

**It's never too late -**

**but it's not easy (published in Večer, April 30, 2015)**

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"We take too many risks ..."

"No, we are not risking too much, our lives are at stake, the lives of our children, their friends, the people of our city, our country, other nations and our entire community. Our future. Isn't that why it is worth the risk?"

"I'm sorry, but I can't ... Surely everyone else thinks and feels the same as I do. My life, my family depends on my actions. Besides, it's too late anyway. Everything is already lost. We should have reacted much sooner."

"It is never too late, it was too early then, now is the right moment. You always knew what was right and what was wrong. But you never wanted to take the risk and take the responsibility. Why not? Because you have always wanted to keep your job, your position, your social status... Today you can save the most important thing, which is to save your soul, and you don't even have the 'balls' to do it. They are right to call you traitors, because you have betrayed not us, but yourselves."

On the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we commemorate the most courageous act and the beginning of the resistance against the Axis powers, which at that time were one of the most powerful military and economic forces in the world. On 29 April 1941, a group of brave young men carried out a sabotage against the German occupier in the Volkmer Passage in Maribor. Did they wonder then as the dialogue above says? Maybe. But they did it anyway. They took risks. They knew what was right and what was wrong, no matter how great the risk. They were true patriots and an example to all generations that followed.

It is undoubtedly possible to map the dialogue onto today. The current situation is similar to that of just over 70 years ago, mapped onto today. What we are witnessing is nothing short of treason. Even more audaciously, I liken the actions of our leaders after independence, which have brought us from a socially secure country to the current state of affairs, to the oath taken by the Home Guard at Plečnik Stadium.

Rebellion in today's time and society can be suppressed from a young age when entering formal education. Conformism opens the door wide to anywhere and creates virtual or false friends in the system, and consequently forms a community of those who cooperate only for their own self-interest and not for the public good. Our environment at local and national level is thus full of communities of interest that come together for the benefit of individuals at the expense of society.

It is not difficult to answer against whom or what one should rebel today. We all still know as well as 'our heroes' did then what is good and what is evil. But we need to go a step further in thought and action. In the capitalism we live under today, which we have made the way it is (for better and for worse), above all by ourselves, it is necessary to follow the rules and play by the rules. Every citizen has power, and in this system, if you want it - if you don't want it - it is worth as much as the money you have. To pretend otherwise is an illusion and to equate power with the vote is demagoguery.

Unfortunately, rebellion is also being misused today for self-interest, such as the senseless rebellion against privatisation. Private ownership today, in a system that we ourselves have chosen by the largest possible majority, is not a bad thing if the owner creates added value and improves the po-

**Resistance is always a reflection of the era and the environment, so resistance in the digital age is digital resistance. And don't worry, the digital natives will be digital rebels too.**

sition not just for employees, but for the whole environment. I believe that rebellion must start with oneself, by doing one's best to try to regulate fair relations and solidarity, first in the local environment and then more broadly, while influencing the wider community and thus one's own and our children's future. It is never too late, it is not easy, it never has been."