

GLOBAL UPRISING: CONFRONTING THE TRYANNIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY, STORIES FROM A NEW GENERATION OF ACTIVISTS

Neva Welton and Linda Wolf, Eds.
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BY LEIGH S. BROWNHILL

Struggling for social and ecological justice, suggests Direct Action Network's Shannon Service, makes us human. Judging by all the "Battles of Seattles" that have erupted globally, and by the contents of Welton and Wolf's edited collection, *Global Uprising*, a whole generation has been born into the toil and festivity of building a new world out of the smoke and ashes of the old.

Still, as contributor J. L. Chestnut wrote in his chapter on the 1960s Civil Rights movement, "I don't think this generation fully understands how we got where we are.... They don't know the extent of the blood, the suffering, the deaths." Chestnut raises the critical issue of the ahistorical perspectives of many activists. As this collection shows, it is not that people are naturally blind to the past. On the contrary, much has been shielded from the public view by those in the state and corporate seats of power. Why? Perhaps because *learning* history can push a person to want to *change* the course of history.

Welton and Wolf contribute to the process of unveiling historical and international aspects of social movements against capitalist exploitation. Their book contains histories, testimonies, analyses, and personal and organizational biographies. Together, these present a picture of the diversity and unity emerging in tandem in the anti-corporate glo-

balization movement worldwide. Authors do not spare us any of the most devastating impacts of corporate globalization. The contributors to this volume demonstrate personal courage and compassion and, in some instances, an unfolding understanding of the complexities of both corporate rule and the struggle for a new society. The time-tested analyses of Vandana Shiva, Kevin Danaher, Noam Chomsky, and Leonard Peltier, among others, combine with the fresh perspectives of very young activists to make this a diverse collection.

Owens Wiwa presents his testimony on the Nigerian popular resistance against Shell and other oil companies. He argues that in that struggle,

the women in Ogoni are the most powerful. They are very well organized, and they empowered us to speak out, because they were behind us. The women are on the front lines of the environmental movement. They are the farmers, and they see the effects of these oil spills and gas flares on their crops and their yields. They are the people who usually come to my clinic with the children whose lungs have been poisoned by gas fumes. They are also the people who, when their children are arrested, carry most of the pain.

I draw inspiration from statements such as that made by Betty Krawczyk, when she was on trial in 2000 for blockading logging roads in Elaho Valley, British Columbia. She told the judge that,

"In my opinion, my attempt to try to help stop Interfor's rapid destruction of the Elaho Valley by standing in front of the logging trucks was not an evil, criminal, crazy thing to do. In my scheme of things, it was the eminently sane thing to do. I believe it to be crazy and insane

to stand by mutely while our collective life support systems are being destroyed."

Through activism, contributing author Neta Golan unlearned the racism she had been taught as a Jewish Israeli girl. In her article "Human Shield: An Israeli Activist in Palestine," she concludes that

I believe that a conflict can only really be solved when both sides in the conflict are happy and safe. That is real victory. My father shares a view with many Israelis that supporting Palestinians means betraying my people. I do not think that that is the case. I believe that for Jews to be safe and free, Palestinians need to have safety and freedom. Otherwise we are preparing our children for a legacy of war. So I am working on our joint interest—peace and justice—which is a requirement for all of us and for all of our children.

Global Uprising is essential reading, especially for the new activist. Its short, hard-hitting and easy-to-read articles build understanding of the issues and critical analytical skills. This book should be studied for its refreshing perspectives on what Wolf and Welton call the "fluid cohesion" characterizing this multifaceted movement which challenges corporate globalization from above by constructing a popular globalization from below.

LA PROSTITUTION, UN MÉTIER COMME UN AUTRE?

Yolande Geadah
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PAR JEANNE MARANDA

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