

Shukaitis, Stephen and David Graeber (Eds.) with Erika Biddle. *Constituent Imagination: Militant Investigations/Collective Theorization*. Oakland: AK Press, 2007. Pp. 320. \$21.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-1904859352

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Global capitalism and the neo-liberal politics that sustain it first forced the “enclosure of common lands,” Gaye Chan and Nandita Sharma relate in their article examining radical papaya planting in Hawai’i, and then the “enclosure of our imaginations” (184). It is to shatter these structures of globalism and peel “back bursts of time for collective reshaping of social life” that Stephen Shukaitis, David Graeber and Erika Biddle edited Constituent Imagination (32). The title defines both who is fighting the structures and how: constituent as essential, the matter from which a thing is made, not in the sense of being represented by elected officials. The constituent part of society is people, especially subaltern ones, their bodies and their intimate knowledge of their own oppression. Imagination is the ability to generate moments of opposition to modern capitalism; to find, research and strengthen the nodes of counter-power and attack weak points in the global economy. The title suggests not one road map to revolutionary action, but a multiplicity of thoughts, routes, peoples and ideologies that “provide forms of antagonism interpreted through new figures of militancy and the convergence of knowledge and action in the construction of the common” (64).

A key concern throughout numerous articles is the relation of academics to militants and the formers' participation in militant action. Should researchers maintain an objective distance from their subjects, or should they become active participants in struggle? The answer by the anthropologists, sociologists and journalists here is a resounding yes to the second question. The combination of research and political action, so long as the work is an authentic collaboration, a collective enterprise be-

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