

Demokrazia: subirautza, erabakia, ahalmena
Democracy: sovereignty, decision, capacity
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In Europe sovereignty is being privatized, not popularized, and governance mechanisms are being multiplied, not democratized. Accordingly demands for sovereignty are a consequence of the privatization (either by a foreign state or by private hands) of public authority and decision-making. The democratic structures and processes that should institutionalize Basque popular sovereignty are working neither in Spain nor in the European Union, since the political capacity that should be used to realize population's demands (popular sovereignty) is being privatized through the multiplication of the government or governance levels. However, along with globalization or global-scale privatization, the democratization processes of recent decades have also had consequences at local or national level, whereby new organizational logics have reproduced old national entities into new political subjects through a re-assemblage of territory, rights and authority. The Basque demos emerges within this general and antagonistic trend of privatization and democratization as a new assemblage of rights, territory and authority. This new assemblage, the demos, requires popular sovereignty, since sovereignty in the 21st century is understood as political capacity for self-government.