

## **Preparing for revolutionary times? Chronic crisis of authority and constructive subversion in contemporary Jordan**

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Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach rooted in the methodology of participatory action research, this essay uses the lens of praxis to explore how Gramscian concepts, in conversation with ideas proffered by Alain Badiou, Jodi Dean, and the intellectuals of the Paris Commune, can help us understand, and possibly overcome, the socio-political stalemate characteristic of current polities in the Arab region. As a path to breaking the logjam, this study advances the concept of “constructive subversion”, arguing that politics must be engaged from autonomous liberated political spaces. Such spaces are required for the processes of mass intellectualization, advance preparation, theoretical and practical experimentation, political creativity and dynamism, and the deepening of the chronic crisis of authority necessary to the revolutionary moment to increase the likelihood of its transformation into a revolutionary movement that is able to effect change. The essay also presents a case study of the National Jordanian Campaign for the Abrogation of the Gas Deal with Israel as a model of such a liberated space, elaborating on the campaign’s mechanisms of action and organization, the challenges it faces, and some of the techniques it utilizes to minimize the effects of authoritarian intervention and fragmentation.

### *More Information*

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