

Internet & Society: Politics and Technology of Control

Spring 2009

January 27

Today

- Introduction
- Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace
- Has the Internet changed everything?
- Course requirements and tools
- An introduction to the topics and frameworks of the class

Barlow: The Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace

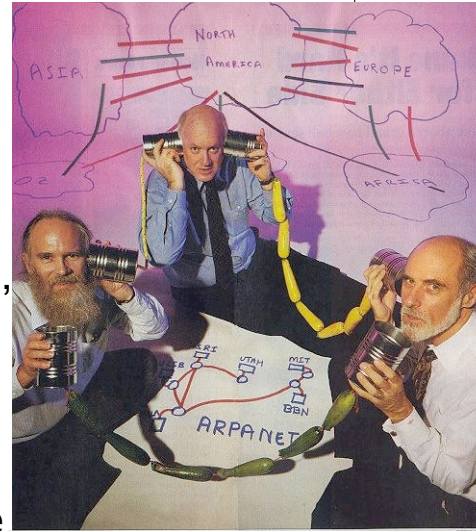
Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather.

We have no elected government, nor are we likely to have one, so I address you with no greater authority than that with which liberty itself always speaks. I declare the global social space we are building to be naturally independent of the tyrannies you seek to impose on us. You have no moral right to rule us nor do you possess any methods of enforcement we have true reason to fear.

Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. You have neither solicited nor received ours. We did not invite you. You do not know us, nor do you know our world. Cyberspace does not lie within your borders. Do not think that you can build it, as though it were a public construction project. You cannot. It is an act of nature and it grows itself through our collective actions...

Has the Internet Changed Everything?

You said: Education, intelligence, communication, entertainment, commerce, entrepreneurship, inter/re-connection, globalization/translation, governance, expression, privacy/security, anonymity, crime, identity...



Postel, Crocker, Cerf

The Promise of the Internet

- Push power from the center to the edge
- Access to knowledge
- Free us from bad government
- Flatten the earth
- Empower participation
- Read > Read-Write Culture
- Eliminate gatekeepers/intermediaries
- Innovation

The Dark Side of the Internet

- Loss of privacy
- Oppression
- Malicious code
- Lock-down
- Theft/crime
- Moral collapse
- Mis/dis-information/new gatekeepers
- Daily me/echo chamber

Course requirements

- Participation
 - Class, wiki, question tool
 - Introduce a class (wiki)
 - Comment on a presentation (wiki)
- 3 individual assignments
 - Wikipedia edit
 - Elevator pitch
 - A/V production
- Class presentation
- Final project

Some Tools

Class wiki

Question tool

IM

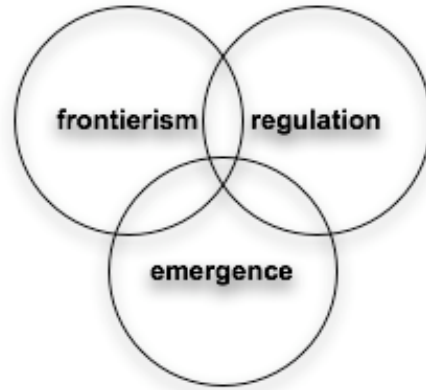
Telephone

Email

Units of Study

- What's so different about the Net: speech, economics, collaboration, privacy
- Digital institutions and society: participatory media, civic participation, democracy
- Consequences and outcomes: censorship, copyright, culture, education

Three Lenses

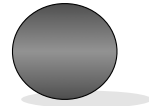


Lessig's 4 forces

LAW

NORMS

MARKET



ARCHITECTURE