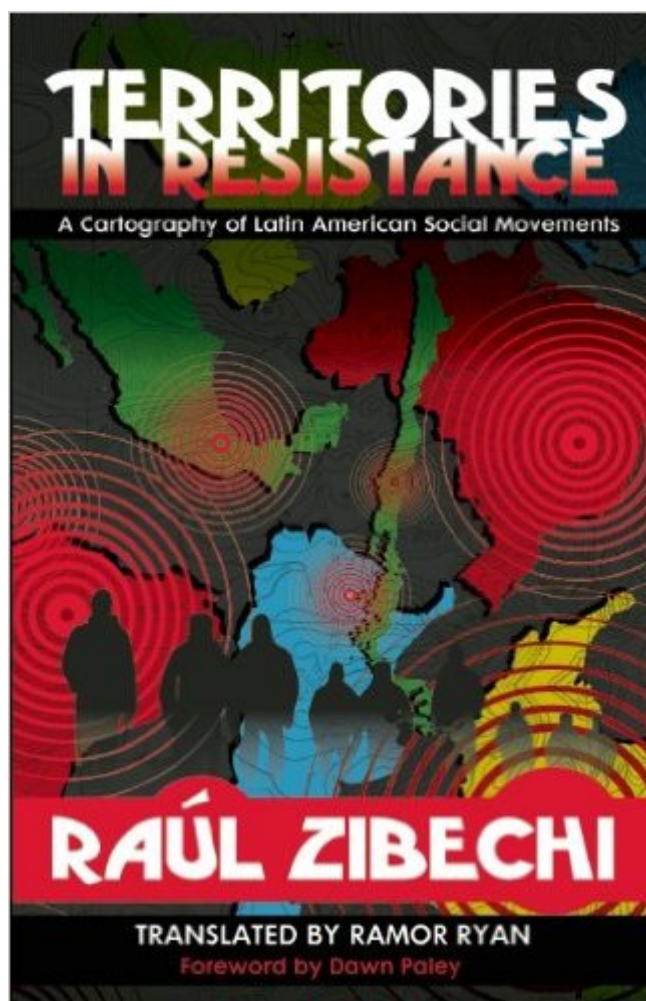


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# Territories In Resistance: A Cartography Of Latin American Social Movements



## Synopsis

"Rich and complicated . . . [Territories in Resistance] will be a key reference point in the development of anti-systemic thought."—Gilberto LÃpez y Rivas, La Jornada

Territories in Resistance is an indispensable complement to existing literature on Latin American autonomous social movements. Explore the "other worlds" being created in the wreckage of colonialism and capitalism. From Mexico, Ecuador, and Colombia to Argentina and Brazil, no living author digs as deep and presents theoretical challenges quite like Raúl Zibechi. Raúl Zibechi is an international analyst for Brecha, a weekly journal in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the author of *Dispersing Power: Social Movements as Anti-State Forces* (AK Press, 2010). In Oakland, California on March 24, 2015 a fire destroyed the AK Press warehouse along with several other businesses. Please consider visiting the AK Press website to learn more about the fundraiser to help them and their neighbors.

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## Customer Reviews

Most of us know very little of Latin American concentrations of poverty that are colloquially known as shanty towns and urban slums. Even less is known of their causes, or of the inspiring human response to these inequalities. Raúl Zibechi's *Territories In Resistance* not only tells us the conditions of the people living in these areas, but also explains the causes of the poverty, as well as enlightening the reader to the vibrant energy and reaction of the people to the system that is responsible for their impoverishment. These subaltern reactions, the author explains, are the

'politics from below': pro-active, self directed, dynamic and revolutionary forms of government/self organization/cooperation that has been emerging out of Latin American poverty over the last few decades. One cannot transcribe a description to these movements, because movements are never static. Zibechi describes the organs of this "society in movement" :

• Territorialization - the physical occupation of land by landless peasants;

• Worker run factories - where shut down factories are revived by the laid off workers and made profitable;

• general resistance by Indian to neo-liberal exploitation of people/environment, and finally armed Insurgencies. These movements, more often than not, take on a horizontal structure as opposed to the tight hierarchal structure found in state governments. Zibechi covers, to name a few: The Zapatista uprising under Marcos in Mexico, FARC vs. the Columbian paramilitary vs. Indian civil resistance, political turmoil in Ecuador due to multinationals, The territorial town La Victoria in Chile started in the 50s and 60s, settlement towns in Peru, soup kitchens started by women in Lima, rise of urban settlement collectives in Venezuela, community water management movements, collective gardens and recouped factories of Uruguay, and the work of NGO to facilitate a bridge between institutions and the activists, -or sometimes they can dissolve/disempower or co-opt the anti-establishment movements, in this regard -a wary partnership. The struggles are far from over according to Zibechi, as the elite have changed strategies to deal with the emancipatory movements. The epilogue is a insightful interview by Michael Hardt and Alvaro Reyes. The Latin American movements that Zibechi details should be a call for reflection to everyone about the state of our so-called democratic institutions and industrial capitalist system and the direction they're is taking us. I believe we have more to learn from the genuine, grass roots, egalitarian communities of Latin America than we do from the dominant established state system. A great book, a highly Recommended read.

From the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas to the piquetero movement in Argentina, the Landless Workers' Movement in Brazil to Mapuche resistance to timber and hydroelectric multinationals in Chile, Raul Zibechi provides a vast array of examples of horizontal, directly democratic, autonomous, anti-state, anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian social movements in Latin America. The examples he gives are very diverse and include everything from community gardens in Uruguay to the grassroots mobilizations of indigenous Peruvians to genocidal mining projects. Furthermore, Zibechi, in this exciting and brilliantly written new book, discusses the creative tension between these autonomous, decentralized social movements and the progressive governments of leftist presidents like Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales, and Rafael Correa. As an added bonus, the book

concludes with an interesting conversation between Michael Hardt and Alvaro Reyes, an activist educator who started his political career as a militant in a Tupamaros' mass organization in high school back in 1969. One of the very best books I've read this year, I encourage everyone in the Latin American solidarity movement to read it. I strongly, strongly recommend this excellent book!

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