed the cashiers and burnt all the money they had inside.

(...)

The burning of money is a symbolic action speaking for itself. These little pieces of paper that turned into ashes within seconds have managed, in even less seconds, to destroy lives, relationships, to transform the human and her desires by transforming life into indexes, digitalising feelings and experiences, simplifying the feelings of joy and misery down to the dipole I have/ I have no money.

(...)

Of course we support the appropriation of money for the needs of the movement, it is just that we wanted to give a different context to this particular action.”



*The Money Machine*



## The Money Machine

Every once in a while I remember events from my childhood, and it's as if I'm only fully comprehending them for the first time. You know, things which were obviously absurd, but which you never questioned in the flurry of youth. Lately I've been thinking about *the Money Machine*. My high school had this weird tradition: every year a representative of a magazine sales company would arrive and turn the entire student body into his personal sales force. This guy reeked of the "salesman" persona; without fail, every year he would appear on stage to get us all fired up about selling magazines for him. I'm sure the school allowed this because they got a cut of the sales, but the rewards he offered us students were almost comically pathetic. Like if you sell a certain number of magazines you get a pen light. Or a Kit-Kat bar. But even with such desperate prizes, he managed to create an atmosphere of competition with . . . the Money Machine. The Money Machine was a clear box about the size of a phone booth with an little fan duct-taped to the side of it. The number one magazine sales student—the kid who had sold more magazines than anyone else—would get something like forty seconds in the Money Machine. They'd put you on stage in front of everyone, load it with one dollar bills, and then turn the fan on while you frantically grabbed as much of the money whirling through the air as you could. Even the Money Machine, though, was a racket. There were rules: you couldn't pick money up off the ground, you couldn't trap money in your clothing, and so on. After you'd maniacally grabbed as much money as you could, the sales guy would ceremoniously take you out of the Money Machine and ask you to count how much you'd made during that incredible opportunity. It would always be like 23 dollars, never more than 30. But he'd announce it as if it were a small fortune. "that's right! she came out with . . . twenty-two dollars!!!" Anyway, the whole thing was disgusting. But when I was a freshman in high school, there was a kid in his senior year named Joey Allegra. I didn't know him at all, but I always perceived him to be an anti-authoritarian slacker type who was generally nauseated by most of what occurred in school. So I was pretty surprised when, with great fanfare, they announced the top magazine selling individual in the entire student body to be Joey Allegra. I couldn't believe it. "That kid?" I wondered. "Maybe my entire perception of him is wrong," I thought with disappointment. But Joey Allegra calmly got up, walked on stage, and took his place next to the Money Machine. The sales guy was bouncing around hysterically, trying to get everyone riled up, but Joey didn't look particularly excited. At last, the doors opened, and he was put inside. The sales guy counted down with great fanfare: "three . . . two . . . one . . . gooo!!!" The fan was switched on, and the money began violently whirling around. But Joey Allegra didn't make a move for any of it. In fact, he just sat down on the floor inside the money machine and stared out. The sales guy looked like he was going into a panic. He didn't understand what was going on. "But you've only got thirty seconds left!" Things got worse and worse for him as he tried in vain to encourage Joey to go for the money. "come on man you've only got twenty seconds! twenty seconds man!" At last the time was up and the sales guy had no choice but to turn off the money machine. As the fan wound down, the whirling money all fell to the floor around Joey, except for a single one dollar bill that landed on his head. Everyone was absolutely silent as the sales guy shamefacedly opened the door. As Joey stood up, the one dollar bill that had landed on his head fell on and fluttered to the floor. The sales guy didn't know what to do. He couldn't proceed with his usual shtick of getting Joey to count the money and announcing it triumphantly, because Joey obviously didn't have any money. What was he supposed to do, announce "That's right! zzeerrooo dollars!" He looked confused, almost broken. Joey didn't wait around—he just went straight back to his seat without a word. Like I said, I didn't know him, and I never did get a chance to talk to him about it. My assumption has always been that the whole thing was calculated from the beginning. That he had such a great disdain for the whole thing that he resolved to sell more magazines than anyone—a pretty big feat, considering how into it some kids got—just so he could have that moment in the Money Machine. I don't know what the real story is, and I don't know what happened to Joey Allegra after that. But Joey, wherever you are, I hope you're still bringing hope to those staring down the money machines of the world.