

MULTIPLY & MOBILIZE: A WEBINAR SERIES

**Narratives and Strategies for Resisting Divide & Conquer
Tactics**

March 30; April 27; May 25



AORTA

anti-oppression resource and training alliance

www.aorta.coop

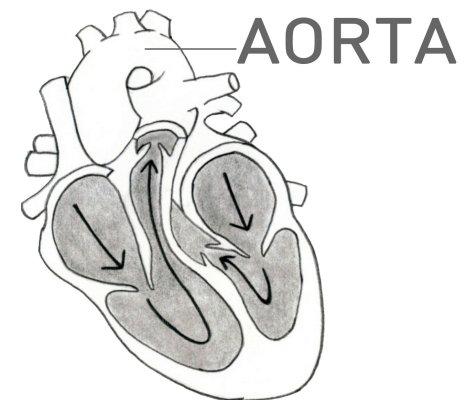
WHEN WE FIGHT – WE WIN BUILDING THE REBEL ALLIANCE

Welcome! Type into the Chat Box:

★ Your **name** +

★ Where you are calling **from** +

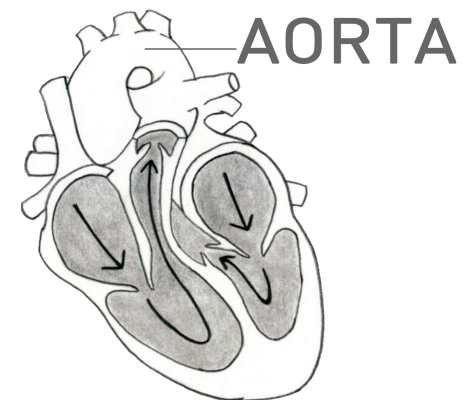
★ Message to future inhabitants of Planet Earth– what brief thought would you like to share with them?



WELCOME FROM AORTA

AORTA Anti Oppression Resource and Training Alliance

- WHO: worker-owned cooperative devoted to strengthening movements for social justice and solidarity economy.
- WHAT WE DO: expand the capacity of cooperative, collective, and community based projects through education, training, and planning.
- KEEP IN TOUCH: info@aorta.coop



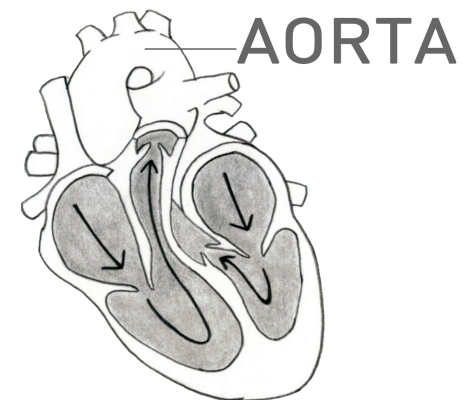
WELCOME FROM AORTA



REVIEW: BUILD PEOPLE POWER; CONFRONT SYSTEM; WIN A WORLD

Webinar I: Divide + Conquer

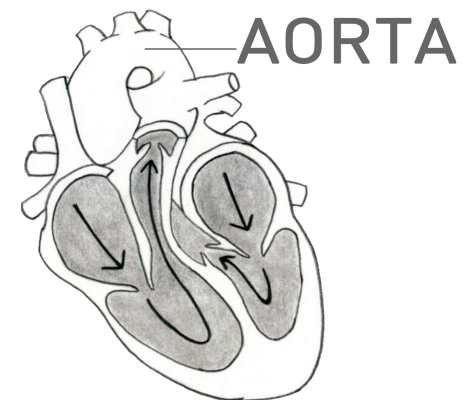
- ★ Tactics the system uses to divide us
- ★ Examples from Bacon's Rebellion, Standing Rock
- ★ Tactics to topple their divide + conquer game



REVIEW: BUILD PEOPLE POWER; CONFRONT SYSTEM; WIN A WORLD

Webinar II: Understanding this Political Moment

- ★ Mapping the system's strategies, tactics and narratives
- ★ Building Power, We Are Winning
- ★ 8 stages of Movement Building

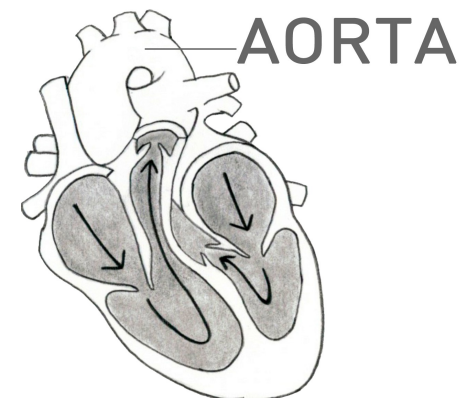


WHEN WE FIGHT – WE WIN

BUILDING THE REBEL ALLIANCE

Overview

- Introduction + Context
- Opportunity of this Moment
- Building the Rebel Alliance
- Lessons from Star Wars with Guests



LESSONS FOR MOVEMENT ACTION PLANNING

Use every opportunity to frame our vision, our strategy, and demands.



LESSONS FOR MOVEMENT ACTION PLANNING

Keep our strategies agile, our structures connected to the grassroots, and our values solid -- this helps when the State inevitably reorganizes itself.

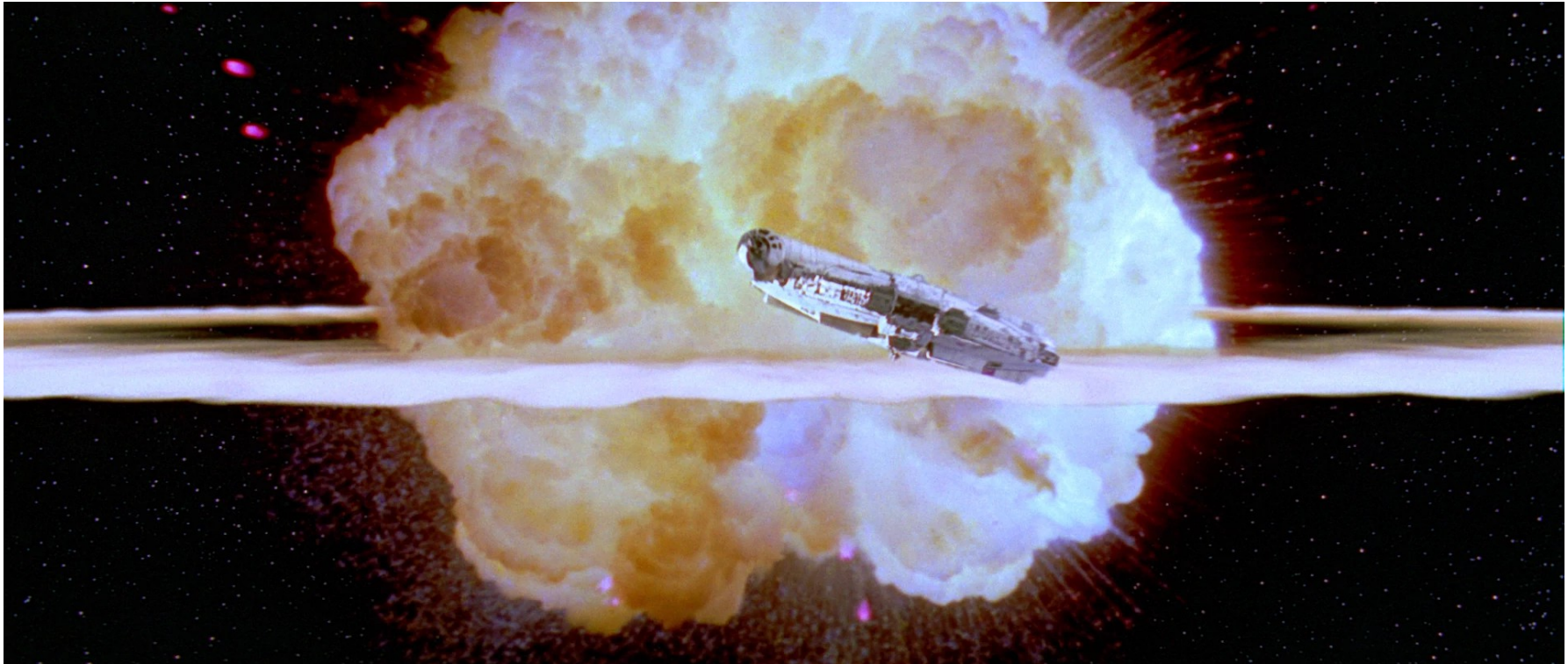


LESSONS FOR MOVEMENT ACTION PLANNING

There is a time ahead where we will think we've lost, but only because forces we are fighting are pushing back to try and stop our imminent victory.



LESSONS FOR MOVEMENT ACTION PLANNING



“every round of activism is an experiment
whose results can be applied to other
situations”

– Rebecca Solnit

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS MOMENT

- Flip and subvert political threats into opportunities for movement building.
- Deeply engage in moments of mobilization to bring new people into the work.
- Center political education and leadership development in this work to support people's long-term engagement and growth.
- Build alliances as a strategy to expand and leverage our movement bases to shift and transform power.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS MOMENT

- What are our strategies for welcoming people to our organizations? How do we orient newcomers and recently re-activated people?
- How do we avoid or adapt countercultural tendencies?
- How do we connect with newcomers?

What brought you here? What are you passionate about? What's at stake for you in this work? Where are you excited to plug in? What skills do you have? What skills do you want to learn?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS MOMENT

"Solidarity is not a matter of altruism. Solidarity comes from the inability to tolerate the affront to our own integrity of passive or active collaboration in the oppression of others, and from the deep recognition of our most expansive self-interest. From the recognition that, like it or not, our liberation is bound up with that of every other being on the planet, and that politically, spiritually, in our heart of hearts we know anything else is unaffordable."

-Aurora Levins Morales.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS MOMENT

How do we move people from one time actors to long-term alliance builders in a solidarity framework?

- One time actors
- Engaging in hard conversations
- Getting down
- Team Liberation/Rebel Alliance

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS MOMENT

Learning from Black Mama's Bail Out Action



“When Black mamas are taken from our communities and put in cages, we all suffer.”

– MARY HOOKS, SONG CO-DIRECTOR

Ways of Working Together

Type	Shared Work
Network	Information sharing and relationship building
Tactical alliance	Short Term and Defined collaboration
Coalition	Ongoing work for Mutual Benefit
Strategic alliance	Collaboration – Systemic change - Solidarity
Merger	Combining Resources for bigger effects

Criteria for Effective Coalitions

PURPOSE: What you actually set out to accomplish together.
The reason this thing exists.

CAPACITY: the time and resources each group is actually (not just on paper) contributing to the alliance.

STRUCTURE: is the way this thing works clear to all involved? And does it actually function that way?

CULTURE: What are the core values of this alliance? How are they expressed?

Adapted from Movement Strategy Center

Stages of an Alliance

Keeping Momentum – Addressing Challenges

1. “Who decides on who’s deciding?”
2. “Let’s be everything to everybody!”
3. “What did we say we were doing again?”
4. “We need to have everyone at the table!”

Challenging Divide and Conquer in Alliance Building

Focusing energy on taking down other social justice groups or individuals instead of focusing on the main decision-makers that wield power.	Create spaces to work out differences and disagreements amongst social justice groups or individuals to be able to work in effective coalition.
Ignoring deep seated tensions between racial groups.	Engaging in political education in the different ways racism is enacted against various communities of color.
Limiting the interaction and relationships between groups and communities to the common cause or campaign initially bringing you together.	Use a shared cause as a starting place to then build deeper and shared political understanding.
Delaying response for fear of taking imperfect action.	Remember, effective practices are most often responsive to the moment and the issue at hand. Listen to others' critique as you move forward at the pace of trust.
Insisting on doing things the way that they have always been done. Or rejecting the way things have been done before.	Adapt to the needs and potential of the present moment, while keeping history's valuable lessons in mind.

8 STAGES OF MOVEMENT BUILDING

*Described in the book 'Doing Democracy'

- Stage 1: Normal Times
- Stage 2: Prove the Failure of Official Institutions
- Stage 3: Ripening Conditions
- Stage 4: Take Off / Trigger Event
- Stage 5: Perception of Activist/Organizing Failure
- Stage 6: Majority Public Opinion
- Stage 7: Success
- Stage 8: Continuing the Struggle

8 STAGES OF MOVEMENT BUILDING

Steady State	Build-up of Stress in the System		Seen as a General Problem		Resolution		
1 Business-as-usual	2 Normal Channels Fail	3 Conditions Ripen	4 Take Off	5 Activist "Failure"	6 Win Majority of Public	7 Success!	8 Moving On
	<p>Sith rulership lurking in cloaks of democracy. Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's rise to power.</p> <p>Sith occupation injustices increase.</p>	<p>Kidnapping of Princess Leia, leader of Rebel Alliance</p> <p>Growing discontent against Empire rumbling across galaxy</p> <p>TRIGGER EVENT</p>	<p>Luke destroys Death Star.</p> <p>Empire's prime weapon is shown to be destructible increasing hope in movement alternatives.</p> <p>Three years later, Rebel Alliance has been driven from base by Empire. Loss of hope.</p>	<p>Activist "Failure"</p> <p>PUBLIC AWARENESS PROBLEM</p>	<p>2nd Death Star destroyed. Comrades in Rebel Alliance triumph over Galactic Empire. Lovers reaffirm love. Team up across species to defeat forces of evil.</p> <p>RETRIGGER EVENT</p> <p>PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO POWERHOLDER POLICIES</p>	<p>Success!</p> <p>PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENT ALTERNATIVES</p>	<p>30 years later, First Order up from ashes of Galactic Empire. Must be opposed by re-ignited women-led Rebel Alliance.</p> <p>Struggle continues.</p>

REBEL ALLIANCE STORYTELLING

Morrigan Phillips | Terry Marshall | Chris Crass





“The more you tighten your grip, Tarkin, the more star systems will slip through your fingers.”

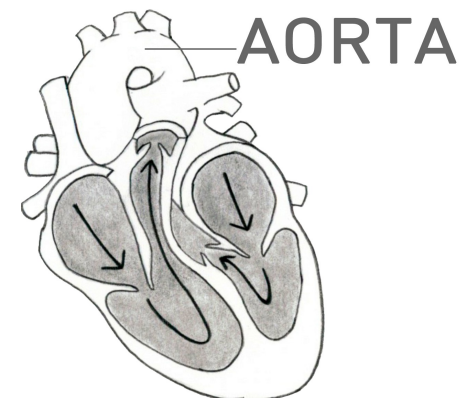
Q and A



MUTLIPLY AND MOBILIZE

THANK YOU!

Let us know how we can support
you in future webinars



*We are one with the Force.
The Force is with us*



POLITICAL PARTY

- | | |
|--|--|
| CHARACTERISTICS: | EXAMPLES: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral strategy • Sponsor candidates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Party • Tea Party • Working Families |

Strength: Direct legislative and policy influence.

CROSS ALLIANCE LEARNING NETWORK

- | | |
|---|---|
| CHARACTERISTICS: | EXAMPLES: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly conference • Exchanges • Relationship building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Social Forum • Allied Media Conference • Netroots • Interfaith Worker Justice - Worker Center Network |
- Strength: Can convene quickly. Low level org. commitment to participate.

VISIONING & MOVEMENT STRATEGY SPACE

- | | |
|---|---|
| CHARACTERISTICS: | EXAMPLES: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships • Share framing • Same general direction in paradigm shift • Provide trainings • Place for leadership & staff to develop broader vision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Social Forum • People's Movement Assembly • UNITY <p>Strength: Partners can move independently but still work towards common vision.</p> |

CROSS ALLIANCE CAMPAIGN

- | | |
|--|--|
| CHARACTERISTICS: | EXAMPLES: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframe or policy campaign • Focused on campaign target and strategy • Shared communication strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Families • Turning the Tide • Caring Across Generations • Welcoming America / FIRM |
- Strength: Higher level of impact on target.