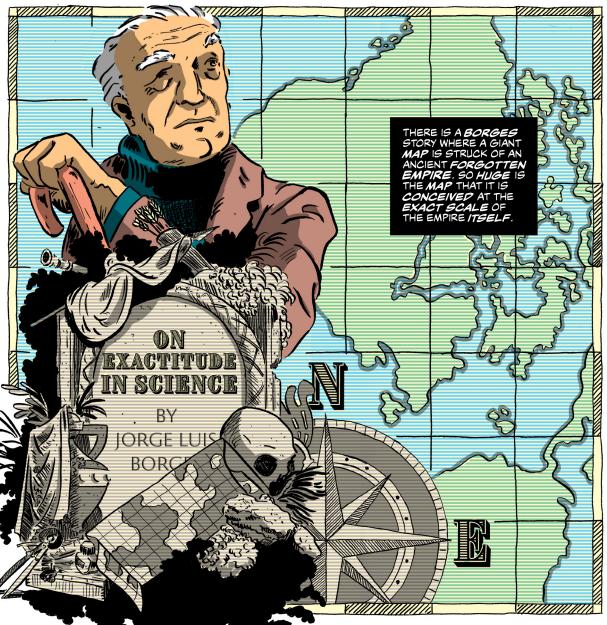
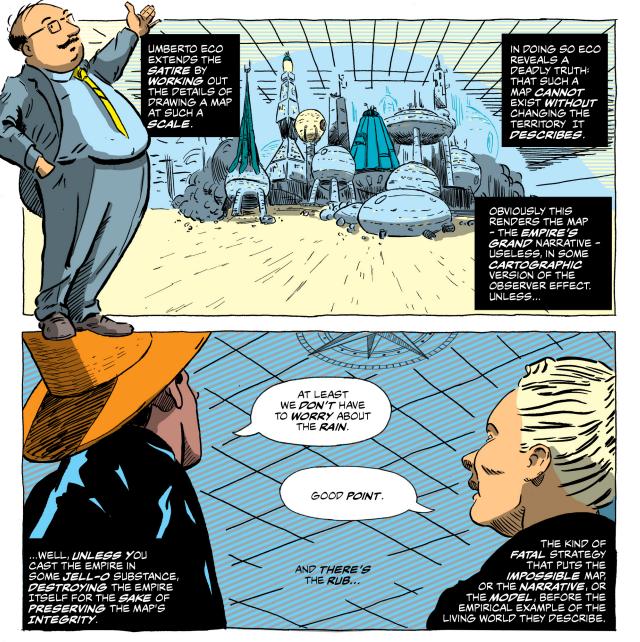


	Matures	
Future		
		Jeeing
Beyond		
	The Map	



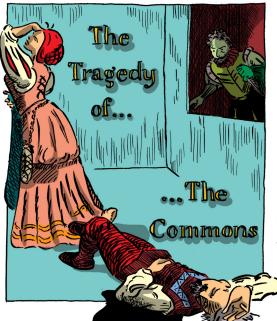






HERE THESE STORIES APPEAR MORE THAN SIMPLY A CURIOSITY OF THE LITERARY IMAGINA-TION. THEY REVEAL A TRUTH; THAT WE ALL TOO OFTEN LABOUR **UNDER** THE GREAT TARPAULIN OF GRAND NARRATIVES. THAT IMPOSSIBLE MODELS ARE MAPPED ONTO HUMAN LIFE, WARPING AND EVEN DESTROYING THE WORLD WHICH THESE MODELS AND MYTHS ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE.

AND SO IT IS WITH THE CASE OF...



A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW A MAP OR A MODEL CAN SIMPLIFY A SUBJECT TO SUCH A DEGREE SO AS TO DISTORT AND HARM IT.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS IS A THEORY OF COMMONS-BASED PRACTICES PUT FORWARD BY GARRETT HARDIN IN 1969, IN AN ESSAY OF THE SAME NAME, ITS CON-CLUSIONS HAVE BEEN COM-PREHENSIVELY **DEBLINKED**, **YET**, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, HARDIN'S **THEORY** IS STILL CONSIDERED A TRUISM BY MANY TO THIS DAY, THE AXIOM UPON WHICH ECONOMISTS BUILD THEIR MAPS OF THE FUTURE.



SHAKESPEARE!

WTF IS 'THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS'?

IMAGINE A PASTURE THAT IS HELD IN COMMON BY SEVERAL FARMERS, EACH ACTING IN THEIR OWN "RATIONAL" SELF-INTEREST. IT IS ASSUMED IN THIS HYPOTHETICAL...

IT SURE GETS LONELY
OUT HERE... JUST
ME, THE SHEEP AND
ALL THE OTHER
FARMERS I NEVER
TALK WITH.

...THAT IN ORPER TO MAXIMISE
THEIR PERSONAL GAINS THE
FARMERS WILL ALWAYS WORK
THE PASTURE BEYOND A
SUPPORTABLE CAPACITY.



THIS IS THE SUPPOSED "TRAGEPY."
THAT ALL COMMONS RESOURCES
WILL BE OVER EXPLOITED. UNLESS,
THAT IS, THEY ARE GOVERNED BY
SOME FORM OF TOP-DOWN AGENCY.









OSTROM AND HER RESEARCH PARTNERS SHOWED THROUGH ACTUAL FIELD STUDY OF REAL-WORLD COMMONS THAT THE "TRAGEDY" WAS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, AND THAT MANY COLLECTIVELY OWNED RESOURCES ARE BOTH SUSTAINABLY AND EQUITABLY MANAGED THROUGH THE NECESSARY CO-OPERATION OF PARTIES USING THE RESOURCE, WITHOUT THE IMPOSITION OF A TOP-POWN GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE, OSTROM'S CRITIQUE OF GARRETT HARDIN'S MODEL IS OFTEN SUMMED UP IN WHAT IS CALLED

OSTROM'S LAW:

"A **RESOURCE** ARRANGEMENT THAT WORKS IN **PRACTICE** CAN WORK IN **THEORY**."

IN OTHER WORDS

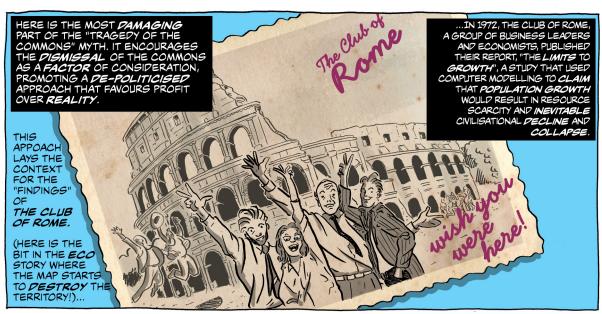
"PEOPLE COOPERATE!"

*HUH, AN INTERESTING WORP, "**TRAGEPY**." SOUNDS VERY STRONG, VERY IMPORTANT. BETTER THAN IF IT WERE CALLED, SAY, "THE BLOOPER OF THE COMMONS" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. "TRAGEDY" IS CLASSICAL, EVEN SAGACIOUS, SERIOUS-SOUNDING LIKE SOMETHING SOMEONE WOULDN'T JUST...OH, I DON'T KNOW...MAKE UP..

WITH THE "TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS" DISPROVED, WHY DO WE STILL HEAR ABOUT IT?







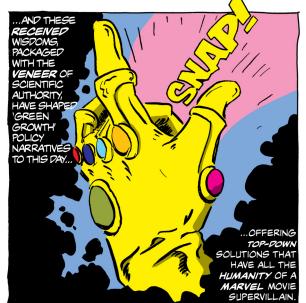


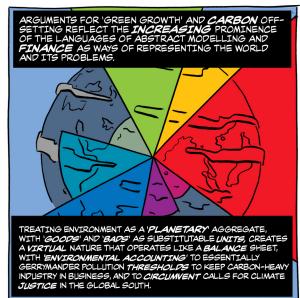
TWO PEOPLE STAND IN A DARKENED ROOM AT 12 NOON. ONE SAYS TO THE OTHER:

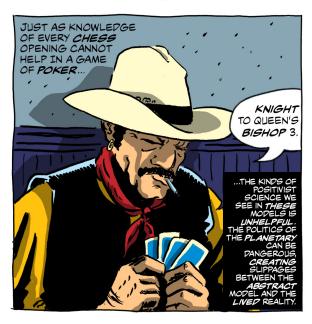
IT MUST BE MIDNIGHT, TIME FOR BED.

BAD ASSUMPTIONS LEAD TO BAD CONCLUSIONS, AND THIS IS THE CASE WITH "THE LIMITS TO GROWTH." WE MAY INDEED BE HEADING FOR SOME FORM OF GLOBAL POLITICAL BREAKDOWN, BUT THIS HAS MUCH MORE TO DO WITH INDUSTRIES GEARED TOWARD OVER-PRODUCTION, THAN IT DOES POPULATION GROWTH.













THERE IS A WAST SPECTRUM OF WAYS TO ORGANISE HUMAN ACTIVITY, WITH EACH APPROACH BORN OF ITS OWN SET OF VALUE AND POSSESSING UNIQUE RESCURCE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO FUNCTION SUSTAINABLY.

THE TYPE OF MOPELS WE SEE FROM THE CHAMPIONS OF "GREEN GROWTH" ARE PREMISED ON THE IPEA THAT A GROWTH ECONOMY IS THE ONLY RATIONAL WAY OF ORGANISING HUMAN ACTIVITY, WITH MARKET VALUES AS THE ONLY FORM OF VALUE THAT MATTERS, SO THEY SIMPLY REPLICATE THE SAME TIRED MISTAKES AND THE SAME TIRED RHETORIC WHICH DRAWS AN ERRONEOUS LINK BETWEEN RESOURCE AND CONSUMPTION.

COMMONERS EMBODY A PIFFERENT VIEW OF RESOURCES, AND LOOK BEYOND THE NARROW VIEW OF HUMAN ACTIVITY THAT GLOBAL LEADERS FROM THE WEALTHY NORTH, AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS ALIKE, HAVE CHOSEN TO RECOGNISE.







COMMONERS CREATE AND
REPLICATE VALUE AND
INTERRELATED SYSTEMS
OF VALUE, WHAT MASSIMO DE
ANGELIS DESCRIBES AS
"COMMON GOODS" IN HIS
BOOK OMNIA SUNT COMMUNIA.

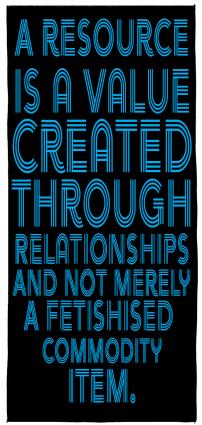
A COMMON GOOD IS: ON THE ONE HAND A USE VALUE FOR A PLURALITY; ON THE OTHER IT REQUIRES A PLURALITY CLAIMING AND SUSTAINING THE OWNERSHIP OF THE COMMON GOOD, AND THIS CAN BE DONE ONLY THROUGH THE CREATION OF RELATIONAL VALUES, THAT IS, VALUES THAT SELECT THE 'GOODS AND BADS' OF SOCIAL ACTION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SUSTAINING AND (RE)-PRODUCING ONE ANOTHER, SOCIAL RELATIONS, SOCIAL PRACTICE AND THE **ECOLOGY** IN WHICH SOCIAL PRACTICE IS EMBEDDED. NASSINO DE ANGELIS OMNIA SUNT COMMUNIA THINK OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THREE "ELEMENTS": 1. A "RESOURCE SYSTEM", THE ACT OF RESOURCING; 2. A "RESOURCE UNIT", THE USABLE GOOD, AND 3. THE "RESOURCE FLOW", THE RATE OF PRODUCTION AND USE OF A UNIT. WHEN THIS INTERACTION IS MEDIATED THROUGH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS THEN WE HAVE CREATED A COMMON GOOD, WE'VE (RE)PRODUCED IN COMMON. SO, MORE BROADLY, TO A COMMONER, A RESOURCE IS NOT A THING BUT INSTEAD A RELATIONSHIP THAT GENERATES VALUE.



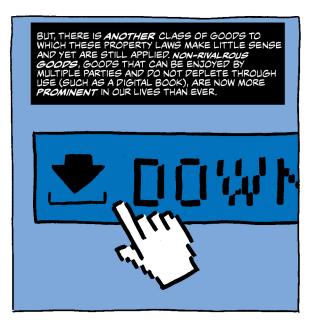
THINK ABOUT THE WAY PEOPLE HAVE PREPARED AND SHARED FOOD FOR CENTURIES, A GOOD SPREAD IS THE RESULT OF A SYSTEM OF NESTED RELATIONSHIPS.

RESOURCES NEVER EXIST IN ISO-LATION. WHETHER IT BE THROUGH EXTRACTION WHICH **CREATES** A WIPER ECOLOGICAL TOLL, OR PEPLETION OF SOME COMMON POOL RESOURCE THROUGH USE, RESOURCES **ARE** PART OF A RELA-TIONAL NETWORK OF VALUE. SOCIAL VALUES DO NOT MERELY LEAP IN PEFINING THE ATTRIBUTES AND ASPECTS OF A RESOURCE, INPEED, THEY **ARE** RESOURCES THEMSELVES

> SO, TO A COMMONER, "WHAT IS A RESOURCE?"



THINKING AROUND RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY THAT WHICH ABSTRACTS THEM FROM THEIR SITUATED RELATIONS AND FETISHISES THEM AS COMMODITIES, THESE ARE GOODS THAT ARE CALLED RIVAL AND DEPLETE THROUGH USE. THIS UNDERSTANDING OFTEN LEADS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BEING LITTLE MORE THAN A ELABORATE SYSTEM OF PROPERTY LAW.





RESTRICTIVE PROPERTY LAWS BUILT TO "PROTECT" OWNERSHIP OF RIVALROUS GOODS MAKE VERY LITTLE SENSE WHEN APPLIED TO DIGITAL REPRODUCTION AND SHARING, IT WOULD BE MORE APPOSITE TO THINK OF THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE AS A LENDING LIBRARY WITH INFINITE CAPACITY, WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS BYTES OF INFORMATION WHENEVER YOU LIKE AND FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE WITH ZERO IMPACT ON OTHER USERS, WHO THEM-SELVES HAVE THE SAME ACCESS. THESE KINDS OF DIGITAL RE-SOURCES ARE BEST MANAGED AND UTILISED THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE COMMONS.





THE LIBRARY MOPEL IS IN FACT PROVING TO BE USE-FUL IN THE FAIRER AND MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF RIVAL ROUS GOODS TOO. WITH COMMUNITY-LED TOOL LIBRARIES, SEED BANKS, AND LAND AND HOUSING CO-OPS, THERE ARE MANY THRIVING EXAMPLES OF A RADICAL, COMMONS-BASED APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING RESOURCES.

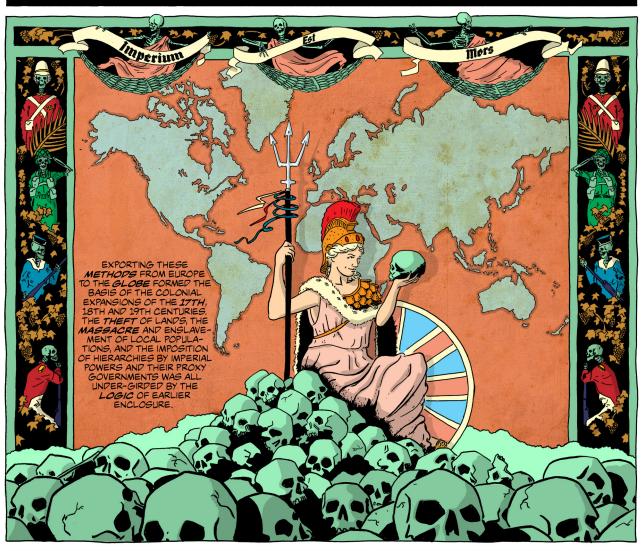
BEYOND THE AUSPICES OF STATE AND MARKET CONTROL, EVER WARY OF ENCLOSURE AND THE DANGERS OF CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT, THESE TYPES OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EXIST TO CREATE, REPLICATE AND PROTECT FORMS OF VALUE:



THE RELATIONSHIPS BUILT BY COMMONERS PO NOT EXIST IN A BUBBLE. THEY ARE, AND HAVE BEEN, INTERACTING WITH PIFFERENT VALUE MOPELS, GOVERNMENTS AND STATE AGENTS FOR MANY CENTURIES. PART OF WHAT LINKS COMMONERS IS THE CONTINUITY OF STRUGGLE AGAINST THREATS TO AUTONOMY THAT ARISE FROM IMBALANCED POWER RELATIONS. IN SHORT, THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ENCLOSURE.

ENCLOSURE IS THE PROCESS
OF TRANSFERRING RESOURCES
FROM COMMON USE TO PRIVATE
AND STATE OWNERSHIP, WHICH
TYPICALLY EMPLOYS SOME FORM
OF VIOLENCE TO RESTRICT
ACCESS TO LAND, GOODS,
LABOUR RIGHTS AND HUMAN
DIGNITY. THIS VIOLENCE IS THE
USE OF POWER EXERTED
THROUGH EITHER LEGAL
MECHANISMS, OR THE KINDS OF
BRUTE FORCE AVAILABLE TO
STATES WITH PROFESSIONALISED
ARMIES AND POLICE FORCES.

THE TENSION BETWEEN COMMONING AND ENCLOSURE FORMS THE HISTORICAL TERRAIN WE INHABIT TODAY. THE LATE MIDDLE AGES SAW EUROPEAN FEUDAL LANDOWNERS ENCROACH ON COMMON LAND, DISMANTLING THE COMMUNITARIAN METHODS OF FOOD PRODUCTION THAT HAD SUSTAINED PEASANT LIFE FOR CENTURIES, METHODS INCLUDED THE VIOLENT DISPOSESSION OF PEOPLE FROM LAND, POLITICAL WRANGLING AND THE FORMATION OF LEGAL INSTITUTIONS TO BACK UP THEIR CLAIMS.



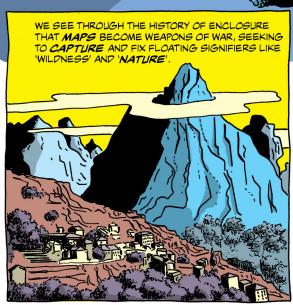
NOTIONS OF WHITE SUPREMACY
AROSE FROM AND OFFERED
SUPPORT TO THE PROJECTS OF
THE COLONIAL POWERS, RACISM,
BACKED BY COLONIAL SCIENCE,
BECOMES A TECHNIQUE OF
ENCLOSURE, FACILITATING THE
DOMINATION OF PEOPLE AND
NATURE.

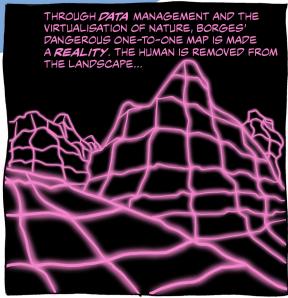
THE RISE OF CAPITALISM,
COMBINED WITH A PRE-EXISTING
PATRIARCHY, SEES ABSTRACT
NOTIONS, SUCH AS FAMILY,
COPIFIED INTO SOCIAL
INSTITUTIONS, THIS SHIFT...

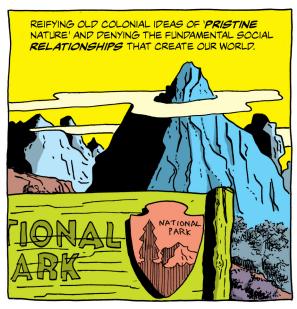
SEES WOMEN OBJECTIFIED IN A NEW WAY, THEIR BOPIES BECOME A PLACE FOR ENCLOSURE, WITH THE EXTRACTION OF VALUE THROUGH THEIR FREE POMESTIC LABOUR, FORMING THE CENTRAL EXPLOITATIVE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH WEALTH IS BUILT.

THE CURRENT PERIOD OF NEO-LIBERAL REFORM, BACKED AND SPURRED ON BY GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE IMF AND WORLD BANK, ARE A FORM OF RE-HEATED COLONIALISM WITH LEGAL MECHANISMS... PEVELOPING GREATER BUREAUCRATIC TOOLS TO HIPE VIOLENCE,
PISPOSSESSION AND MURPER
BEHIND THE RHETORIC OF
PEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.
AND, IN THE WEALTHY WESTERN
NATIONS, SPACE AND AUTONOMY
ARE VIOLENTLY POLICED IN AN
OVERTLY RACIALISED MANNER,
WITH WHITE SUPPEMACIST
ATTITUPES EMBEDDED IN THE
INSTITUTIONS THAT CONTROL
SOCIAL INTERACTION. COMMUNAL
WEALTH IS EXTRACTED OR SEIZED,
AND SOME LIFE HAS A VERY LOW
PREMIUM IN THE EYES OF THE LAW.

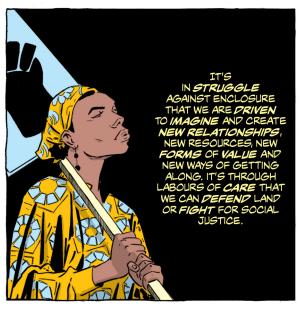




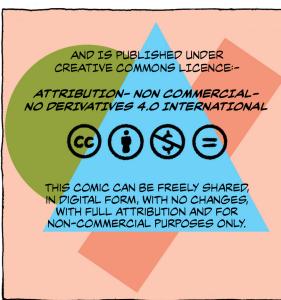


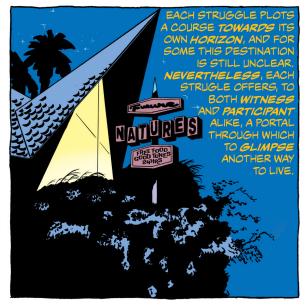


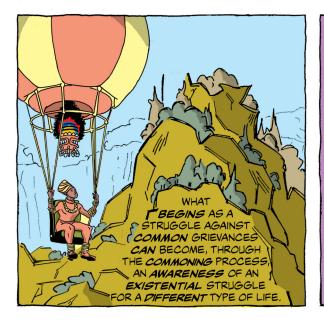


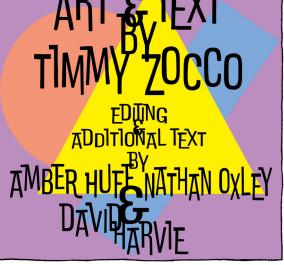












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