

Competition, the global crisis and alternatives to neoliberal capitalism. A critical engagement with anarchism

Since the mid-1980s, and particularly throughout the first decade of the 21st century, the imperative of capitalist competition has become a totalizing and all-pervasive logic, expanding to ever more social domains and geographical areas around the world. Sustained by neoliberal competition regulation and other regulatory provisions, excessive competition (over-competition) in the process of capital accumulation has become a major global force with highly detrimental social and environmental downsides. The paper links the phenomenon of excessive competition to the current global economic crisis from the vantage point of a historical materialist (neo-Marxist) perspective. Employing a critical perspective implies to go beyond critique and clarify a range of possible alternatives with the potential to change the world, as well as to be a guide to strategic action for bringing about an alternative order. Calls for alternatives have become louder in the wake of the current global economic crisis. In order to take the emancipatory role of critical theory and analysis seriously, the paper outlines an alternative vision to the ideas and social practices that have sustained the existing competition order thus far. In a critical dialogue with anarchist literatures and most notably anarchist principles, such as equity, cooperation, mutual aid, and social and environmental justice more generally, the paper outlines the contours of a vision of a post-neoliberal non-capitalist competition order.

Susan Newman, from the ISS, has invited me to submit a paper. I look forward to hear from you and a probably very great and important conference.

Kind regards,

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