



Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising

Starhawk

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The well known Wiccan figure collects essays she has written in response to her observation of and participation in resistance to corporate dominance from Seattle in 1999 to Washington, D.C. in September 2001. She also presents visions for a better world. Annotation c. Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising Details

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MotherMagic says

Collection of Starhawk's essays, many of which were formerly housed on her website. What's wrong with WTO, World Bank, globalization, etc? Here are some pretty good explanations.

Marjorie Jensen says

Starhawk's *Spiral Dance* was one of the things that set me on the path to becoming a Witch many years ago. The connections between magic and politics are the best parts of *Webs of Power*. I am very interested in how earth-based spirituality is linked to conservation efforts. The use of ritual and even Tarot in Starhawk's political actions was fascinating.

Apple Van vliet says

I cherish this book. Such a good reminder for Social Justice oriented folks regarding organizing tactics, reflections on power, etc. I hope to re-read this book soon to really let it sink in.

Jen Lighty says

A good introduction to the truth about how corporations are controlling our reality and the movement to create something new based on justice for all beings.

Kate Mura says

This book is amazing. I go back to it whenever I need to reconnect to magick and politics and regain perspective on the whole greater than what swirls around directly effecting me.

Sharon says

I've had this on my shelf for a couple of years...just haven't gotten around to it yet.

Ryan Mishap says

“Notes From the Global Uprising”, this 2002 book recounts Starhawk’s internet posts from protests in Seattle, Quebec, D.C., Genoa, and from nonviolence trainings in Brazil and elsewhere, as well as new text, a look at globalization, nonviolence vs. violence (and moving beyond this dichotomy), building the movement, and visions for the future. While I have a few quibbles with her stuff here—equating anarchism with direct democracy for instance—, mostly I think this is great. The reports from the protests put you right in it and are filled with inspiration, often echoing Crimethink style communiques! I never knew that Starhawk identified as an anarchist, albeit a Pagan, Witch anarchist. I would recommend this book for many reasons, so check it out. This is the first time I’ve seen a nonviolence advocate actually respect the black bloc anarchists, the punks, and our assorted comrades. She argues against the moralism and judgment of many pacifists and argues for more understanding and flexibility—while still being against armed revolution. While many people reading this zine may have problems with some of her positions, I think Starhawk is an important ally, thinker, and activist, who may very well help bridge the gap between feminists and anarchists. Let’s keep this kind of dialogue going and not shut it down with negativity.

Megan says

I had heard really good things about this book, but was a little bit skeptical about it given that the author calls herself a Witch. And, indeed, she talks about casting spells and such throughout the book, but not at any great depth, and also in a way that came off as less ridiculous than I expected. (Think of it as 'casting good vibes' rather than casting spells.)

But whatever your take on Paganism, it remains that Starhawk writes eloquently about the needs for the global justice movement and the challenges it faces. The book is a collection of short essays, the first half centered around various events - the WTO protest in Seattle, the A16 protest in DC, and other protests and gatherings in Quebec, Genoa, and Prague - while the last half is general considerations on the tactics and goals for global justice. The juxtaposition is interesting, as you read her vivid accounts of police brutality in all of the cities just mentioned (and by police brutality, think non-violent, elderly women protesters being raided in the middle of the night while they sleep, beaten, then arrested while they're at the hospital, and then jailed and tortured; this was exactly what happened in Genoa, where the police, coincidentally, were trained by American police who had been at the WTO Seattle protest) and then read her insights into the use of non-violence, its appropriateness but also its challenges (non-violent movements have traditionally been organized hierarchically around father-figures such as Gandhi or King, and women participants often marginalized). Her deep commitment to non-violent resistance, given the amount of abuse she has witnessed, is something I respect tremendously. Like her, however, I also question the ways in which the non-violence movement has become mostly focused on standing for certain principles, without being concerned with how effective certain non-violent direct actions actually are. But Starhawk manages to address these issues of methodology while simultaneously remaining focused on the need for action, and on inspiring others to become involved in future action for global justice. I think this - along with the engaging first-person perspective on some of the major events in the anti-corporate globalization movement - make her book definitely worth the read.
