Land-grabbing procedures and social resistance in the European continent. The case of Chalkidiki (Greece) movement against gold mining.

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Nature, in the conjecture of the crisis, constitutes a commodity for the benefit of speculative capital

_expand their zones of influence and therefore sources of profitability

_located in the European territory

__'green grabbing investments'

___ sitting of a large development mining project of copper and gold in the area of Chalkidiki

_factors of social conflicts:

1) environmental degradation

2) water scarcity produced by the inefficient distribution of water resources in favor of mining companies

3) competition between mining and users of the other productive activities

4) high levels of unemployment / underemployment in the affected areas

5) a "legacy" of bad relationships between mining companies and local communities

source: http://tvxs.gr
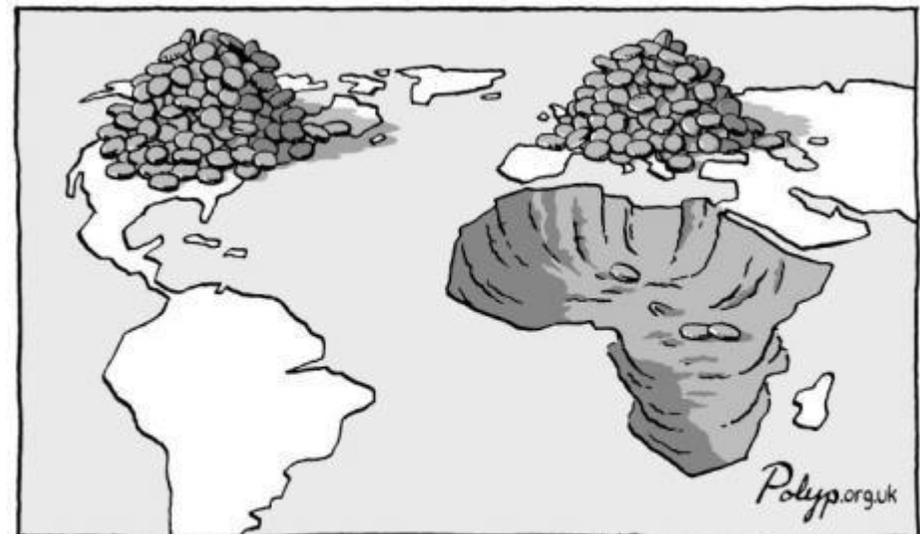
'GOLD DIGGERS'

9GAG.COM/GAG/3818678

Localized case studies are carried out the North-east of Chalkidiki peninsula

source: http://tunza.eco-generation.org
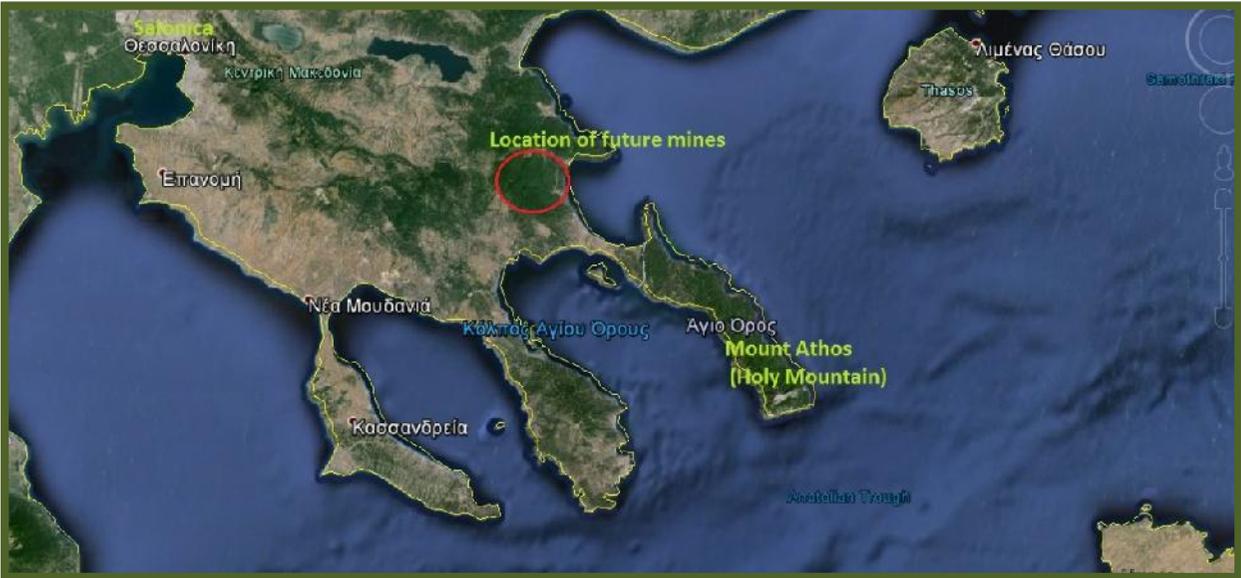
_ public – forest protected land is ceded to the mining company

__**31700 hectares** of the mountain Kakavos
__rights to expand the mining operations
__ownership of two pre-existing mines

___ wide scale mining extraction contrasts with the mining history of the study area
___competition between mining and other productive activities (tourism, agricultural and livestock activity).

_environmental regulations are skipped through a process that is called «fast track»

__selective planning promotes the interests of the mining company

new Master Plan of Thessaloniki

_ subsection of North-east Chalkidiki
___"mining 'parks' for the exploitation of mineral resources are sited *in harmony with environmental protection"*

source: http://www.orth.gr/
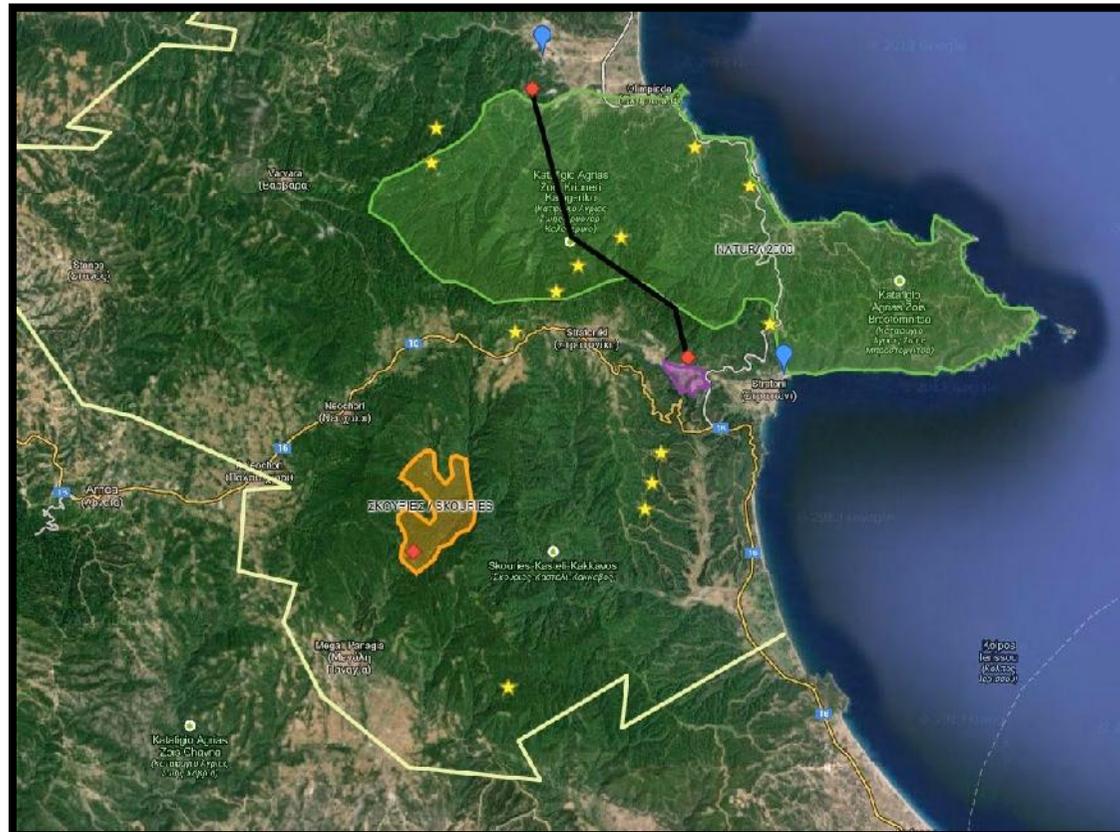
_managing social tension

__provoking social conflicts in local communities

___ creating rifts in society / affiliation of part of the locals

___extreme repression against the movement that resists

Claims and actions of the movement – its multi-scalar character

_empirical work – fieldwork settlements

  _2006: Megali Panagia

  __the population started to withdraw their support towards mining exploitation

  _nowadays

  __it has grown in local communities and reaches its present form with the spatial peaks of activity the bigger settlements of Ierissos and M.Panagia.

___the local community highlights the needs and priorities for the intended socio-economic and environmental situation of territoriality in which it lives and acts.

   ___the movement reaches to build social relationships with corresponding movements that are resisting to large-scale development projects in an internationalized environment of resistance and struggle.

_reds of action / solidarity collectives

_the actions of the local movement are not limited to a speech through counterarguments against the mining investment.

__limits of tourism development

___collaboration of the local productive activities
___promote the cultural and rural heritage of the area

The communities put forward a cooperative perception of their everyday life and of employment relationships that define and shape it.

the changes that appear in social relationships between the inhabitants are these that will judge largely the limits of the movement.

Skouries: 10 days of resistance

Camp on the mountain (Megali Panagia)
Friday 22 - Sunday 31 August

...against the paranoia & the destructive fury of the State, corporations and speculators...

The arbitrary orgy of ravaging has to stop...
Today, or tomorrow will not exist!

Chalkidiki & Thessaloniki committees fighting against gold mining

_ conflicts of land use, development operations and economic interests.

__social issues concerning the emancipation of the local population(Zibechi, 2007)

Natural resources
constitute a challenge for the local community. A challenge that is in direct relation to the use they can get and with what productive process they can be regarded as resources of exploitation.

_the local movement
__assert the declassification of N.E. Chalkidiki as "Mining Area" with gradual restoration of the existing mines and of the bald forest land.

__rejects the overall management of the abovementioned mineral resources even with a potential exploitation via a mining company under public control.

The extensive mining activity appears to be a way to grab common resources, which are granted to private firms that on the one hand speculate on land and on the other hand exclude the real holders of the resources and of the area from any management option.

The land is an integral part
of the "commons" and its grabbing for the conversion of a fictitious commodity from
private individuals, church and state are timeless conflictive (Hadjimichalis)

___"fencing" places in order to install large development projects
___looting of common resources

capitalist production is trying to usurp material and social commodities, which remained free and available until recently, i.e. commons.

The preservation of natural resources and the deepening of social relations are more profound issues than the opposition to an extractive development model

_many issues are open for debate
_this research introduces issues of social relations and spatial practices which will be judged in the future by the local movement.

__"community commons"
___the overcome of the claim for one spatial development based on the comparative advantages of each settlement,

A very important request is that of being able to talk in terms of human relationships, in terms of communication and in terms of autonomy, without that being considered a luxury.

source: http://antigoldgr.org

_state policy

__hooliganism of social conflict

'how do some people support this type of development that is obviously catastrophic and causes problems in human relationships and the environment'.

_person-consumer type

__keep consuming without being interested in how and under what conditions the products consumed are produced.

_false consciousness