

EMERGENT PROPERTY

AN INTERNAL BULLETIN FROM THE SACRED ORDER OF RAAN — Issue No. 1 — August 2010

WELCOME TO EMERGENT PROPERTY!



This is a new theoretical dispatch from the Red & Anarchist Action Network (RAAN). We wish to provide continuity in views and analysis from the network's now defunct journal *Emotional Poverty*. Like the original *EP*, this publication is distributed entirely by autonomous cooperating groups and individuals, and will focus on dialogues specifically of interest to those who are organizing within the RAANista tendency. *Emergent Property* will not have a standard schedule of release, but new issues will be created as we feel the need to highlight relevant developments in the network. We hope to showcase not only the kind of short essays that made *Emotional Poverty* such a success, but also any timely correspondence from RAAN organizers and interesting theory from outside the tendency. If you are interested in getting involved with this project, please contact us at communist@graffiti.net

A THEORY OF PERMANENT REGENERATION?

It has now been several years since the last publication authored under the banner of RAAN, at least a couple years since the last “visible” action was taken in our name, and quite some time since we even had a working website. And yet, we sense a certain perennial interest in the network's existence and find scattered indications that various people are continuing to propagate its identity even in times when most observers have assumed our project to be extinct. Perhaps this is where we should begin: being that RAAN is an idea or even ideology and strategy rather than a physical organization, it seems quite impossible for us to ever become a thing of the past. There is simply no official representative body capable of declaring RAAN to be “over”, and so it lives on even in the actions of a single person so long as that affiliate continues to use the image and theoretical advancements of the network in some way.

The anatomy of RAAN is hard to describe; autonomism is a complex process seldom articulated fluidly even by those who can grasp the essential thrust of an “organization” that replicates itself solely through actions taken in its name; a spectacle and identity burned into the public consciousness. There is no mechanism of recruitment other than practice - both because one only becomes a “member” in action and because those actions themselves then, through the concentric rings they create, provide the dominant cultural outreach towards new re-generations of RAANistas.

It may well be that our greatest weakness thus far has been a failure to adequately describe just what the Red & Anarchist Action Network is: the idea that anyone might ever suspect that RAAN was no longer in existence as an organization means that they didn't understand what kind of “organization” it was in the first place! Even more troubling, we continually come across atomized militants who desire to create a presence in their community, but are unsure of how to “get in touch with us” or otherwise go about generating RAAN-affiliated activities. This attitude is born of the inertia of the follower mentality and a dependence on formalized organizational structure for direction and approval. We must work harder to instill as part of RAAN's connotation in peoples' minds that this experiment - and truly, any widespread insurrectionary organization - can only be elaborated through the personal initiative of each autonomous affiliate. The visibility and recognizable nature of each action as an expression of RAANismo is the key to the success of this process.

And yet despite such confusions, there is yet room to be optimistic. At the close of our first eight years as a network, we cannot honestly say that RAAN has experienced different “generations” of involvement, but it is clear that there have already been several different waves of participation in the project - each distinct in terms of geography, tactics, and ideological foundation. Thus, the totality of the network ensures a continuous rebirth; the very idea that there can be a widespread practical alliance of

liberatory forces, and that it will assume for itself a distinct imagery and presence on the street, is such a recurring ideal to every new generation of people striving for a true human community, that there will always be a regeneration of interest in RAAN as a project, as an identity, as a street crew, and as a tribe. Our task is to become aware of and overstand the social-psychological processes that drive this regeneration, and position ourselves so as to nurture them responsibly. It is our hope that Emergent Property may come to serve as an important tool in our development of such a consciousness.

Against the Language of Militancy

by Vagabond Theorist: <https://sites.google.com/site/vagabondtheorist/>

Sadly, in recent years, too much of the writing coming out of social conflict is wrought with stiff, wooden language, a tired, dead language that seems to contradict the energy of the rebellions of which they speak. It is the language of militancy, not of freedom, not of individuality creating itself against all odds. Perhaps this is, in part, because many of the present-day conflicts spring from the harshness of the times; they are responses to the hardness of current social, political and economic realities. But how can a response in kind counter these realities? Shouldn't the very method of our response reflect our rejection of these imposed realities?

Militancy is mistaken for passion and intensity, when in fact it is just an armored straightjacket closing in on one's nakedness, stiffening and limiting one's movements. Seriousness is mistaken for resoluteness, when in fact it is enslavement to the abstract, to the future, to the cause, to the past, another sort of self-imprisonment. And isn't this precisely what we resolutely need to refuse as we fight to make our lives our own in each moment?

Perhaps the problem is that so many of those involved in social conflict do not see themselves as free individuals creating their lives, encountering obstacles to this self-creative process and fighting to destroy these obstacles, but rather as oppressed people resisting their oppression.

It is not necessary to ignore the reality of oppression to recognize that when our project becomes resistance to oppression, we become centered on our oppressors. We lose our own lives, and with them the capacity to destroy what stands in our way. Since resistance focuses on the enemy's projects, it keeps us on the defensive and guarantees our defeat (even in victory) by stealing our projects from us.

If, on the other hand, we start from our own project of self-creation, insisting upon moving through the world as free and aimless beings, we will encounter rulers, exploiters, cops, priests, judges, etc., not essentially as oppressors, but as obstacles in our paths, to be destroyed rather than resisted.

It is only in this context that destruction takes on its insurgent, poetic, revolutionary meaning, as a truly gratuitous act that defies the logic of work and opens reality to the marvelous, to surprise. Only then does destruction become playful.

“RAAN is not a formula, it is a story. Formulas are approached with a mind to disprove, while stories engage - you can't help but empathize with the protagonist.”

Emergent Property is a theoretical newsletter from the **RAANista** tendency, a non-hierarchical communist street crew seeking to explore different methods for liberation and the improvement in quality of life for those who feel trapped and alienated by the matrix of modern civilization. An “emergent property” is an attribute of a complex system that only arises as a sum of various interrelated parts. This publication is geared towards drawing attention to and setting a standard of discussion around the various emergent properties specifically generated by the conscious replication of **RAAN** as a revolutionary movement.

WWW.REDANARCHIST.ORG

