



Democratic Confederalism

Context



- Nation-states within global capitalist framework
- Nation-states tend towards uniformity
 - Assimilation and 'othering'
 - Centralised structures that concentrate power
 - Disempowering for most people
- Capitalism lacks capacity for ethical foundation
 - Profit motive has dystopian global, social and individual consequences
 - Command & control structures
 - Impacted people have no power

Response



- 'Democratic modernity' vs 'capitalist modernity'
 - Democratic Confederalism – Abdullah Öcalan
- Non-state social paradigm – not controlled by a state
- Power lies in the grassroots – directly connected to lived experience
- Confederation enables coordination between autonomous groups
 - Delegates express the will of the groups they represent but decision making power is within those groups
- Adaptable structure that mirrors society
 - Any social identity can autonomously configure and express themselves as a political unit

Rojava



DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERALISM IN ROJAVA



Democratic Federation of Rojava - Northern Syria

A Corporate Watch diagram, based on the work of Ercan Ayboğa in *Revolution in Rojava* (Pluto Press)

In practice



- Dynamic & adaptable structure
 - Groups and movements emerge in response to circumstances
- Preparation is vital
 - Decades of practice & education enabled Hevals to seize the gap left by Regime forces in 2011/2012
 - Poised to mobilise and scale up when the opportunity arose
- Beacon of Hope
 - Pragmatic demonstration that a better alternative is viable
 - Social context to explore, develop and improve

Solidarity



- How does this apply to the groups and organisations we are part of?
- How does it apply to our movements and activism generally?
- How does it apply to society more broadly?