

Abstract

September 17, 2011 Occupy Wall Street arrived in Manhattan as the American arm of the global justice movement which swept the world in 2011. Through participant observation in protests around the country, I analyzed the use of social media in the Occupy movement and the nature of the Occupy movement itself. Out of my research I developed two analytical theories to describe the Occupy movement and phenomenon. First, Occupy Wall Street aligns with libertarian socialist practice arising from the anarchist history. Second, one of the most effective innovations of the Occupy movement has been the creations of revolutionary media networks which function to undermine capitalist informational infrastructure. Social media is being used by the Occupy movement for five main purposes: information sharing, direct actions against the state and corporations, street tactics, regional organizing and data collection. Occupy Wall Street has already opened up the political landscape in the United States and given the right socio-political conditions may pave the way for the next anti-capitalist movement in America. In conclusion I determined that the Occupy movement was a reemergence of anarchist movements in the US and in alignment with anarchist praxis, the Occupy movement utilized social media to create counter institutions to support the radical movement and allow for radical cultural production. Social media infrastructure built by the Occupiers has opened up the capitalists' news and informational structures to create a revolutionary media structure which is beginning to effectively function as dual power infrastructure contrary to one of capitalism's main institutions: the media.