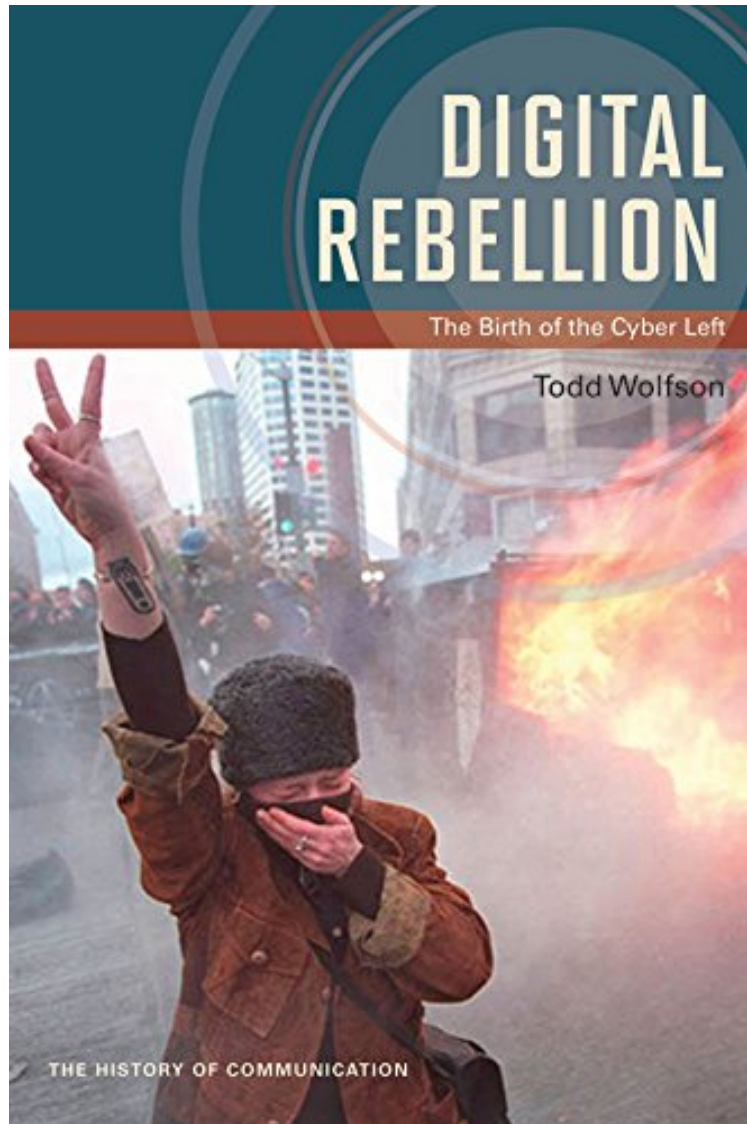


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Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left (History of Communication)

Todd Wolfson

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Todd Wolfson : Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left (History of Communication) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left (History of Communication):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best book on current social movements and media hands down By Peter Funke This is a must read! It accomplishes to speak to both interested readers and movement scholars. Digital Rebellion is accessible and thus essential reading for anyone interested in the current successes and challenges

of activism and movement work with a particular eye on (internet-based) media as a tool for change. Digital Rebellion is simultaneously a must-read for social movement scholars as it provides a stunning new look on the period of movement world we are still in. Wolfson provides both an in-depth empirical story of current movement logics as he weaves the story from the Zapatistas and early media-activism in the US to the Global Justice Movement and Occupy Wall Street. Moreover, Digital Rebellion also provides what will be a pathbreaking new theoretical lens to understand current activism and movement politics. The best book on current social movements and media hands down.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Dr. Wolfson provides a forward thinking study of media and social movements. By Bryan Mercer A must read for students of media and social movements. A rich history and set of lessons for organizers and activists. Digital Rebellion is the product of rigorous research and theory born of practice.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. A stimulating read on contemporary activism. By L. Dursunova The author puts into a clear perspective the history and practices of contemporary media activism and social movements, providing details of these developments with on-point examples and analysis of the strategies. I found the book to be quite a stimulating read.

Digital Rebellion examines the impact of new media and communication technologies on the spatial, strategic, and organizational fabric of social movements. Todd Wolfson begins with the rise of the Zapatistas in the mid-1990s, and how aspects of the movement--network organizational structure, participatory democratic governance, and the use of communication tools as a binding agent--became essential parts of Indymedia and all Cyber Left organizations. From there he uses oral interviews and other rich ethnographic data to chart the media-based think tanks and experiments that continued the Cyber Left's evolution through the Independent Media Center's birth around the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle. After examining the historical antecedents and rise of the global Indymedia network, Wolfson melds virtual and traditional ethnographic practice to explore the Cyber Left's cultural logic, mapping the social, spatial and communicative structure of the Indymedia network and detailing its operations on the local, national and global level. He also looks at the participatory democracy that governs global social movements and the ways the movement's twin ideologies, democracy and decentralization, have come into tension, and how what he calls the switchboard of struggle conducts stories of shared struggle from the hyper-local and dispersed worldwide. As Wolfson shows, understanding the intersection of Indymedia and the Global Social Justice Movement illuminates their foundational role in the Occupy struggle, Arab Spring uprising, and the other emergent movements that have in recent years re-energized radical politics.

"Makes an original contribution through the depth of the empirical case studies of Cyber Left organization. . . . I cannot think of another book that puts so much of the story of the U.S. left's experiments with the creation of an 'electronic fabric of struggle' within a single volume. . . . The author's knowledge, thoughtfulness, and political passion is evident." --Nick Dyer-Witheford, author of Games of Empire: Global Capitalism and Video Games