

Cyberactivism and the Zapatista Rebellion

Presented By: Abdul Ursani

Goals

- To research Cyberactivism and how it affected the Zapatista Rebellion

Outline

- What is Cyberactivism?
- The Zapatista Rebellion
- Role of Cyberactivism in the Zapatista Rebellion
- Future Considerations

Cyberactivism

- Definition
 - Organizing Political or Social activism through Internet
- Tools
 - Websites, E-Mail Groups, etc.
- Easy to Use
 - No high tech equipment required

Cyberactivism

- Internet is a communication tool
 - Networks are in constant communication
- Hyperlinks
 - Network to network connections
- Not tied to mainstream modes of thought
 - Free to pass along controversial information

Chiapas, Mexico



Fig. 1

The Zapatista Rebellion

- January 1, 1994
 - First day of rebellion
 - NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)
- Zapatista's Demands
 - Autonomy
 - Democracy
 - Justice
 - Respect

The Zapatista Rebellion

- “The Zapatista Rebellion is an explosion, rising from the submerged roots of Mexico’s forgotten past, caused by a modernization program that menaced the indigenous population with the destruction of everything they hold essential to their way of life”
 - Ann Carrigan

The Zapatista Rebellion



Fig. 2

The Zapatista Rebellion



Fig. 3

The Zapatista Rebellion



Fig. 4

The Zapatista Rebellion



Fig. 5

The Zapatista Rebellion

- Around January 9, 1994, the Mexican government accepted ceasefire
 - Information flow due to Internet fueled international protest
 - Information is a key commodity

Role of Cyberactivism in the Zapatista Rebellion

- Internet provided rapid distribution of information
 - Anti-NAFTA networks
- Internet was not used by the Zapatistas themselves
 - Little to no access to computer technology

Role of Cyberactivism in the Zapatista Rebellion

- In time, The Zapatistas realized the power of the Internet
 - Protection
 - Strengthen Ties Worldwide
- Meetings
 - Series of Continental and Intercontinental Meetings
 - Thousands Came from all over the world

Role of Cyberactivism in the Zapatista Rebellion

- Examples of Networks friendly to Zapatistas
 - Indigenous Networks
 - Environmental Networks
 - Women's Networks

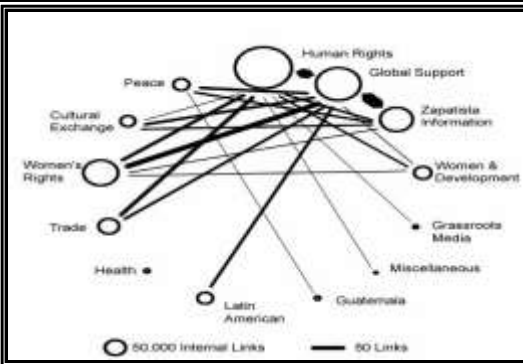


Fig. 6

Websites

- [Support Zapatista Women](#)
- [Zapatistas in Cyberspace](#)
- [Chiapas and the Zapatista Rebellion](#)

Role of Cyberactivism in the Zapatista Rebellion

- Impacts
 - Harry Cleaver
 - "The Zapatista Effect"
 - "Alternative Political Fabric"

Future Considerations

- Digital Divide
 - Definition: the unbalanced distribution of electronic technology throughout our world
 - 25% of the world's population is online
- Organizations are trying to solve this problem
 - [DigitalDivide](#)

Future Considerations

- Net Neutrality
 - The way the Internet was meant to be
 - Definition: the Internet is a free open forum of information
 - Unrestrained information sharing
 - [Save the Internet](#)
- Cable and Telephone Companies are trying to change how we access the Internet
 - Pay for "high speed service" or downgrade to "low speed service"
- Will hinder Cyberactivism

Cyberactivism and the Zapatista Revolution Presently

- Cyberactivism
 - Alive and well
 - [Narco News](#)
- Zapatista
 - Still active in the Jungles of Chiapas
 - Release declarations periodically
 - Low-intensity warfare by the Mexican government

Conclusion



Fig. 7

Acknowledgments

- Dr. Nancy Lutz
- Chad Huddleston
- Faculty and Staff of the Anthropology Department
- All my friends and family

Picture Bibliography

- Figure 1:
http://www.pickatrail.com/jupiter/location/north_america/mexico/map/chiapas.gif
- Figure 2:
<http://www.espacioalternativo.com/noticias/wp-content/media/ezln.jpg>
- Figure 3:
<http://www.indymedia.org/images/2006/12/877664.jpg>

Picture Bibliography

- Figure 4:
<http://cache.daylife.com/imageserve/03cj3Eaexh9fM/610x.jpg>
- Figure 5:
<http://endofcapitalism.files.wordpress.com/2007/11/zapatista4.jpg>
- Figure 6: Garrido, Maria and Alexander Halavais
2003 Mapping Networks of Support for the Zapatista Movement: Applying Social-Networks Analysis to Study Contemporary Social Movements.

Picture Bibliography

- Figure 7:
<http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/assets/graphics/become-a-cyberactivist>