

# Random Thoughts

About the Indymedia network, tactical media...

EVAN HENSHAW-PLATH

Indymedia is the eclectic combination of web sites, community media centres, and networks of media and activist groups. The purpose is to create an environment through which we can coordinate, fight, and hopefully win the war of ideas. RAND, the right wing think tank, has coined the term Netwar, to couch the struggle over ideas and the political realm, the struggle for hegemony, within the language of military conflict. In some ways they are right. The development of high-tech weaponry has removed the possibility of armed struggle within the industrialised world. Netwar, the playing out of social, political, and economic conflicts through the realm of information has opened up a new terrain through which the struggle over power in society is played out.

Netwar is about the struggle over ideas and ideology played out in a highly connected and networked communication based society. The process of revolution is not that of storming the seats of power, but of creating the environment whereby popular notions of society, power, and legitimacy shift out from underneath those seats of power. Indymedia is a vehicle through which the ideological basis of present power structures can be subverted. We are countering the corporate media establishment which serves as both creator and beneficiary of our neo-liberal consumerist society.

Indymedia is a disorganisation, decentralised and loosely networked. Countering both the traditional left media and the capitalist media. Arising out of the anti-globalisation movement, Indymedia reflects many of the values, organisational methods, and contradictions of the larger movement. In some way we are movement media, but given the nature of the movement, we don't advocate a particular ideological perspective. Rather we have a terrain of ideologies which are both contradictory and complimentary, but reflect the post-modern undercurrents of the anti-globalisation struggle. There is no editorial voice, aside from general vague agreements about direction. For some the struggle is to put a human face on capitalism, or to create 'mindful markets', for others it is the elimination of capitalism, or the whole of both the state and markets, or civilisation itself. All of these views coexist within a framework of the networked coalition. We don't agree on what we want, but everybody agrees that the monolithic hegemonic domination of the current neo-liberal globalisation needs to be shattered. There struggle for a planet that allows many truths, the localisation of ideology within a globalised world.

Indymedia is a network of media collectives, centres, journalists, activists, commentators, and media makers who are using this technology to subvert the legitimacy of the global corporate media and their "washington consensus", not by providing one alternative, but by creating a space through which many voices can rise up in a cacophony of dissent.