

Student's Strike in Quebec against Entrepreneurial Universities:

"Law and Order" Response and Discourse



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Outlines

- Quebec students' strike against the rise of education fees;
- Transformation public higher education;
- Bill 12 (draft Bill 78);
- Transition of a historical students' strike to an unprecedented social protest;
- Election on September 4th;
- What's next?



Lost Autonomy of the Universities and their Subordination to Private Management

- Quebec Policy on University Funding (2000)
 - Full time students, 2) graduated students and 3) students admitted in faculties other than the arts or social sciences
 - Performance criteria
- Governmental funding for targeted researches and the tax credits for businesses involved
- Bills 38 and 44 proposed in 2009 consolidate this new form of university governance.

Students' Claims

- Stop the rise of fees
 - from C\$2,168 to C\$3,946 \$ (£2,762)
 - administrative fees: averages is C\$624 by semester
- Towards free education
 - Preserve the historic mission of the public education system in Quebec
 - Reintroduction of a capital tax for enterprises

Creative Resistance



MARDI
27 mars



Bill 12 (May 18th)

- Attack against human rights, associative right, strike right, strikers' right to expression
 - inform the police of the date, time, duration and route of any protest more than 50 people 8 hours in advance;
 - Fines for any violation
- Pots and pans rallies



Police

- GAMMA (Surveillance of marginal activities and anarchist movements);
- Suggested that criminals acts during street actions were carried out not by students, but enacted by radical political factions;
- Pretend the necessity of more of GAMMA;
- From February until July 22nd : 3,316 individual or group arrests;
- Reports by Amnesty International and United Nations.





Early Elections

- Law and order discourse;
- Potential chaos on campuses;
- Liberal party takes advantage of these social tensions.

What's next?

- More egalitarian reform of scholarships and loans program
- The abandon of all the penalties and lawsuits
- CLASSE will continue its monthly demos on the 22nd of the month, now called "towards free education".