

BLACK ZINE

THE
 PANOPTICON
 AS A
 BLACK
 CUBEN
 POLICING
 INFORMATION
 OVER
 PEOPLE.

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■ In Paul Virilo's work, *LOST DIMENSION*, the world moves at the speed of information, which through our electric circuits is the speed of light. The punctum of this is the airplane, it develops so fast at the cutting edge of technological advancement that it becomes not supersonic but teledynamic. This can paint a new illustration of the events of 9/11, framing it as a clash of information. The World Trade Centres were the perfect simulation of the western systems of capitalism. Information centers of this system, which was already proven to be reproducible by having a duplicate of itself as Baudrillard said, that exported and reproduced in the Eastren world through America's military.

THE BLACK BOX

■ The fast and turbulent exporting of the "American Way" was a shock and afront to the Eastren world. What happened in response is what Zizek refers to as reactionary fundamentalism in his book *VIOLENCE*. This is an extremist



view point that mimics a true fundamentalism, however, instead of being based on personal assurance of what one believes it is based on being in opposition to another view.

SPEED OF INFO &

■ The speed of American conquest and exporting of the American systems (American information) clashed with the Eastren world, leading to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, by these newly formed reactionary fundamentalists, where the punctum of the speed destroyed the information.

■ The attacks on 9/11 launched into a revival of modern war as defined through the Cold Wars. This was a revival of the Information Wars. In this war-scape there's no direct target and the battlefields are the offices of espionage agencies.

To rediscover the events of 9/11 and determine an enemy, emphasis was placed on finding the airplane's BLACK BOXES (though they are, in reality, orange). These boxes record all the stats of the airplane, as well as audio from inside of the plane. This information was vital in identifying the attackers. Already, information had become of military importance.

■ The then pursuing "War on Terror" became about

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■ the collection and militarization of information. On the back of 9/11, mass surveillance measures were enacted to collect information on any future/potential terrorist. The vague defining of a potential terrorist gave way



for the defining of anyone as a potential terrorist, rhetoric used by the National Security Association (NSA) to launch intensive programs. As revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden,

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the NSA started collecting information and data on enemy, allied, and even information on their very own citizens.

■ Therefore, mass storage reveals that in this new war, all information is political, run from a black box in Maryland. ■

9/11

● The airplane "Black Box" from 9/11 terrorist attack.



● Headquarters of the National Security Agency in Maryland.

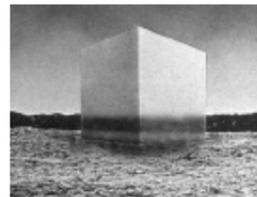
NSA



DATA 1 AND
2 3
IT'S 4 BOX



● The D:Wave quantum computer owned by Lockheed Martin



● SuperStudio's 3rd City of just the electric pulses of it's occupant's brains

LM

3rdC

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If all information is political, then access to information becomes a highly valued privilege.

IMAGE NOT FOUND

Access to information allows one to enter into a wider political realm, to form new political spheres, and make one's political voice heard. This is a benefit of the internet and new technologies and was the hope of cyber-utopians in Silicon Valley. Marshal McLuhan had posit the idea before the internet revolution, with his idea of the Global Village, in which when given more information, in this context of the global and our global neighbors, we would act accordingly in a positive fashion. This idea is also a very Chomsky-esque ideal, where given the full information, people/citizens would act in the most acceptable (positive) way.

However, we have reached a point in which the political realm of the internet takes on a duality of

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playing both the safe-house and the panopticon. By entering a political sphere, we become a new form of engaged citizens. On the other hand, in a world of Facebook, we also take on the role as political advocate and/or political activist (or slacktivist).

IMAGE NOT FOUND

Within any political sphere debate and watch-dogging will take place. Yes, in the safe-house we are free to voice our opinion, but the panopticon is evident as we see then that very opinion challenged or propagated. In this we become aware of ourselves being watched— first by our peers and then by an obscure greater audience.

IMAGE NOT FOUND

Back to Baudrillard, this becomes the aim of mass surveillance where, "self-expression becomes the ultimate form of confession". He describes a superficial dimension where we express ourselves, but behind it

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surveyors watch quietly. However, the ultimate aim of this process is not simply data collection (which takes time and effort to sift through), but instead, the aim is to create less information through a self-regulating population. In this way, even whistleblowers like Edward Snowden are co-opted. Once we are aware of surveillance, we begin to watch and regulate our self-expression online, removing radical (or maybe not even) political content from the internet.

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Gaddafi failed to regulate the political content of the web and its root potential for revolution was met. In

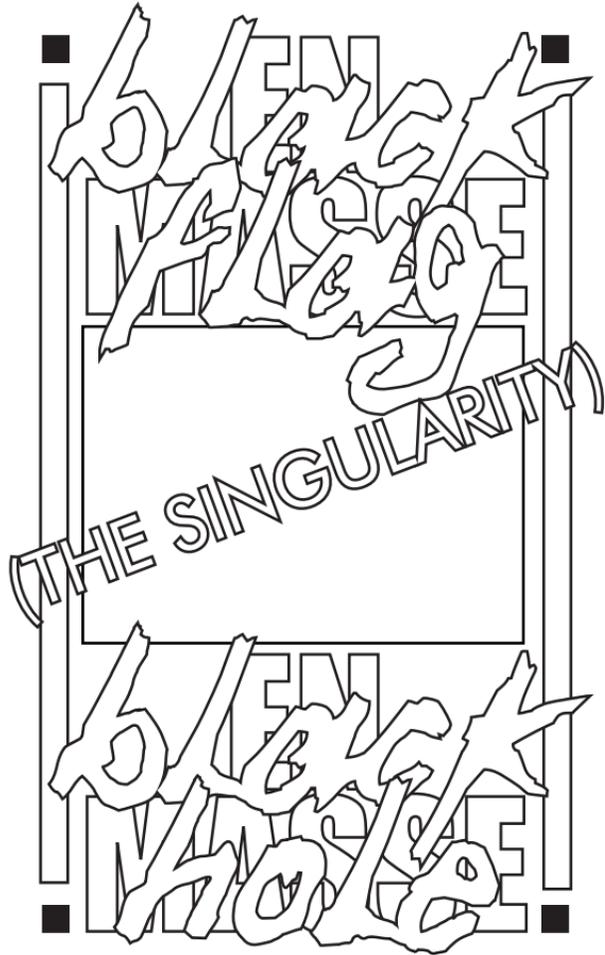
IMAGE NOT FOUND

a worry, he implemented a government-imposed blackout

BLACKOUT

of the web in order to remove access to the political content. Opposed, is the much more subtle tactic of a self-imposed blackout, in which the ends are the same—citizens without access to information.

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1 From our new online political presence all people, whether opposing or agreeing, form an expanded political sphere. New levels of involvement and representation create a new population both inside and outside of territorial borders. As stated before, it is a new form of citizenship which demands a new understanding for the political mass and the multitude.

In a recent article by design duo PWR Studio, IT'S COMPLICATED (ON GRADIENTS), they posit that colours on a flag represent the nation's ideology and therefore there are never gradients on flags as that would represent a muddying or nego-

tiation of ideologies. A flag as a symbolic representation must be

clear and finite. Taking this into consideration, the new multitude would be best represented under an all black flag. The physicality of black is a mix, a complete muddying of all colours (in this ideology) together, until no one colour is distinguishable. In Baudrillard's IN

THE SHADOW OF THE SILENT MAJORITIES, he argues that this is exactly the nature of the en masse, or the multitude.

To Baudrillard the en masse is the end of politics and ideology. Through the en masse a wide spectrum all thought and meaning is accepted and disseminated throughout the multitude. In this, language fails to incite or "electrify" the mass and communication merely communicates itself. This again is appropriately represented by blackness which does not reflect or refract. The mass absorbs language and says nothing in return. However, while this makes the mass no longer identifiable under any singular ideology, it is viewable by its lack

of ideology, this brings forth the last example of black.

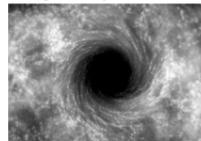
2 A black hole is only viewable by observing its surrounding. When viewing a large space of light of matter, a black hole becomes evident by a void—an area without any matter. This is akin to Baudrillard's en masse—while signifying nothing, they are still evident through their ability to absorb and nullify all. The revolutionary mass or multitude of the communists is no longer possible, but it proposes a new threat to the standing structures.

If we were to travel into the black hole deep past the event horizon, at its core, we would come upon the singularity. Here, all structures of

existence breakdown. All understanding of space, time, matter, and physics are dismissed as nothing but the sole form of the singularity. In

kin, this is how the en masse acts to absorb and bury all ideology and politic to a point of irrelevance.

However, there is an anomaly of the black hole that lends hope for new structures after all standing ones have fallen into the mass. The black hole, nor the mass, reflect what it absorbs, but breaks it down to its fundamental elements which then radiate from it. In time, this radiation reaches out, pushing all matter out of reach of the black hole, rendering it inert. This anomaly is at the heart of every galaxy. From the ruins of what was demolished by the black hole, comes the fundamental elements for new structures—to come together and form.



1 BLACK FLAG
2 BLACK HOLE

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/
55331936](https://vimeo.com/55331936)

RAF RENNIE