In 1999 the WTO protests in Seattle sent a message to the world, loud and clear: The people of this planet were sick and tired of being stomped on, sick and tired of being exploited in the name of global capitalism and that people were ready to fight back. The years that followed Seattle saw a worldwide movement of resistance aimed against the failures of groups like the FTAA, WTO, IMF and World Bank and in the strengths of countries like Argentina and Brazil who have stood up...

all photographs taken September 1st 2008 at the Republican National Convention

They organize really well, the organization was just amazing.
- Charlize Theron on anarchists

JOIN THE ANARCHISTS!

We’re taking on the contradictions of this capitalist culture in the streets and in our communities. If Seattle taught us anything, it was that we can make change ourselves. We don’t need bureaucracies or big top down organizations telling us how to do it...

This handout is too small for an academic essay. For more detailed reading from similar perspectives check the following sources:

- www.realbattleinseattle.org
- www.indymedia.org
- www.infoshop.org
- www.crimethinc.com

For a defense of globalization check the mainstream capitalist media.

brought to you by the
Crimethinc. Screenwrecker’s Guild
and fought those organizations’ neoliberal policies.

The real story of Seattle is a story about people taking matters into their own hands. The reason it was such a successful and inspiring event was because protesters employed the anarchist principal of direct action: creating the change they wanted to see themselves. Unlike other mobilizations where protesters had marched en mass in attempts to influence the decision makers of their time, protesters in Seattle made the decision for themselves. By blockading the city of Seattle and physically preventing the WTO summit from happening, they were able to say directly to those decision makers: “Not in our town. Not in our country. Not on our planet.”

What’s dangerous about a sensational movie like Battle in Seattle is that you might get the impression that this was some isolated event, that it was a spontaneous outburst, or a passing phenomenon that happened in the past, but is no longer relevant. That couldn’t be further from the truth. When Martin Henderson’s character says “we shut this city down today,” a member of the black bloc retorts “and what about tomorrow?!”. That’s exactly the question the anarchist movement has been focusing on for the past 9 years.

In spite of government repression the PATRIOT act and its repercussions, we are still fighting to show that another world is possible. Just a few weeks ago we swarmed St. Paul, MN, the city that hosted the Republican National Convention, and blockaded many of the major intersections, confronting the Republicans head-on with conflict. Though the mainstream media largely ignored this event, the policy makers responsible for signing away our planet, and for the brutal oppression of poor people across the globe could not ignore our anger after coming face to face with resistance.

The media, of course, never even attempts to accurately represent anarchists, and unfortunately this movie isn’t an exception. The Battle in Seattle website repeatedly belittles anarchists as a “small fringe group” who “managed to steal the show” while focusing only on anarchist participation in the black bloc. Actually, anarchists were involved in all different aspects of the WTO protests including lockdowns, making puppets and cooking for Food Not Bombs. The Direct Action Network, (the group who shaped the protests), was founded and operated based on the anarchist principals of horizontal and non-hierarchical organizing. The media’s attempts to pigeon hole anarchists as “violent” thugs was simply an effort to discredit the strength of anarchist organizing and the successes of direct action.

Today, reports of “violent