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France

# Defeat for Macron, breakthrough for the far right: urgency of a fighting left

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**The results of the second round of the legislative elections are a defeat for the current government. With 246 deputies in the National Assembly, Emmanuel Macron is indeed far from obtaining an absolute majority of in parliament, confirming his illegitimacy and his status of “badly elected president”.**

The defeats of several leading Macronists, from Richard Ferrand to Christophe Castaner including Amélie de Montchalin, who Jean-Luc Mélenchon defeated in the first round, testify to the rejection of Macron and his ilk. [\[1\]](#)

## **Macronia weakened against a background of political instability**

The composition of the National Assembly presages a continuation and amplification of the situation of political instability, with a minority “presidential majority” unable to govern alone. Given policies he pursued during his first term and the radically anti-NUPES campaign between the two rounds, Macron will undoubtedly seek support to his right, hardening his policies even further.

The democratic crisis is continuing and growing, with a very high abstention rate and a significant distortion of votes due to the voting system, which still does not include any form of proportional representation. Abstention is particularly high among young people and the working classes, who felt little interest in a campaign that the government did everything to make inaudible.

## **Against the danger of the extreme right, a surge on the left**

With 89 MPs, the Rassemblement National has achieved a historic score, and confirms its process of “normalization”, with a real presence in several regions (in the north, east and south-east) and breakthroughs in others. The RN will certainly have fewer MPs than the left, but its capacity to cause harm will be considerably amplified, as it seeks - unfortunately with success - to take advantage of the political instability and the democratic and social crisis. The fascist threat is there, and the current government bears a heavy responsibility, through its policies and speeches, for this dangerous phenomenon.

The NUPES scores show the existence of a significant and positive dynamic on the left. The FI has four times more MPs, which confirms the presence of a significant rejection “from the left” of Macron and neoliberal policies, and of an aspiration for more social justice, ecology and democracy, and even of a hope for a better world. Despite our criticisms of the NUPES, the NPA called for a vote for its candidates we welcome the fact that millions of people have seized on its candidates to express their anger against Macron by voting for a left breaking with social liberalism.

## **Struggle and rebuild an anti-capitalist political force**

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From today we must prepare the struggles of tomorrow, relying among other things on the militant dynamics generated by the campaigns of some of the NUPES candidates. We must constitute or perpetuate collectives ready to lead the coming battles against authoritarian neo-liberalism, starting with the defence of our pensions, which should be a struggle of the whole political and social left, as well as that for the defence and revival of public services.

In a situation where the danger of the extreme right is asserting itself, there is also an urgent need to build tools of resistance and organization for our social camp, including at the political level. We need a broad political force to defend the interests of the vast majority of the population and the perspective of another society, free from capital and social and ecological disasters.

Building this fighting left is the task of the coming months!

*Montreuil, 19 June 2022, updated 20 June 2022*

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[1] Ferrand president of National Assembly, Castaner former minister of the interior, Montchalin Minister for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Jean-Michel Blanquer former Minister of National Education. Current ministers defeated in the elections have to resign.