

The new Revolutionary War

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During the Revolutionary War between Britain and her colonies, the Haudenosaunee were torn apart because of divided loyalties and false promises. Both parties promised to recognize the sovereign status of the Haudenosaunee as Joseph Brant, a charismatic Mohawk veteran of the French and Indian war, did his best to encourage the Confederacy to fight on the side of the British Empire against the Continental Army. He firmly believed that if Britain were victorious it would ensure the recognition and prosperity of the six nations and himself as its Caesar. Unfortunately, the agitation's committed by this one renegade would ultimately result in the destruction of the Haudenosaunee.

Some 300 years later, the Haudenosaunee find themselves caught in the middle of another war. Currently in both the United States and Canada, a war is being waged against corporate North and South America by the forces of anti-globalization. The issue is called *globalization*, which is the act of international free trade between transnational corporations. Corporate empires like Nike and McDonald's utilize and profit from capitalist globalization by exhausting many natural and human resources from poor countries for almost nothing in cost; in an effort to achieve maximum production with minimum investment. In essence, the result of globalization will see the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. This is the new Revolutionary War.

The next battlefield in the new Revolutionary War is going to take place at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City on April 20. Canada will be preparing for this battle by initiating one of the largest police mobilizations in its country's history. The nucleus of this current battle is the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), a proposed transnational compact that has been drafted in secrecy and negotiated through somewhat undemocratic processes by the imperialist OAS (Organization of American States).

On the Kanien'kehá:ka front, an individual from Tyiendinega, among others, are entering the next round of this battle by organizing a mass demonstration at Akwesasne. It is unclear on what the demonstration's itinerary will consist of, as some reports state that there will be a Mohawk escort of non-Onkwehón:we, anti-globalization protesters through the US/Canada border, while others suggest a simple protest of anti-globalization forces in the middle of the international bridge. Regardless, the message is clear that the organizers of this demonstration wish to relay to the world that the Kanien'kehá:ka stand in solidarity with the forces of anti-globalization and want to call attention to the environmental effects of globalization in Kanien'kehá:ka communities. Furthermore, the organizers proclaim to be asserting Haudenosaunee jurisdiction over its territory by ignoring the border; an effort they view as an initiative to unify the Mohawk Nation.

The motivation portrayed and the message desired by the organizers are commendable and sincere, however this author wishes to alert his readers of the potential danger that may come with the independent actions of individuals. Again, the Haudenosaunee of the Mohawk Nation find themselves in the middle of an external conflict whereby

individuals have agitated people to fight on the side of foreign entities, against another foreign entity; a scenario similar to the original Revolutionary War and similar to the tactics of Joseph Brant.

The Haudenosaunee are bound by Kahswénhtha, a treaty that establishes a code of non-interference and a mutual respect policy for the independence and sovereignty of both parties, which includes among others, all social, political, and economic activities of that party and its constituents. Therefore, direct Haudenosaunee involvement with the campaign of anti-globalization forces violates this treaty and jeopardizes the legal foundation needed to fight its own battles.

Moreover, the organizers of this demonstration have proclaimed their support and solidarity with the forces of anti-globalization. The forces of anti-globalization consist primarily of Anarchists, Marxists, labor parties, and other organizations that are considered on the left side of the political spectrum. The platform and aspirations among some of these groups, particularly the Anarchists, are to eliminate any structured authority. Anarchism is a Greek word meaning *without government*. Their beliefs are contradictory to that of the Kaianere'kó:wa and actually threaten the existence of Haudenosaunee governments if these groups ever attain their ultimate goal.

It must be understood clearly that this commentary is not to condemn the forces of anti-globalization, nor does it endorse the globalization of corporate governments. Rather, it is alerting those Kanien'kehá:ka who participate in struggles initiated by foreign entities. This author, being no stranger to the various campaigns, respects and commends the fighting spirit that these people are maintaining. I applaud the necessary sacrifice and persistence they contribute in order to rid the world of those groups who initiate the denial of human rights, the rape of our Mother Earth, and commit totalitarian acts of suppression against the poor and underprivileged. I wish them all the best in bringing down the capitalist machine.

However, I'd like to suggest the following option to the Kanien'kehá:ka. Indeed, corporate globalization is a threat to all indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere, and efforts must be contributed by the Kanien'kehá:ka to stop it. But, it must be of our own initiative, independent of any foreign entity with respect to the Kahswénhtha and the lessons of history. Under such a scenario the Kanien'kehá:ka only, can control the agenda, dictate the terms of the campaign, and at the same time protect its inherent sovereign status. Not to mention the unity everyone's been working so hard to retain.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of peace & power!