

Title: Break the Mold: A DIY Guide to Counter-Hegemony Subtitle: Inspired by Antonio Gramsci + DIY Culture

"The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born." – Antonio Gramsci

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## What's This About?

You've probably felt it: - The world's on fire 🌍 - Bosses demand more for less - Tech is cool but locked behind gates 🐭 - School taught you obedience, not how to fix your bike or organize your coworkers

This zine is for people who: - Love to learn **outside institutions** - Want to **build and share** tools, not just consume - Know that knowledge should be **free, accessible, and liberating**

This is your intro to **counter-hegemony** — Gramsci-style — for hackers, makers, and builders of better worlds.

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## SECTION 1: What is Cultural Hegemony?

The ruling class doesn't just control the economy — it controls the *narratives*: - "Success = wealth" - "Capitalism = freedom" - "If you're broke, it's your fault" - "Democracy means voting, not organizing"

🌐 This is **ideological conditioning**. It's how systems stay in power — not with violence, but with **consent**.

Gramsci said: If we want freedom, we need to **build our own ideas, spaces, and schools** — from the ground up.

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## SECTION 2: Makerspaces as Resistance

Makerspaces can be counter-hegemonic if they: - 🦜 Share tools + knowledge freely

- 🦜 Run democratically (no bosses)
- 🦜 Value **collaboration over competition**
- 🦜 Teach skills *and* critical thinking
- 🦜 Welcome the excluded (women, queers, disabled, Black and brown folks)

Makerspaces can be mini-laboratories of liberation — not just cool garages with 3D printers.

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## SECTION 3: DIY + Free Skools

What if education was free, peer-led, and fun?

**Start a DIY Radical Education Project:** - Hold a workshop on “Basic Electronics + Capitalism” - Host a film night on labor history or Gramsci's life - Teach soldering + mutual aid at the same time - Zine printing night: “How to Resist Bosses and Build Co-ops”

**Examples:** - 🍁 Noisebridge (SF) - 🌀 Detroit Community Technology Project - 📖 Barnard Zine Library Workshops - 🔥 FABLabs - 🐱 Public Lab

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## SECTION 4: Skill-Sharing = Class War

“Every person is a philosopher.” – Gramsci

Skill-sharing is how the working class builds *its own* intellectuals. You don't need a degree. You need curiosity and community.

**DIY topics that subvert the system:** - Lockpicking 101 → Know your rights & privacy - Build a radio → Decentralize media - Mutual aid tech → Mesh networks, solar USB, water testing - Tool libraries → Collective ownership in action - Build a co-op → Make capitalism irrelevant

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## SECTION 5: Think + Do

**Combine Gramsci's Theory + Hands-On Practice:**

Gramsci Idea	Makerspace Action
Cultural hegemony	Deconstruct tech-as-profit narrative
Organic intellectual	Everyone teaches something — from code to sewing
Praxis	Learn <b>and</b> act — build protest gear, zines, co-ops
War of position	Occupy minds slowly — build new norms + networks

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## Toolkit: How to Start Your Own Radical Space

1. Find a space — A garage, a back room, a shed. Or online.
  2. Start small — Teach what you know. Ask others to join.
  3. Make it horizontal — No leaders. Shared decision-making.
  4. Share materials + access — Screw NDAs and gatekeeping.
  5. Document + publish — Zines, blogs, wikis = radical memory.
  6. Connect to others — Hackerspaces.org, Mutual Aid networks, Anti-University collectives.
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## Further Reading / Listening / Doing

- Antonio Gramsci – Selections from the Prison Notebooks
  - DIY Toolkit (Free Skool): [crimethinc.com](http://crimethinc.com) / [sproutdistro.com](http://sproutdistro.com)
  - Noisebridge wiki: [noisebridge.net/wiki](http://noisebridge.net/wiki)
  - The Public School: [thepublicschool.org](http://thepublicschool.org)
  - Hack This Zine
  - Tech Learning Collective
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## Last Words

Education doesn't belong to the state.  
Innovation doesn't belong to Silicon Valley.  
Freedom doesn't mean waiting for permission.

**Build your own school. Wire your own network.**  
**Think with your hands. Break hegemony with a soldering iron.**

