

What We Want:
Economy and Strategy for the End Times
By Starhawk

What does the global justice movement want? What is our vision, our picture of an ideal society and economy? When we say, "Another world is possible" what kind of a world are we talking about?

The global justice movement is diverse. It ranges from union leaders who want to secure a fair share of this economy for their members, to old-line Marxists, to anarchists, to indigenous communities struggling to preserve their traditional lands and cultures. No one picture of the world can describe all the different viewpoints. No one vision may actually serve this tremendous diversity. And how could it? How could the aspirations of an urban office worker in Chicago be the same as that of a Mayan farmer in Chiapas? Why should we think that one form of economy or social organization should serve all?

Nevertheless, there are certain commonalities, deep principles and imperatives, that I believe are shared across the broad range of the movement. Here are nine points that attempt to define that common ground. Some branches of the movement might feel these principles don't go far enough: they envision a totally society transformed in more far reaching ways. I am not trying to describe an ultimate ideal, but to articulate what I see as the points of minimum agreement in the broader global justice movement.

1. We must protect the viability of the life-sustaining systems of the planet, which are everywhere under attack.
2. A realm of the sacred exists, of things too precious to be commodified, and must be respected.
3. Communities must control their own resources and destinies.
4. The rights and heritages of indigenous communities must be acknowledged and respected.
5. Enterprises must be rooted in communities, and responsible to communities and to future generations.
6. Opportunity for human beings to meet their needs and fulfil their dreams and aspirations should be open to all.
7. Labor deserves just compensation, security and dignity.
8. The human community has a collective responsibility to assure the basic means of life, growth and development for all its members.
9. Democracy means that all people have a voice in the decisions that affect them, including economic decisions.

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