

Letter to members of *No Azure for Apartheid*

A Place To Stand

A public information platform will be a place for activists to gather and a powerful weapon of mass transparency in the class struggle and the Palestinian solidarity movement

Ben Seattle -- May 2026

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Hi everyone,

I have asked for this letter to be sent to all members of NOAA so that I might to bring you all up to date on the potential benefits of a **simple digital utility** that I believe **activists**, such as ourselves, are likely to create in the years ahead.

-- Chapter 1 -- A stack of cards

An ever-growing stack of digital index cards

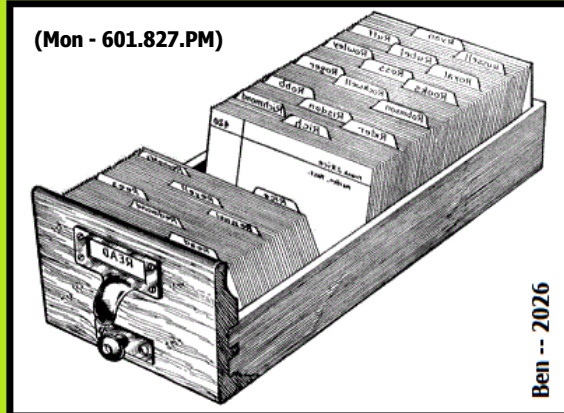
This **simple utility** would consist of an **ever-growing stack** of **digital index cards**. These cards would be able to **link** to one another, and **all activists** would have the **right to add cards** to this **permanent** and **ever-growing stack**.

Each card will contain one or more of these elements:

- ▶ **text** (including rich text)
- ▶ **images**
- ▶ **links** (to other cards, and to internet locations)
- ▶ **#hashtags**
- ▶ **tables** (sortable, with rows, fields, and headers)

Public data & open source software

All data on this platform would be considered **public**. The software would be **open source** that anyone could modify.



A simple system of digital cards that can link to one another can be used to create a democratic information platform that can connect users with the public information they want and need

A platform for journalism, activists and public discussion

Just as **amino acids** can be strung together to create any kind of **protein**, the simple elements listed above will make it possible for users of this utility to **build any kind of digital structure** -- including:

- ▶ **publishing platforms, news sites**
- ▶ **democratically moderated forums**
- ▶ and a new type of **democratic wiki**

A platform for collaboration

This simple utility would make it easier for **activists** to **collaborate** at **scale**--because it could serve as a **common publishing platform** for **blogging**, news, wikis, and a host of innovative algorithmic interactions of activists and progressive journalists with one another and with readers.

Democratic algorithms will serve the movement

This relatively **simple digital utility** would be of great value in assisting the organization of all kinds of popular struggles--including, in particular, the struggle for the **national** and **democratic rights** of the Palestinian people.

This platform would be based on **democratic algorithms** created by and for **activists** in order to **share** (ie: **post, index** and **find**) news, analysis, opinion, discussion and debate on all topics important to the **liberation** of **Palestine** and the liberation of **all oppressed humanity** from the **rule of capital**.

-- Chapter 2 -- Owned by the movement

Who will control this platform?

Probably the most important question concerns **who** will **own** and **control** this platform.

Why is this so important?

This platform will serve activists and organizations in and around the "left". But many of these organizations are engaged in **cutthroat competition** with one another over the warm bodies of activists, and have developed cult-like features and unprincipled practices.

Power corrupts -- and leads to hijacking

As this platform develops into a tool that serves **transparency** and the **organization** of struggle--people and organizations with an interest in **suppressing criticism** of incompetence, hypocrisy or corruption would eventually have a **powerful incentive** to attempt to control (or simply **hijack**) this utility. Power corrupts, and the power of this utility would be likely to corrupt powerfully.

Platform must be owned by "the movement"

The **necessity** for this platform to **resist** all attempts at hijacking and **remain open to activists** (and **serve** the **movement** by serving **transparency**) is what must **drive** its **fundamental architecture**.

This is **why** the **software** and **data** that make this platform run must be in the **public domain**.

How to defeat hijacking

As the project grows and develops--it will eventually become necessary for all this public data and software to be **redundantly distributed** in such a way that attempts to **hijack** and control the project and **profit** from it (financially or politically) can be **defeated** by using this **public domain information** to set up functioning **clone sites** that are **beyond the control** of **opportunists**.

A digital platform for the war of ideas

If we are serious about bringing to millions the truth about Palestine and the Palestinian people, then we must recognize that our movement needs a reliable and democratic platform for public information. Activists will use this digital platform to exchange important news and opinion, and to co-ordinate their efforts to engage in the war of ideas in this country and the world.

No single point of failure

In other words--the architecture of this platform will eventually need to be setup such that there is no single point of control--**no single point of failure**--in order for the platform to **remain independent** of the control of any **government, corporation** or **political priesthood**.

Recent years have given us a number of examples of platforms (such as torrent sites, wikileaks and blockchain projects such as bitcoin) that could (in effect) clone themselves or that had no single point of failure and (for this reason) proved highly resistant to being **taken down** or **taken over**.

Supreme authority will be the user

The architecture I am describing (ie: where anyone can add cards, and all data is archived on a permanent public ledger) will **solve** the problem of "**who is in charge?**" that comes up when digital platforms or forums are used in situations where **opposing political views** (or organizations) are in **competition** with one another.

Who moderates a discussion or debate? **Who controls** what users will see when they use this utility to find the answers they need?

The answer to the questions above is that the **supreme authority** must always be in the **hands** of **each individual user** who uses this utility.

(continued on next page)

A level playing field

This utility will represent a **level playing field** where everyone will have **equal rights**.

In this level playing field, all data and all algorithms belong to the **public domain**. YOU can change the algorithms. YOU can access all the data. Everyone else also has the **same rights** as you. No **gatekeeper** stands between you and all the information that people want you to know. Similarly, no **authority** stands between you and those who might be interested in what you have to say.

Once the development of this utility reaches the required level of maturity, there will be no need for this utility to be controlled by any kind of **priesthood** which has **authority** to decide what truths (ie: "**party line**") users are allowed to see.

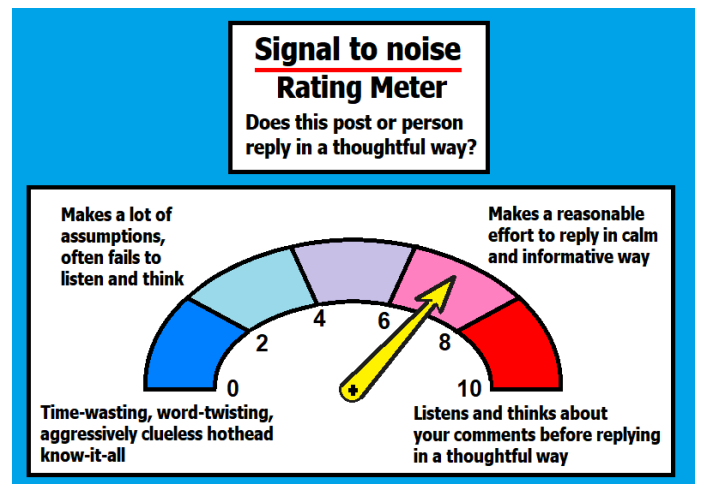
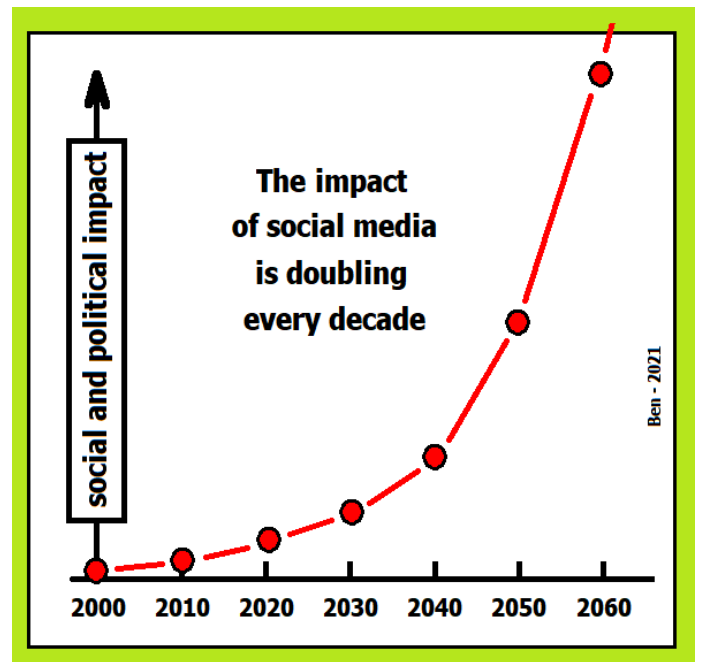
Why is this important? History tells us that there is no such thing as incorruptible people or organizations, In class society, any **contradiction** between the interests of the people who run this utility and the people who use it--will eventually be **exploited** (ie: metabolized) under the **unrelenting pressure** of capital, which gives a powerful incentive to people to make use of these contradictions for **profit** or **advantage**--and this ultimately serves the interests of our ruling class.

A permanent public ledger

All **additions** to this stack of cards will be recorded on a **permanent** and **immutable public ledger**. It will be the same for **updates** (ie: you will be able to edit or soft-delete any card you post--but the previous versions will be permanently archived on the public ledger).

This immutability solves otherwise **intractable** technical and political problems concerning **who** has the **authority** to **delete content**--because **no one** will have this authority--as everything will be on a **permanent public ledger**.

In the long run, as this utility matures from early test and prototype versions into something which is genuinely useful to dozens, hundreds or thousands of activists, the data in this ledger will be redundantly distributed to **protect this utility** from censorship by greedy corporations or repressive governments. But that is **not an issue for now**, and we do not need to worry about it today.



What is in the following chapters?

In the following chapters of this letter I will further describe what this utility might look like as well as give some **scenarios** to illustrate how it will function.

After that, I will describe how such a project might help organizations such as **NOAA**, as well as help the development of both the **Palestinian solidarity movement** and the larger movements of the **working class** and **oppressed**.

Following that, I will include some educated speculation concerning the **long-term trajectory** of growth and development of this and related projects.

Finally, I will propose a number of **modest** and **practical steps** toward a **modest prototype project** that could be used to demonstrate some of the key features of this utility.

-- Chapter 3 --

From index cards to an online Zettelkasten

The culmination of the quest to organize the information we need

The idea of indexing important information has been around from at least the time of the famed library of Alexandria in the 2nd century BC. Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish naturalist who invented the modern system of cataloging plants and animals in the 1700's, also invented the **3x5 inch index card** to help him in his work. Students of Linnaeus then went on to use these index cards to catalog collections of book in libraries. **Card catalogues** soon became standard in every library up until the digital revolution of the 1990's.

In recent years, as we have been overwhelmed by the **flood of information** (and **misinformation**) available on the internet, there has been an explosion of interest in "personal knowledge management" systems and **digital tools**, such as **Obsidian**, to help us find notes and thoughts that would otherwise be scattered and lost [1]. The most well-known online platforms used for **group collaboration** are probably **Wikipedia** and discussion forums such as **Reddit**.

In the last half of the 20th century in Germany, Niklas Luhmann, as an after work hobby, began making notes on **4x6 inch slips of paper** to index connections between interesting things he was reading. He created an average of **only 6 notes a day**, but after doing this for decades, he had created 90 thousand notes, which he used to "effortlessly" write 60 books and 600 academic papers. Luhmann called his collection of notes a "**zettelkasten**" (German for "basket of notes").

The crisis of theory and the problems we must solve

As activists today, we are faced with a **crisis of theory** has left us **ignorant** and **helpless** in countless ways. Often, we are faced with problems which would be relatively **easy** to solve--if only we had the **knowledge** that others had accumulated with a **lifetime** of **sacrifice** and **pain**. Instead, we

are left in darkness and forced, endlessly, to **reinvent the wheel**.

All of the **indexing systems** described above have **big problems**. We need to look at these problems so we can **solve** them.

Tools such as **Obsidian** are designed for use by **individuals**, not **group collaboration**. Tools such as **Reddit** have been **crippled** both by its **compartmentalized structure** as well as the profit motive of the company which runs it. **Wikipedia** pages are required to be "**neutral**" and are **under the thumb** of whichever team of editors control the edits on a page.

I will leave out discussion of platforms such as **Mastodon** and **BlueSky** (which at one time generated a lot of enthusiasm) other than to say that they have not lived up to their original promise.

The trajectory of future information platforms for activists

The **trajectory** of **public information systems** for **activists** will eventually lead to overcoming these problems. This will require platforms that:

- ▶ are relatively **simple** and do not require more than **negligible** amounts of **money**
- ▶ are **democratic** in their nature, and represent a **level playing field**
- ▶ make possible contributions from **individuals** that cannot be **censored** or **watered down** by others -- and that anyone can **easily find**
- ▶ give users **practical** and **powerful** tools to **filter out** time-wasting **bullshit**
- ▶ enable **group collaboration** and the **unrestricted** use of **democratic algorithms** that anyone can **modify**
- ▶ can be **easily cloned** and **replicated** to defend against attacks or hijacking

My conclusion is that the six requirements above will eventually result in something similar to the **digital utility** I am describing. Let's now take a look at some **scenarios** that will show how **the parts** of this utility will **work together**.

-- Chapter 4 --

Some scenarios for democratic algorithms

Scenario # 1 -- learning about the reputation of a person, organization or idea on a "democratic wikipedia"

Let's consider a simple example of how a genuinely democratic platform would make it possible for users to **find information** on a topic (ie: a *person, organization, event* or *idea*) on which there are a **range of views in contention** with one another. This will be one of the most common ways in which activists (and other users) will use this utility.

I will start with how a user might look up info about **John Mearsheimer** (with whom most readers of this letter are probably familiar). Mearsheimer is one of the most highly respected commentators on the internet because he speaks outstanding clarity and integrity, and is deeply sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. I usually watch at least one of his videos each week, and would otherwise find it difficult to stay informed.

At the same time, Mearsheimer is not without problems. He is the most well-known proponent of the **"wag the dog" theory**, which holds that the Israeli lobby controls US imperialist foreign policy in the Middle East.

There are, of course, **threads of truth** in the wag-the-dog theory but, overall, this theory tends to overlook the **well-known colonial tactic** of creating an enclave in a strategic area and deliberately encouraging the inhabitants of that enclave to commit large-scale atrocities in order to **bind the enclave** to the **colonial power**--which the enclave now **needs** for **protection** against **retribution**.

In other words, **US imperialism** created Israel as part of its **divide-and-rule** tactic (to counter **Arab anti-colonial nationalism** and **Soviet influence** during the **cold war**) in an **oil-rich region** which controlled important **trade routes**.

For this reason, and similar reasons, many on the left consider Mearsheimer to be naive [2]. This all means that Mearsheimer is (so to speak) **neither black nor white**. Rather, he is **complicated**.

Card # 4067	#Tags
Ver # H	#Wiki-Mearsheimer
User Ben Seattle	Content
Date May 16 2026	John Mearsheimer is probably one of the best known and highly respected commentators on the internet.
	His analysis of major events in world geopolitics is often highly insightful.
	However Mearsheimer's analysis also has problems, such as . . . blah, blah, blah . . .
	. . . blah, blah, blah . . .

It is the same for **countless other important topics** such as: *the two-state solution, Hamas, campism, Mamdani, DSA, social democracy*, etc. These are all complicated topics and users will need to have access to the **full range of views** on all of them.

The digital utility I am describing would make possible something I call a **"democratic wikipedia"** which would make it easy for users to become familiar with a range of competing views on any topic. Let's see how this might work.

Someone like me could create a card with the tag **#Wiki-Mearsheimer** (see **card # 4067** in the graphic above). A user who wanted to understand the strengths and weaknesses of a commentator like Mearsheimer could then execute a quick search for all cards with that tag. This user would then see my card listed in the results--as well as cards from **anyone else** which had that tag. For example: Alice, Bob, Carol and David might have also created their own cards with that tag--and their cards would also appear in the list of search results.

Filters will filter out bullshit

Users would also be able to use filters of various kinds to filter out cards from people who tend to be a waste of time (or who are regarded as a waste of time by those on their "trust list").

Results ranked by card popularity

There are countless ways that **democratic algorithms** could add sophistication to the search results. For example--the **size** of the card that might appear in the results could be **proportional** to the number of endorsements (or "likes") a card receives. More than this, the user could command the algorithm to only count endorsements from people on the user's trust list. **Each individual user** would have **control** over what the algorithm shows them, and there would be no end to how this could be used.

Building blocks of our digital future

Nature builds complex structures out of simple things. For example, all living things are made out of **proteins**, which can be of almost any imaginable size and shape, but all proteins are made from only about two dozen **amino acids**, which are arranged like beads on a string, in the same way that **words** and **paragraphs** are composed of a small set of about two dozen **letters**.

In a similar way--we will see that all kinds of **digital structures** can be created when we make use of **algorithms** to **combine** the **digital cards** in this utility and the text, images, links, #tags, and tables contained in each card.

Let's now consider an example of how the simple elements of each card can be **combined** (like **lego bricks**) to build more sophisticated structures.

Scenario # 2 -- Jane's list of jerks

A key feature of this utility will be that it will allow users to include **tables** in any card they create. People who edit Wikipedia pages can also use a simple tool to create tables, so our utility will be **similar** to that--but **more powerful**.

For example--**Jane** might create a **list of jerks** to **filter**--and people who trust Jane's judgement might **subscribe** to her list. Jane's table has a column with a link to the card that earned her wrath--so you can always check and verify that, for example, Jack's card # 6002 really did earn Jack a place on her list.

If Jane puts you on her list--then fewer people will see your posts. But you will also be able to create your own list of people to filter. And people who trust your judgement might subscribe to your list.

But if most users trust Jane and not you--then you will need to contact Jane and convince her that you have changed--and are done with acting like a jerk. If you want to have influence--you will quickly learn to treat people with **thoughtfulness** and **respect**--because at stake will be your **reputation**.

The next graphic shows a table that **Heather** has created with a list of **trustworthy** people. If you subscribe to Heather's list--then you will see posts by those people. Heather's table also assigns people a **"trust score"**. This trust score can then be used by the **algorithm** in various ways.

Song	Lead vocal(s) ^[e]	Year	Ref(s)
"Love Me Do" ^[m]	McCartney (with Lennon)	1962	^[60] ^[52]
"P.S. I Love You"	McCartney	1962	^[60]
"All I've Got to Do"	Lennon	1963	^[54]
"All My Loving"	McCartney	1963	^[54]
"Anna (Go to Him)"	Lennon	1963	^[60]
"Ask Me Why"	Lennon	1963	^[60]

(above) (from Wikipedia) Sortable table of songs by the Beatles (below) Wikipedia edit tool for tables

Insert table x

Add header row Example

Style with borders Caption text

Make table sortable

Rows

Columns

Caption text		
Header text	Header text	Header text
Cell text	Cell text	Cell text
Cell text	Cell text	Cell text
Cell text	Cell text	Cell text

Jane's List of Jerks to Filter

Name	Reason	Reference Note
Jack	Troll	Note # 6002
John	Racist	Note # 6004
Charlie	Stupid	Note # 6006

Click [here](#) to subscribe to Jane's filter

It will be easy to filter out timewasting jerks

Heather's List of Solid People

Name	Trust Score	Reference
Sally	*	blah, blah, blah
Leslie	* * *	
Courtney	*	
Simone	* * * *	

(continued on next page)

-- Chapter 5 --

The Palestinian Media Army

The scenarios I have sketched out are only the tip of the iceberg. They can all be combined together in innumerable ways. We **cannot predict** the way the utility I am describing would be likely to evolve because the possibilities, with **algorithms** that anyone can **extend**, and **data** that anyone can **access**, would be essentially **endless**.

What we can do is **step back** and look at the **big picture** and the **questions** to which we would like **answers**.

Let's start by asking how such a digital utility could help the **Palestinian solidarity movement**.

The answer to this question depends a lot on the **timeframe** we have in mind. My speculation is that, in the **short term** (which I would consider as being over the **next five or ten years**) such a utility would make it easier for **activists** such as ourselves to be **better informed** concerning the **entire range** of issues we face--including:

- (a) key **events** in Palestine and in the world
- (b) the effectiveness of various **tactics**
- (c) a more clear understanding of the **nature** of the various **political trends** which present themselves as our allies

This utility would also help in our work to bring the truth to **large numbers of people** (whether tech workers, or students, or people we might reach via social media) and give people **a place to go** where they can get **answers** to many of the most **difficult** and **complex questions** -- and also easily **engage** with others.

Of particular importance would be the usefulness of this utility in the **training** of **teams** of **progressive journalists**.

In the **longer term** (ie: where we are thinking of the **next few decades** rather than the next few years) more ambitious things would be possible.

This utility could evolve to become the kind of **digital infrastructure** that would make it possible for **self-organizing teams** of **activists** and

journalists to bring the truth about Palestine (and about everything important) to every corner of the earth. Such teams might eventually be known (informally) as the **"Palestinian Media Army"**.

A non-existent organization based on a real mission statement

Before going further, I should note that there is a political problem that may need to be **resolved**, rather than simply have groupings of activists call themselves the "Palestinian Media Army".

Anyone and everyone has the **right** and the **responsibility** to speak in defense of the national and democratic rights of the Palestinian people. But the other side of this coin is that until the Palestinians themselves, in their millions, have the **democratic space** they need to **choose** their own **representatives** -- no one can claim to **represent** the Palestinians -- as might otherwise be implied. It would be **necessary** that this political problem be **understood** and resolved **correctly**.

My guess is that the best way to solve this problem may be for the Palestinian Media Army to have no formal existence. Just as there is no official organization called "antifa", so likewise there might be no official organization calling itself the "Palestinian Media Army". Rather, groups of activists would simply do their best to live up to the **mission statement** of this non-existent organization--which could be something like this:

Mission Statement:

Bringing the truth about Palestine, and everything important, to the working class and oppressed in every corner of the earth.

If activists are dedicated to this mission, and refuse to bend, compromise or abandon fundamental principles when tested in struggle--then their efforts may be remembered by history as deserving of this name. This would not require any kind of official **"party line"** -- but rather would enable the expression of a **range of views** in the context of **democratic** discussion and **debate**.

On the next page are some of the graphics I have made over the last two years to popularize the idea of something like the Palestinian Media Army.



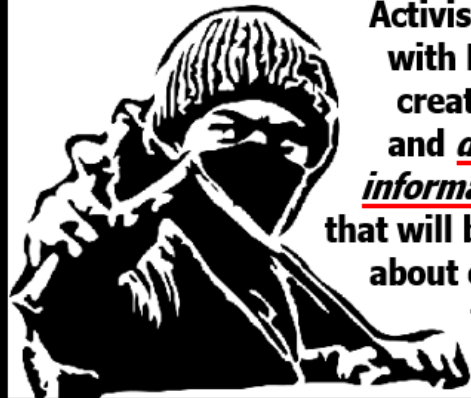
The Palestinian Media Army Needs You!

Join the Email ListServ!

Ben - April 2024

Algorithms want to be free to liberate Palestine and liberate all humanity from the rule of capital

The Palestinian Media Army will liberate the world



Activists in solidarity with Palestine will create a universal and democratic information platform that will bring the truth about everything to everyone.

A digital platform for the war of ideas

If we are serious about bringing to millions the truth about Palestine and the Palestinian people, then we must recognize that our movement needs a reliable and democratic platform for public information. Activists will use this digital platform to exchange important news and opinion, and to co-ordinate their efforts to engage in the war of ideas in this country and the world.

The struggle of the Palestinian people for their national and democratic rights will be greatly helped by a weapon built for our century of information war.

This weapon will be an independent public democratic information platform fueled by user-controlled algorithms.

What happens when the means of communication are seized by Proletarians and Palestinians?

The Palestinian Media Army will liberate the world

Our century of information war will lead to the inevitable victory of the Palestinian Media Army and the liberation of humanity from the rule of capital

Ben Seattle -- July 2025 -- (725.948.AM) -- <http://communism.org/Ben>

Palestinian Media Army



Our century of information war will have a hero. This hero will be the Palestinian Media Army.

Our ruling class, like the sorcerer's apprentice, has conjured up forces beyond their control.

They can broadcast news of their omnipotence, their ability to slaughter and starve hundreds of thousands with impunity--but they have given us the digital technology to equip an army of millions of young journalists and propagandists in the war of ideas, and a reason to do so.

-- Chapter 6 --

The crisis of journalism and the crisis of theory

The crisis of journalism

Today we are faced with a **growing contradiction** between the **volume** of information to which we have access--and the **reliability** of that information. We need **signal**. We get **noise**.

We need **reliable** information which does not **conceal** or **distract** from the big picture -- and places **daily events** in the **context** of the **larger trends** shaping our society.

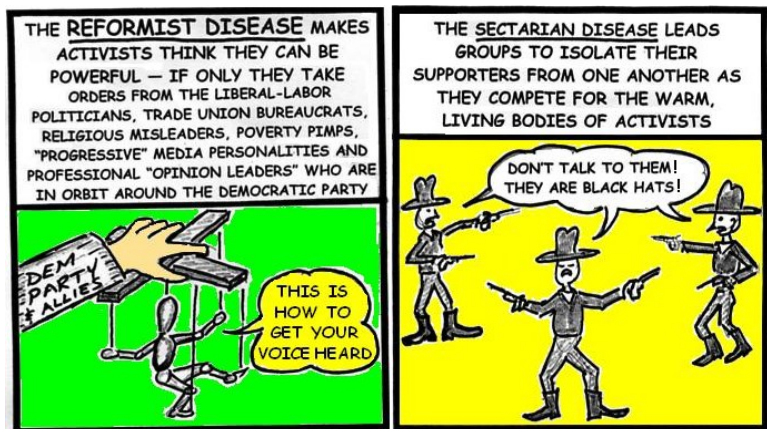
But we don't get what we need. Instead--we are bombarded by propaganda and public relations paid for by **billionaires** with a vested interest in keeping us **ignorant** and **fighting one another**.

This is normal for class-divided society. Our **ruling class** owns the **means of production** that create the **news** and information we consume. The major media networks and the social media algorithms that **shape our thinking** work against our interests and keep us **isolated** and **alienated** from one another so that we can be more easily **manipulated**.

Journalism today is overwhelmingly based on money--and **obedience to power**. This is why, for example, major news institutions **concealed** or minimized the **genocide** in Gaza. This adds up to a growing **crisis** for **journalism**. The world is going to hell, and journalists who struggle to tell the truth about it face countless obstacles.

The **good news** is that the steady development of what are called **productive forces** (ie: mainly technology that creates things) will, in the decades ahead, be making it increasingly easy for ordinary people to work together to **aggregate** and **organize** information at sufficient **scale** to **effectively challenge** the current near-monopoly of news and culture maintained by our **ruling class**.

This helps us understand the nature of the digital utilities we need to create and use. A **new world** will be emerging, and we need to learn how to create for it. Just as **open source software** is the way of the future--so will be **open source journalism**.



The crisis of theory & the radical left

If the major media institutions are mouthpieces for our ruling class--then we **might expect** that organizations in the **radical left** might have the **ability** to tell us what is really going on.

It would be wonderful if that were true. But it's not.

Organizations on the radical left do give us a lot of the information that major news and media institutions conceal. But that is **not enough**. On the big questions related to the **fundamental way out** of the problems of **capitalist rule**--radical left organizations have not escaped the **century of confusion** and disorientation that has followed the failure of Lenin's 1917 revolution.

Is a world without the rule of capital **possible**? If so--then **what would it look like** and **how** do we get there? Instead of the answers to these questions that we need--there is **hot air** and **hand-waving** about something called "**socialism**" that no one can adequately explain.

This inability to **understand** and **explain** the way forward for humanity is called the "**crisis of theory**". The *crisis of theory* has **paralyzed** the radical left and largely reduced it to **squabbling cults** engaged in **cutthroat competition** with one another for the warm bodies of activists who are new on the scene and looking for experienced people with which to hook up.

The elements of the solution to the crisis of theory exist in scattered form. What is needed to gather these scattered elements together are **democratic forums** based on a culture that can enforce a high **signal-to-noise ratio** in discussion and debate.

The need for such democratic forums will, of necessity, **shape the nature** of the digital utilities in our future.

No one can be free until Palestine is free

The working class in a country such as the U.S. is faced with the monumental task of **overthrowing the rule of capital** in the heartland of U.S. imperialism. **Trump's fascist ambitions** are being **enabled** by the **Weimar Democrats**, and their institutional flunkies, while they all frolic together in Palestinian blood.

And this helps us understand that these two great struggles, proletarian and Palestinian, are **bound together**. Make no mistake--our fate is bound up with the fate of our Palestinian brothers and sisters. The fires in Gaza are casting light on what we may eventually face here at home. **No one can be free until Palestine is free**. The **war of ideas** will be **central** to this task. We need to take it seriously.

We need our own public domain information platform

The organization of the war of ideas will require a **common public information platform** which can be used by **activists** to:

- ▶ deepen their ability to **understand** events,
- ▶ carry out all necessary public **debate**,
- ▶ help **organize** their struggles, and
- ▶ **bring the truth to everyone** who wants and needs it.

Some speculation on the long-term future

It is the development of the **productive forces** that drives history forward, but this motion can sometimes be as slow as the movement of **tectonic plates**--until it reaches a **tipping point**--and heads roll. Let's look at some examples:

- ▶ In **1450**, a man named **Gutenberg** invented movable type--which made printing hundreds of times cheaper. There were no big changes at first. But in the **decades** that followed, political change in Europe accelerated as easier access to information transformed the terrain of the class struggle.
- ▶ In **1783**, in Paris, **Benjamin Franklin**, witnessed the world's first demonstrations

of a manned **balloon** flying in the sky. A lady asked him: "But of what use is it?" Franklin replied: "Madam, of what use is a new born baby?" Less than two centuries later, humans **walked on the Moon**.

▶ In **1995** the **internet** emerged into public consciousness. The web led to social media -- which soon became **enshittified** as greedy corporations turned **human attention** into a **commodity** and governments recruited top social media executives into the "national security" apparatus in order to keep the truth buried - - the population ignorant--and photos of dead Palestinians **shadow banned**. But this story is not over. It is only getting started.

What is the future of digital utilities based on **public domain data** and **open source algorithms**--where corporate overlords cannot sell the user's **attention**?

What we might expect would of course depend on the **timeframe** we are considering.

In **chapter 5** of "[Spartabase--Our weapon of mass transparency](#)", I speculate on how all this might look 25 years, and then 50 years, in the future [5].

If we consider a timeframe of one or two centuries--then such utilities may eventually grow and merge into a **democratic digital nervous system** serving all humanity.

The key thing to understand--for now--is that such a utility may grow and emerge as a **pole of attraction** that eventually leads to the **recovery** of the **radical left** and the **redemption** of its potential to **liberate humanity**.

At this time, many activists are focused on the **electoral path** to making things better. This is a complex topic and I have outlined my perspective on many of the pitfalls to be careful about in **chapter 4** of *Spartabase*.

In the meantime, I will sum up my view on this with what I call "*Ben's one percent rule*" -- which holds that:

If activists devoted--to the development of a **democratic public information platform**--just **one percent** of the time and energy they now give to **electoral politics**--this would eventually lead to the **recovery** of the **radical left**.

-- Chapter 7 --

Simple steps towards a modest prototype

The title of this essay comes from Archimedes, who explained the power of a lever by saying: "give me a place to stand and I will move the Earth". Millions of people all over the world support Palestine. A **democratic platform** for **public information** has potential to provide a place to gather and interact productively.

All this raises the question of what we can do today to help create the kind of **digital utility** that has potential to assist the liberation of Palestine, the working class, and all humanity.

A listserv and a simple prototype

I see two things that could be done today that would be quite helpful.

- (1) First--we could create a **public forum** (such as an **email listserv** with **public archives**) to discuss this.
- (2) Second--we could create a **small-scale prototype** of a utility that people could play with. The prototype might enable little more than the interaction of a few test accounts--but that would represent a reasonable beginning.

I have, over the years, made several attempts to create something similar to the prototype I have described. None of these efforts went very far. It is possible that I may be able to make one more effort, but I would need some help--mainly in the form of **feedback** from other activists. And possibly in the form of encouragement or help with various tasks.

Join the listserv today

I setup a listserv here:

- <https://groups.io/g/We-Need-The-Palestinian-Media-Army>

Anyone can subscribe by sending email to:

- We-Need-The-Palestinian-Media-Army+subscribe@groups.io

Everything about the listserv is a bit improvisational at this time, including the name and the host. It can all be changed.

I am also hosting two listservs (completely inactive) on <https://gaggle.email> that could be used--but the groups IO listserv may be "good enough".

The main thing is simply a place for email discussion that has (1) public archives and (2) the ability to attach graphics or PDF's.

Security considerations

Since repression has been increasing, and the listserv has public archives, you may wish to subscribe using an email account that is not tied to your legal identity in any obvious way.

Ben Seattle

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Notes and References

A list of related essays follows the notes below.

Notes

[1] YouTube video on digital tools

"How to Take Smart Notes - Book on a Page"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o49C8iQlsvs>

[2] Mearsheimer naive --

Here is a thread (and some excerpts) from the MarxMail listserv:

<https://groups.io/g/marxmail/topic/118841906>

Stephen G:

Mearsheimer's argument that the Israel lobby runs US foreign policy ... is part of the same ideological process of maintaining the legitimacy of the US state that is expressed in portrayals of illegal US warfare as a departure from the norm. Don't blame the US state for its malignant wars on West Asia; at their core, the US policy- and decision-makers are decent and benign human beings who want to do the right thing. The trouble is that they have fallen under the sway of the Israeli Svengali.

Unlike IR realists, such as Mearsheimer, who are IR theorists because they want to advise the US foreign policy establishment on grand strategy, Lenin's aim was to understand the origin of war in order to bring about a world whose realization would mean the end of war.

Steven C:

Mearsheimer is obviously no Marxist. Still, his analysis of great power conflict and of attempts at hegemony, and his explanation why a fully global hegemony is impossible to achieve, are well-thought-out and instructive.

He is VERY critical of US foreign policy and not only because of the Israel lobby. He blames liberal universalism and its claim that spreading democracy everywhere will achieve peace for most of the foreign policy disasters of the past 50 or so years. And his complaint about the Israeli lobby is not that US policy makers are otherwise good guys, since he has emphasized that the US is a ruthless hegemonic power throughout its history, but rather that Israeli influence has the US acting in ways contrary to its own power, well-being and national interest.

Mearsheimer's substack (the best and easiest way to follow his videos)

- <https://mearsheimer.substack.com/>

I should also note that Mearsheimer has had problems related to the influence of "campism", Putin and Putin's neo-fascist advisor Dugin (Dugin's substack is listed as "recommended" on Mearsheimer's substack). Mearsheimer has also sometimes (not consistently) referred to Putin's war on Ukraine as a "special military operation"

[3] Spartacus Ex machina

- http://communism.org/node/3000/sex_machina.pdf
- **Appendix B**
http://communism.org/node/3000/SEXM-Appendix_B.pdf

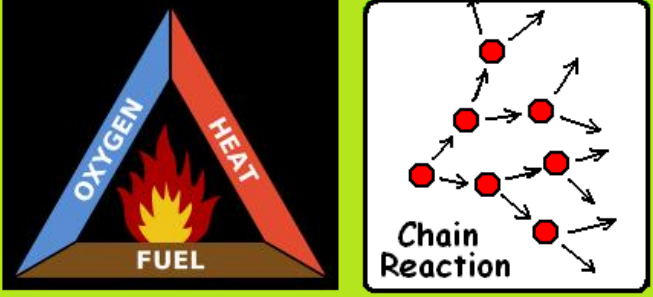
[4] Reddit R/Place

- I wrote about R/Place in "Democratic Algorithms for the Proletarian Mind" (2020)
http://communism.org/node/4002/democratic_algorithms.pdf
- The 5 aspects of /r/place (2017) (4 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axTPnSd5f3M>

[5] Spartabase--our weapon of mass transparency --

<http://communism.org/node/4056/4056.pdf>

Equation for our victory in the 21st century:
Heat, Fuel and Oxygen creates the Digital Fire



Fuel: Conditions of exploitation / misery
Oxygen: Ease of Communication
Heat: Conscious Forces

Related Essays by Ben Seattle

Spartabase--our weapon of mass transparency

<http://communism.org/node/4056/4056.pdf>

Leaflets and essays in solidarity with the Palestinian people

<http://communism.org/node/4037>

Democratic Algorithms for the Proletarian Mind

http://communism.org/node/4002/democratic_algorithms.pdf

Spartacus Ex Machina

http://communism.org/node/3000/sex_machina.pdf

Appendix B (from the above)

http://communism.org/node/3000/SEXM-Appendix_B.pdf

All Power to the Public Domain

<http://communism.org/node/4048>

Index of essays on digital weapons

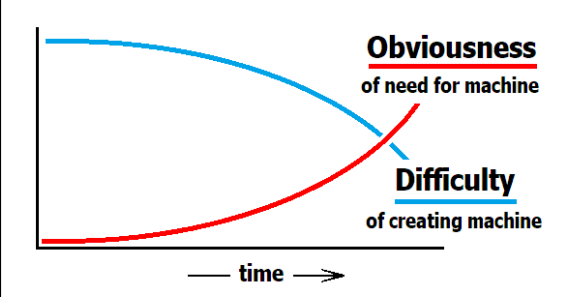
<http://communism.org/node/4049>

Main index of my essays

<http://communism.org/Ben>

Democratic information machine is inevitable

In the middle of this century, humanity will reach the crossover point where the demand for a public and democratic information machine will become irresistible



Obviousness of need for machine

Difficulty of creating machine

time

Ben 2017-1020