

# Nomadic Power and Cultural Resistance

# Nomadic Power

- Scythians – horticulture based nomadic society
- No fixed territory – unlocatable, could not be conquered
- Autonomy through movement - always present, invisible
- This archaic model has been reinvented into a sustainable means of domination – cyberspace
- Both a diffuse power field without location, and a fixed sight machine appearing as spectacle

# Modern Nomadic Power - Advantages

- Always on the offensive (invisibility is the best defence)
- Sedentary populations submit to the obscenity of spectacle and contentedly pay tribute – labor, material, profit
- Fragmentation of the world as a means of discipline
- All divisions of society blend into caretakers of the cyberelite
- Friendly pillage, rather than hostile plunder
- Hostility from repressed is rechanneled into the bureaucracy
- No longer needing to take a defensive posture is the nomad's greatest strength

# Who is the Nomadic Elite?

- Cannot be located, examined, or seen
- A downloaded elite military consciousness, not a class
- Transcendent entity
- Unknown whether they have integrated programmed motives

# Disillusionment – Strategies of Retreat

- Absent, potentially unassailable power + revolution in ruin
- Aestheticized retreatism – retreat towards introspection, sidestep the question of social condition
- Cultural resistance under poetic self, away from everyday revolution, leads to cultural production that is the easiest to commodify and bureaucratize

# Strategies of Retreat – Sociological Retreatism

- Fixed areas that elude surveillance
- Achieving autonomy by hiding from social authority
- Susceptible to infection from spectacle, language, nostalgia
- Inherently unstable communities (good or bad?)
- Will they last long enough to have an effect?

# Labor Movement

- Organized body of workers stop production -key to revolution
- Union or Labor Bureaucracy? Broken strikes, give-backs, lay-offs
- Fragmentation of the world – anachronized national labor movements – alternative labor pools
- Situationists – reject both labor and capital. All should quit work

# Futility of antiquated strategies

- Strategies based on contestation of sedentary forces can no longer disrupt elite power
- Elite power – no national and urban bases
- Architectural monuments of power – hollow and empty. Can be occupied, but occupation can be made invisible through media manipulation
- Function as bunkers for complicit and those who acquiesce
- Web connecting bunkers – streets – left to underclass

# Electronic Resistance

- Authority that locates itself in the electronic field must be met with electronic resistance
- Prolonged inertia – collapse of nomadic power
- Viruses, worms, bombs – harbingers of destructive force of inertia in the electronic field
- Hold data as hostage, instead of property
- Key – total disruption of command and control
- All dead capital becomes and economic drain

# Electronic Resistance - Problems

- Cyberreality – depoliticized group
- Activities motivated by curiosity and belief in free access to information.
- Political thought and action is alien
- Asking this class to destroy its own?
- Very few understand the specialize knowledge required

# Enter the Artist

- Responsibility to identify what is at stake
- “Artistic Creation” - means to establish public forum for speculation on a appropriate model of resistance
- Use available technology to invent explosive material, while it is available.
- The electronic world is not yet fully established, and the artist needs to take advantage of this fluidity before its lost
- Posters, pamphlets, street theater etc worked in the past, but where is the public?