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## The age of rage: welcome to the world of the revolution

By Andrew Marshall On August 10, 2012



**What the elite few have long feared, has finally transpired: consumers have begun to rise up around the world. The Age of Rage has begun.**

*I am currently [writing a book](#) on the global economic crisis and the resistance, rebellious and revolutionary movements that have emerged in reaction to this crisis. Our world is in the midst of the greatest economic, social, and political crisis that humanity has ever collectively entered into. The crisis is truly global in its context, and the effects are felt in every locality. The cause of the global economic crisis is the direct and deliberate result of class warfare waged by the political and economic elites against the people of the world. The objective is simple: [all for them and none for you](#). At the moment, the crisis is particularly acute in Europe, as the European elites impose a coordinated*

*strategy of class warfare against the people through “austerity” and “structural adjustment,” political euphemisms used to hide their true intention: power and exploitation.*

*The people of the world, however, are beginning to rise up, riot, resist and revolt. This article is an introduction to the protest movements and rebellions which have taken place around the world in the past few years against the entrenched systems and structures of power. This is but a preview of the story that will be examined in my upcoming book. Please consider donating to [The People's Book Project](#) in order to finance the completion of this volume.*

Those who govern and rule over our world and its people have been aware of the structural and social changes which would result in bringing about social and political rebellion. In fact, they have been warning about the potential for a global circumstance of global revolutionary movements for a number of years. They are very worried, most especially at the prospect of revolutionary movements spreading beyond borders and the traditional confines of state structures. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter's former National Security Adviser and founder with banker David Rockefeller of the Trilateral Commission, an arch-elitist strategic thinker for the American empire, has been warning of what he terms the 'Global Political Awakening' as the central challenge for elites in a changing world.

In June of 2010, I published an article entitled, “[The Global Political Awakening and the New World Order](#),” in which I examined this changing reality in particular, the words of Zbigniew Brzezinski in identifying it. In December 2008, Brzezinski published an article for the *New York Times* in which he wrote: “For the first time in history almost all of humanity is politically active, politically conscious and politically interactive. Global activism is generating a surge in the quest for cultural respect and economic opportunity in a world scarred by memories of colonial or imperial domination.” This situation is more precarious for elites as it takes place in a global transition in which Atlantic powers – Western Europe and the United States – are experiencing decline in their 500-year domination of the world. Brzezinski wrote that the necessary to maintain control in this changing world is for the United States to spearhead “[a collective effort for a more inclusive system of management](#),” or in other words, *more power for them*. Brzezinski suggested that, “[the worldwide yearning for human dignity](#) is the central challenge inherent in the phenomenon of global political awakening.” In the same article Brzezinski wrote:

It is no overstatement to assert that now in the 21st century the population of much of the developing world is politically stirring and in many places seething with unrest. It is a population acutely conscious of social injustices to an unprecedented degree, and often resentful of its perceived lack of political dignity. The nearly universal access to radio, television and increasingly the Internet is creating a community of shared perceptions and envy that could

galvanized and channeled by demagogic political or religious passions. energies transcend sovereign borders and pose a challenge both to existing states as well as to the existing global hierarchy, on top of which America perches...

The youth of the Third World are particularly restless and resentful. The demographic revolution they embody is thus a political time-bomb, as With the exception of Europe, Japan and America, the rapidly expanding demographic bulge in the 25-year-old-and-under age bracket is creating a huge mass of impatient young people. Their minds have been stirred by sounds and images that emanate from afar and which intensify their disaffection with what is at hand. Their potential revolutionary spearheads likely to emerge from among the scores of millions of students concentrated in the often intellectually dubious "tertiary level" educational institutions of developing countries... Typically originating from the socially insecure middle class and inflamed by a sense of social outrage, these millions of students are revolutionaries-in-waiting, already semi-mobilized in large congregations, connected by the Internet and pre-positioned for a repeat on a larger scale of what transpired years earlier in Mexico City or in Tiananmen Square. Their physical energy and emotional frustration is just waiting triggered by a cause, or a faith, or a hatred.

Important to note is that Brzezinski has not simply been writing abstractly about this concept, but has been for years traveling to and speaking at various conferences and think tanks of national and international elites, who formulate policy for the powerful nations of the world. Speaking to the elite American think tank, the Carnegie Council, Brzezinski warned of "the unprecedented global challenge arising out of the unique phenomenon of a truly massive political awakening of mankind," as we now live "in an age in which mankind writ large is becoming politically conscious and politically activated to an unprecedented degree, and it is this condition which is producing a great international turmoil." Brzezinski noted that much of the 'awakening' was spurred on by America's role in the world, and the reality of globalization (America projects across the globe as the single global hegemon), and that the awakening "is beginning to create something altogether new: namely, some ideological or doctrinal challenge which might fill the void created by the disappearance of communism." He wrote that he sees "the beginnings and stirrings, of the making of a doctrine which combines Americanism with anti-globalization, and the two could become a powerful force in a world that is very unequal and turbulent."

In 2007, the British Ministry of Defence issued a report looking at global trends over the following three decades to better plan for the “future strategic context of the British military. The report noted that: “The middle classes could form a revolutionary class, taking the role envisaged for the proletariat by Marx. The world’s middle classes might unite, using access to knowledge, resources and skills to shape transnational processes in their own class interest.” In my 2010 article, “The Global Economic Crisis: Riots, Rebellion, and Revolution,” I quoted the official British Defence Ministry report, which read:

Absolute poverty and comparative disadvantage will fuel perceptions of injustice among those whose expectations are not met, increasing tensions and instability, both within and between societies and resulting in expressions of violence such as disorder, criminality, terrorism and insurgency. They may also lead to the resurgence of not only anti-capitalist ideologies, possibly linked to religious, anarchist or nihilist movements, also to populism and the revival of Marxism.

In December of 2008, the managing director of the IMF, Dominique Strauss-Kahn warned that the economic crisis could lead to “violent unrest on the streets.” He stated that if the elite were not able to instill an economic recovery by 2010, “then social unrest may happen in many countries – including advanced economies,” meaning the Western and industrialized world. In February of 2009, the head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Pascal Lamy, warned that the economic crisis “could trigger political unrest equal to that seen during the 1930s.” In May of 2009, the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, stated that if the economic crisis did not come to an end, is a risk of a serious human and social crisis with very serious political implications.”

In early 2009, the top intelligence official in the United States, Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence (who oversees all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies) stated that the global economic crisis had become the primary threat to America's "security" (meaning domination). He told the Senate Intelligence Committee: "I'd like to begin with the global economic crisis, because it appears to loom as the most serious one in decades, if not centuries... [Economic crisis could increase the risk of regime-threatening instability if they are prolonged for or-two-year period](#)... And instability can loosen the fragile hold that developing countries have on law and order, which can spill out in dangerous ways into the international community." He also noted that, "there could be a backlash against U.S. efforts to promote free markets because the crisis was triggered by the United States... We are generally held responsible for it."

In December of 2008, police in Greece shot and killed a 15-year old student, Alexia, a libertarian and anarchist stronghold in Athens. The murder resulted in thousands of protesters and riots erupting in the streets, in what the *York Times* declared to be "[the worst unrest in decades](#)." Triggered by the death of the young Greek student, the protests were the result of deeper, socio-economic systemic issues, increasing poverty, economic stagnation and political corruption. Solidarity protests took place all over Europe including [Germany](#), [France](#), and the [U.K.](#) But this was only a sample of what was to come over the following years.

In the early months of 2009, as the economic crisis was particularly blunt against the countries of Eastern Europe, with increased unemployment and inflation, the region was headed for a "[spring of discontent](#)," as protests and riots took place in Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Latvia. In January of 2009, more than 10,000 people took to the streets in Latvia in one of the largest demonstrations since the end of Soviet rule. A demonstration of roughly 7,000 Lithuanians turned into a riot and smaller clashes between police and protesters took place in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Hungary, while police in Iceland used tear gas during a demonstration of roughly 2,000 people outside the parliament, leading to the resignation of the prime minister. The head of the IMF said that the economic crisis could cause more turmoil "almost everywhere," adding: "[The situation is really, really serious](#)." A [mass strike took place in France](#), bringing hundreds of thousands of workers into the streets [and pushing anti-capitalist activists to the front of a growing social movement](#).

May 1, 2009 – the labour activist day known as 'May Day' – saw [protests and riots erupting across Europe](#), including Germany, Greece, Austria, Turkey and France. In Germany, banks were attacked by protesters, leading to many deaths. There were over 150,000 demonstrators in Ankara, Turkey; more than 100,000 people took to the streets in Madrid, Spain; thousands took to the streets in Moscow and Russia and social unrest continued to spread through Eastern Europe. Results from a poll were released on early May 2009 reporting that in the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Britain and Germany, a majority of the population felt that the economic crisis would lead [to a rise in "political extremism."](#)

In April of 2009, the G20 met in London, and was met there with large protests drawing tens of thousands of people into the streets. In London's financial district, protesters [smashed the windows of the Royal Bank of Scotland](#), which was the recipient of a massive government bailout during the early phases of the financial crisis. One man, Ian Tomlinson, dropped dead on the streets of London following an assault by a British police officer, who was later [questioned on suspicion of manslaughter](#).

In November of 2011, a month of student protests and sit-ins erupted in [Germany, Austria, and Switzerland](#), triggered by budget cuts and tuition hikes. The protests began in Austria, where students occupied the University of Vienna for over a month, quickly spreading to other cities and schools in Germany, where roughly 80,000 students took part in nationwide protests, with similar actions taking place in 20 universities across the country, and the University of Basel in Switzerland was also occupied by students.

The small little island-country of Iceland has undergone what has been referred to as the "Kitchenware Revolution," where the country had once been ranked by the UN as the best country to live in as recently as 2007, and in late 2008 its banks collapsed and the government resigned amid the mass protests that took place. [The banks were nationalized](#), Iceland got a new prime minister, a woman who brought into her cabinet a majority of women, fired bank CEO, and the constitution was re-written with significant citizen participation and the government took steps to write off debts and refused to bailout foreign investors. Now, the economy is doing much better, hence why no one is talking about Iceland in the media (woeful is power to the 'tyranny' of a good example).

Iceland has even hired an ex-cop bounty hunter [to track down and arrest the bankers](#) that destroyed the country's economy. As the debt burdens of a significant portion of the population of Iceland were eased, Iceland was projected in 2012 to have a faster growing economy than those in the euro zone and the developed world. As reported by *Bloomberg*, the main difference between how Iceland has dealt with its massive economic crisis and how the rest of the 'developed' world has been dealing with it, is that Iceland ["has put the needs of its population ahead of the markets at every turn."](#) Instead of reprimanding bankers for causing the crisis, as we have done in Europe and North America, Icelanders have arrested them, and protected homeowners instead of evicting them.

As Greece came to dominate the news in early 2010, with talk of a bailout, protests began to erupt with more frequency in the small euro-zone countries. In early May, [a general strike was called in Greece](#) against the austerity measures the government was imposing in order to get a bailout. Banks were set on fire, petrol bombs were thrown at riot police, who were pepper spraying, tear gassing, and beating protesters with batons, and three people died of suffocation in the bombed banks.

In May of 2010, British historian Simon Schama wrote an article

the *Financial Times* entitled, “**The world teeters on the brink of a new era of rage,**” in which he explained that historians “will tell you that there is a time-lag between the onset of economic disaster and the accumulation of public fury.” In act one, he wrote, “the shock of a crisis initially triggers disorientation” and a “rush for political saviours.” Act two witnesses a “dangerously alienated public” who “take stock of the brutal interruption of rising expectations,” which leads to the grievance that someone “must have engineered the common misfortune,” which, I might add, is true (Scharma does not say so). To manage this situation, elites must engage in “damage-control” whereby perpetrators are brought to justice. Scharma writes that, “the psychological impact of financial regulation is almost as critical as the institutional prophylactics,” or, in other words: the propaganda effect called “financial regulation” on calming the angry plebs is as important (if not more so) as the financial regulations themselves. Thus, those who lobby against financial regulation, warned Scharma, “risk jeopardizing their own long-term interests.” If governments fail to “reassert the integrity of public stewardship, then the public will come to perceive that “the perps and the new regime are cut from common cloth.” In the very least, wrote Scharma, elites attempt to implement austerity measures and other unpopular budget programs with the goal to “deliver a convincing story about the sharing of burdens,” for if they do not, they would “guarantee that a bad situation gets very ugly, very fast.”

As French President Nicolas Sarkozy began implementing austerity measures in France, particularly what is called “pension reform,” unions and supporters staged massive strikes in September of 2010, drawing up to three million people into the streets in over 230 demonstrations across the country. Security forces armed with machine guns went on patrol at certain metro stations, and government officials used the puffed up and conveniently-timed threat of a “terrorist attack” as being “high risk.” More strikes took place in October 2010, with French students joining in the demonstrations, as students at roughly 400 schools across the country built barricades of wheelie bins to prevent police from entering schools, with reports of nearly 70% of French students supporting the strike. The reports of participants varied from the government figures of over 800,000 people to the union figures of 2-3 million people marching out into the streets. The *Wall Street Journal* referred to the strikes as an “irrational answer” to Sarkozy’s “perfectly rational initiative” of reforms.

In November of 2010, Irish students in Dublin began protesting against rising university tuition increases, when peaceful sit-ins were met with violent police, and roughly 25,000 students took to the streets. This was the largest student protest in Ireland in a generation.

In Britain, where a new coalition government came to power – uniting the Conservatives (led by David Cameron, the Prime Minister) and the Liberal Democrats (led by Nick Clegg, Deputy PM) – tuition increases were announced, tripling the cost from 3 to 9,000 pounds. On November 10, as roughly 100,000 students took to the streets in London, the Conservative Party headquarters in central London had its windows smashed by students, who then entered

building and occupied it, even congregating up on the rooftop of the building. The police continued [to 'kettle' protesters](#) in the area, not allowing them to move or leave a confined space, which of course results in violent reactions. Minister David Cameron called the protest “[unacceptable](#).” The *Chicago Science Monitor* asked if British students were the “[harbinger of future violence over austerity measures](#),” There were subsequent warnings that Britain headed for [a winter of unrest](#).

Tens of thousands again took to the streets in London in late November, including teenage students walking with university students, again erupting in riots, with the media putting in a great deal of focus on [the role of girls](#) taking part in the protests and riots. The protests had taken place [in cities across the United Kingdom](#), largely peaceful save the ‘riot’ in London with students even occupying various schools, including Oxford. The protests [brought 'class' back into the political discourse](#). In November, [universities were occupied by students](#), including the School of Oriental African Studies, UWE Bristol and Manchester Metropolitan. Several school occupations went for [days or even weeks](#). Universities then [threatening to evict the students](#). The school occupations were the [representation of a new potential grass-roots social movement](#) building in the UK. Some commentators portrayed it as a “[defining political moment for a generation](#).”

In early December of 2010, as the British Parliament voted in favour of tripling of tuition, thousands of students protested outside, leading to confrontations with police, who stormed into crowds of students on horseback firing tear gas, beating the youth with batons, as per usual. When overtly [aggressive tactics of police to 'kettle' protesters](#) always creates violent reactions, David Cameron was able to thereafter portray the student react

police tactics as a “feral mob.” One student [was twice pulled out from wheelchair](#) by police, and another student who was struck on the head by a baton [was left with a brain injury](#). As the protests erupted into riots against police into the night, one infamous incident included a moment where Charles and his wife Camilla were attacked by rioters as their car drove through the crowd in what was called the “worst royal security breach in a generation.” The royal couple were confronted directly by the angry plebs who attacked the Rolls-Royce and Camilla was even ‘prodded’ by a stick, as some protesters shouted “off with their heads!” while others chanted, “[Whose streets? Our streets](#).” More student protests were set to take place in January of 2011, Scotland Yard’s [counter-terrorism command contacted university officials requesting “intelligence”](#) as students increased their protest activities, as more occupations were expected to take place.

In December of 2010, a Spanish air traffic controller strike took place, grounding flights for 330,000 people and resulting in the government declaring a state of emergency, [threatening the strikers with imprisonment](#) if they did not return to work.

Part way through December, an uprising began in the North African country of Tunisia, and by January of 2011, the 23-year long dictatorship of a French-American-supported puppet, Ben Ali, had come to an end. This marked the major spark of what has come to be known as the Arab Spring. Protests erupted simultaneously in Algeria, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and elsewhere. In January of 2011, I wrote an article entitled, “[Are we witnessing the start of a global revolution?](#),” noting that the protests in North Africa were beginning to boil up in Egypt most especially. Egypt entered its [modern revolutionary period](#), resulting in ending the rule of the long-time dictator, Hosni Mubarak, though the military has been attempting [to stem the struggle of the people](#). The [revolutionary struggle continues](#) to this day, and yet the Egyptian administration continues to give [\\$1.3 billion in military aid](#) to support the repression of the democratic uprising. The small Arab Gulf island of Bahrain (which is home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet) also experienced [a large democratic uprising](#), which has been consistently and brutally crushed by the monarchy and Saudi Arabia, with U.S. support, including the [selling of a large portion of the dictatorship](#).

In early 2011, the British student protests joined forces with a wide austerity social protest against the government. As protests continued over the following months all across the country, banks became a common target, and the government's efforts to spend taxpayer money to bailout corrupt banks cut health, social services, welfare, pensions, and increase tuition. [Several bank branches were occupied](#) and others had protests – often very creatively organized outside closed bank branches. On March 26, [roughly 50,000 protesters took to the streets](#) of London against austerity measures. As of July 2011, [a student occupation](#) of a school continued at Leeds.

Throughout 2011, protests in Greece picked up in size and rage. In February, roughly 100,000 people took to the streets in Athens against the government's austerity measures, leading to clashes with riot police that lasted for three days with police using tear gas and flash bombs and some protesters reacting with [rocks and petrol bombs](#). In June of 2011, Greece experienced [major clashes between protesters and police](#), or what are often called “riots.” During a general strike in late June, [police went to war against protesters](#) assembled in Athens. Protests continued throughout the summer and into the fall, and in November, roughly [50,000 Greeks took to the streets](#) in Athens.

In March of 2011, as Portugal plunged forward into its own major crisis closer to a European Union bailout, [roughly 300,000 Portuguese took streets](#) of Lisbon and other cities protesting against the government's austerity measures. Driven by the youth, calling themselves Portugal's "desperate generation," in part inspired by the youth uprisings in North Africa, the *Financial Times* referred to it as "[an unexpected protest movement that tapped into some of Portugal's deepest social grievances.](#)"

The Portuguese protests in turn inspired the Spanish "Indignados" or "Indignant Ones" movement (named after the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, when the protests began), as young people the *indignant ones* – or the "lost generation," occupied Madrid's famous Plaza del Sol on May 15, 2011, protesting against high unemployment, the political establishment, and the government's handling of the economic crisis. The authorities responded in the usual way: [they attempted to ban the protests, then sent in riot police.](#) Thousands of Spaniards – primarily youth – occupied the central square, setting up tents and building a small community engaged in debate, discussion and activism. In a massive protest in June of 2011, [250,000 Spaniards took the streets](#) in one of the largest protests in Spanish history. Over the summer, as the encampment was torn down, the Indignados refined their tactics, and began to engage in direct action, including assembling outside homes and [preventing evictions from taking place,](#) stopping over 200 evictions since May of 2011, creating organic vegetable gardens in empty spaces, supporting immigrant workers in poor communities, and creating "[a new social climate.](#)"

The Indignados spurred solidarity and similar protests across Europe, including Greece, Belgium, France, Germany, the U.K., and beyond. In fact, the protests even spread to Israel, where in July of 2011, thousands of young people established tent cities in protest against the rising cost of living and decreasing

social spending, establishing itself on Rothschild Boulevard, a wealthy ave  
Tel Aviv named after the exceedingly wealthy banking dynasty. The p  
organized through social media, [quickly spread through other cities](#)  
[Israel](#). In late July, [over 150,000 Israelis took to the streets](#) in 12 cities acr  
country in the largest demonstration the country had seen in de  
demonstrating against the “rising house prices and rents, low salaries, [an  
high cost of raising children and other social issues.” In early August, a  
protest drew 320,000 people into the streets, leading some commenta  
state that the movement marked “[a revolution from a generation we thoug](#)  
[unable to make a revolution](#).” In early September, roughly 430,000 Israel  
to the streets in [the largest demonstration in Israeli history](#).

In May and June of 2011, [a student movement began to erupt in Chile](#), f  
against the increased privatization of their school system and the debt-lo  
comes with it. The state – the remnants of the Pinochet dictatorship – resp  
in the usual fashion: state violence, mass arrests, attempting to make pro  
illegal. In clashes between students and riot police that took place in *A*  
students managed to occupy a television station demanding a live broad  
express their demands, with the city of Santiago being converted into “[a s](#)  
[siege](#)” against the students. The “Chilean Winter” – as it came to be kn  
expanded into a wider social movement, including labour and environ  
and indigenous groups, [and continues to this very day](#).

The *Indignados* further inspired the emergence of the Occupy Movement,  
began with occupy Wall Street in New York City on 17 September o  
bringing the dialectic of the “99% versus the 1%” into the popular and p  
culture. The Occupy movement, which reflected the initial tactics  
Indignados in setting up tents to occupy public spaces, quickly spread acr  
United States, Canada, Europe, and far beyond. [There were Occupy protes](#)  
took place as far away as South Africa, in dozens of cities across Cana  
countries and cities all across Latin America, in Israel, South Korea,  
Australia, New Zealand, and in [hundreds of cities across the United States](#)

On October 15, 2011, a day of global protests took place, inspired by the Arab Spring, the Indignados, and the Occupy movement, when [over 950 cities in 100 countries](#) around the world experienced a global day of action originally proposed by the Spanish Indignados as a European-wide day of protest. In Italy, [400,000 took to the streets](#); in Spain there were over 350,000, roughly 100,000 in New York City, with over 100,000 in both Portugal and Chile.

The Occupy movement was subsequently met [with violent repression](#) and [evictions](#) from the encampments. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was busy [spying on various Occupy groups](#) across the country, and reportedly was involved in [coordinating the crack-down](#) on evictions against dozens of Occupy encampments, as was later confirmed by declassified documents showing [White House involvement in the repression](#). The FBI has also undertaken a “war of entrapment” against Occupy groups, attempting to discredit the movement and [frame its participants as potential terrorists](#). Following the example of tactical change in the Indignados, Occupy groups began [refurbishing foreclosed homes for the homeless](#), helping families reclaim their homes, [disrupting home foreclosure auctions](#), and taking on local community issues, such as issues of racism through the group, [Occupy the Hood](#).

In late November of 2011, a public sector workers’ strike took place in the United Kingdom with tens of thousands of people marching in the streets across the country. Roughly two-thirds of schools shut and thousands of hospital operations postponed, while unions estimated that [up to two million people](#) went on strike. The host of a popular British television show, Jeremy Clarkson, said in an interview that the striking workers should be taken out and [shot in front of their families](#).

In January of 2012, [protests erupted in Romania](#) against the government's austerity measures, leading to violent clashes with police, exchanging tear gas and firebombs. As the month continued, [the protests grew larger](#), demanding the ouster of the government. The *Economist* referred to it as Romania's "[Widespread Discontent](#)." In early February, [the Romanian Prime Minister resigned](#) in the face of the protests.

In February of 2012, a student strike began in the French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec against the provincial government's plan to nearly double the cost of tuition, bringing hundreds of thousands of students into the streets. The protesters were in turn met with consistent state repression and violence, in what became known as [the 'Maple Spring.'](#) Dealing with issues of [debt, repression, and propaganda](#), the Maple Spring presented an example for student organizations elsewhere in Canada and North America. The government of Quebec organized students but works with organized crime – representing what is called a '[Mafiocracy](#)' – and even passed a law attempting to [criminalize student demonstrations](#). The student movement received support and solidarity around the world, including the Chilean student movement and even a group of nearly [150 Greek academics](#) who proclaimed their support in the struggle against austerity for the "largest student strike in the history of North America."

In the spring of 2012, Mexican students mobilized behind the Yo Soy 132 movement – or the "[Mexican Spring](#)" – struggling against media propaganda and the political establishment in the lead-up to national elections, and thousands continued to march through the streets [decrying the presidential elections](#) as rigged and fraudulent. The *Economist* noted that Mexican students were beginning to "[revolt](#)."

In May of 2012, both [the Indignados](#) and the [Occupy Movement](#) underwent a resurgence of their street activism, while the occupy protests [in Seattle and Oakland](#) resulting in violent clashes and police repression. The protests drew [Occupy and labour](#) groups closer together, and police also repressed the resurgent [Occupy protest in London](#).

In one of the most interesting developments in recent months, we witnessed the Spanish miners strike in the province of Asturias, roughly [8,000 miners strike](#) against planned austerity measures, resorting to constructing barricades and directly fighting riot police who arrived in the towns to crush the resistance of the workers. The miners have even been employing unique tactics, such as constructing [make-shift missiles](#) which they fire at the advancing forces of police repression. For all the tear gas, bullets and batons being used by police to crush the strike, the miners have remained resolved to continue their struggle against the state. Interestingly, it was in the very region of Asturias where miners rebelled against the right-wing Spanish government in 1934 in one of the major sparks of [the Spanish Civil War](#) which pitted socialists and anarchists against Franco and the fascists. After weeks of clashes with police in mining towns, the striking workers planned [a march on Madrid](#) to raise attention to the growing struggle. The miners arrived in Madrid in early July to cheering crowds, but were soon [met with repressive measures](#) resulting in clashes between the people and the servants of the state. The Spanish government continued with deeper austerity measures, [over one million people marched](#) in the streets of over 80 cities across Spain, with violent clashes resulting between protesters and police in Madrid.

This brief look at the resistance, rebellious and revolutionary movements emerging and erupting around the world is by no means an exhaustive list of what it meant to be. It is merely a brief glimpse at the movements with which I hope to delve into detail in researching and writing about in my upcoming book to raise the question once again: ***Are we witnessing the start of a global revolution?***

I would argue that, yes, indeed, we are. How long it takes, how it manifests itself, evolves, its failures and successes, the setbacks and leaps forward, and all other details will be for posterity to acknowledge and examine. What is current and present, however, is that no matter how much the media, governments and other institutions of power attempt to ignore, repress, divide and even crush revolutionary social movements, they are increasingly evolving and emerging.

often surprising ways and with different triggering events and issues. There is, however, a commonality: where there is austerity in the world, where there is repression, where there is state, financial and corporate power taking themselves and leaving nothing for the rest, the rest are now rising up.

Welcome to the World Revolution.

*[Andrew Gavin Marshall](#) is an independent researcher and writer based in Montreal, Canada, writing on a number of social, political, economic and historical issues. He is also Project Manager of [The People's Book Project](#) and also hosts a weekly podcast show, "Empire, Power, and Politics" on [BoilingFrogsPost.com](#). Please donate to The People's Book Project to help this book come to completion.*

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5 comments... read them below or [add one](#)

**Sean Donnelly** August 12, 2012 at 00:05

“ I love your writing, but I have a minor quibble. “Hence” should never be followed by “why” as the meaning of the latter is included in the former. A minor point, I know...

REPLY

**Pope Snarky Goodfella of the undulating cable**

August 12, 2012 at 10:35

“ Hail Eris!

Um, I think one of the following paragraphs is either out of order or mis-dated:

In April of 2009, the G20 met in London, and was met there with large protests, drawing tens of thousands of people into

*the streets. In London's financial district, protesters smashed the windows of the Royal Bank of Scotland, which was the recipient of a massive government bailout during the early phases of the financial crisis. One man, Ian Tomlinson, dropped dead on the streets of London following an assault by a British police officer, who was later questioned under suspicion of manslaughter.*

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*Snarky*

**REPLY**

**Luke** August 12, 2012 at 12:02

“ *Just a note; it should talk about British ‘universities’ rather than ‘schools’.* ”

**REPLY**

**Rodrigo Martins** August 21, 2012 at 01:50

“ *If you desire to know more about Brzezinski, he wrote an extremely arrogant book called “The Grand Chessboard”, where he describes nearly everything of the “plans”.* ”

*Also, updates from this “Side” :*

*Brazil is on strike for over 90 days, in 30 different sector, led by University Teachers, Police, Firefighters, Public Transport Drivers, and so. Unfortunately, mainstream media is extremely biased upon the subject, transforming the strikers on “lazy villains”, while ignorant population is starting to ask for more privatization.*

*There is a war happening also against the poor population, where the elites pulling the strings of the government, want to “Clean up” the country for the major events Brazil will hold,*

*like the coming World Cup.*

*When possible, I will submit to you a more detailed report.*

[REPLY](#)

**Nadia** September 20, 2012 at 19:00

“ *Portugal is living a critical political crisis in the last two weeks, after new austerity measures were announced. The government is falling in pieces and more is coming in the next days. Finally people are waking for the poverty reality we are living. 500.000 people were on the streets last saturday, just in the capital. One million in the entire country, a country of 10 million. And no media, no one talks about it.*

[REPLY](#)

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