Direct action is terrorism.

There are significant differences between terrorism and direct action. Nearly all direct action, on the other hand, is intended to inform and to motivate others by demonstrating the power people have to accomplish goals themselves. While terrorism is the domain of a specialized class—those who seek power for its own sake—the direct action activist does other things besides. They can take up themselves, empowering people to take control of their own lives.

Direct action is violent.

To say that it is violent to destroy the machinery of a slaughterhouse or to break windows belonging to a political party that promotes war is to privilege property over human and animal life. This objection easily vanishes against violence living creatures by focusing all attention on property rights and away from all intentional issues. Direct action may obstruct the activities or destroy the property of a corporation or institution—but if the latter itself is evil, which it often is, then the violence is not violence but rather the prevention of violence.

Direct action is not political expression, but criminal activity.

Unfortunately, whether or not an action is illegal is a poor measure of whether or not it is just. The Jan 6th event was, after all, law. To object to an action on the grounds that it is illegal is to argue that some thing in society is wrong when it is the right thing to do. To argue that must always obey laws, even when we consider those laws to be unethical or to enforce unfeudal conditions, is to suggest that the arbitrary pronouncements of the legal establishment possess a higher moral authority than our own. Obviously, legal obedience and democracy do not exist in isolation: where laws are oppressive, illegal action is not of weal, and law-abiding docility is no virtue.

Direct action is unnecessary where people have freedom of speech.

In a society dominated by an increasingly narrowly focused corporate media, it can be almost impossible to initiate a public dialogue on a subject unless no something occurs that brings attention to it. Under such conditions, direct action can be a means of making use of every institutional means of solving problems does not necessarily preclude political channels instead.

Direct action never accomplishes anything.

Every effective political movement throughout history, from the struggle for the eight hours day to the fight for women’s suffrage, has used some form of illegal, direct action to bring about the changes it desired. Such action can complement other forms of political activity in a variety of ways. If nothing else, it helps dramatize the fact that any form of nonviolent pressure for reform iseffective. Even if you manage to get them more burdensome, it can be a way of going beyond the particular issue to argue the possibility of a more fundamental social change. Authorities may use direct actions as excuses to terrify innocents, but Hitler did when the Reichstag burned, but those in power are the ones who must answer for the injustices they commit in so doing, not those who oppose them. Likewise, however, the direct action activist must run the risk, in the face of an inexcusable injustice it can be more dangerous and irresponsible to leave it untampered.

Direct action is dangerous and can have negative repercussions for others.

By definition, direct action is dangerous. It is the right thing to do. To argue that direct action must be the work of police agents provocateurs is disempower- ing; a movement that is to be broad-based must include a wide range of options.

Direct action is terrorism.

This accusation is almost always made by people who have the privilege of speaking and acting in public without fearing repercussions: that is to say, those who have privilege in social and political life. The business of the French Resistance have demonstrated their courage and accountability by acting against society’s established polls and customs, even when they risked death for doing do. For that matter, a nation increasingly terrorized by police and federal surveillance of just about everyone, it is any wonder that those anew desires to protect their privacy while doing so?

Direct action is practiced only by privileged young people, not the disadvantaged, the lumpen proles, their relatives, etc.

In fact, direct action is and has long been practiced in a variety of forms by peo- ple of all walks of life. The only possible exception to this would be members of the wealthiest and most powerful classes, who have no need to practice any kind of illegal or revolutionary action because, by the coincidence, the established political channels are perfectly suited to their needs.

Direct action is the work of agents provocateurs.

This speculation is generally made from a distance, without concrete evidence. To allege that direct action must be the work of police agents provocateurs is disempower- ing; a movement that is to be broad-based must include a wide range of options.

Direct action is terrorism.

The accusation is made of all action. This charge is false: it is the right thing to do. To argue that must always obey laws, even when we consider those laws to be unethical or to enforce unfeudal conditions, is to suggest that the arbitrary pronouncements of the legal establishment possess a higher moral authority than our own. Obviously, legal obedience and democracy do not exist in isolation: where laws are oppressive, illegal action is no vice, and law-abiding docility is no virtue.

Direct action can be dangerous and has negative repercussions for others.

Direct action can be dangerous in a repressive political climate, and it is impor- tant that those who practice it make every effort not to endanger others. This is not necessarily an objection to it, however—on the contrary, when it becomes dangerous to establish a movement, it becomes all the more important to do so. Authorities may use direct actions as excuses to terrify innocents, but Hitler did when the Reichstag burned, but those in power are the ones who must answer for the injustices they commit in so doing, not those who oppose them. Likewise, however, the direct action activist must run the risk, in the face of an inexcusable injustice it can be more dangerous and irresponsible to leave it untampered.

Direct action never accomplishes anything.

Every effective political movement throughout history, from the struggle for the eight hours day to the fight for women’s suffrage, has used some form of illegal, direct action to bring about the changes it desired. Such action can complement other forms of political activity in a variety of ways. If nothing else, it helps dramatize the fact that any form of nonviolent pressure for reform is effective. Even if you manage to get them more burdensome, it can be a way of going beyond the particular issue to argue the possibility of a more fundamental social change. Authorities may use direct actions as excuses to terrify innocents, but Hitler did when the Reichstag burned, but those in power are the ones who must answer for the injustices they commit in so doing, not those who oppose them. Likewise, however, the direct action activist must run the risk, in the face of an inexcusable injustice it can be more dangerous and irresponsible to leave it untampered.

For extensive information about specific direct action tactics, consult Ecol...
between local organizers and participants from other regions. You may also participate in planning and preparing for the action, but you should remain aware that everyone will be involved. A group with good in- formation and strong communication can be even more important than a large size. Everyone will be involved. A group with good information and strong communication can be even more important than a large size.

Legal Support

Preparation of an infrastructure to provide support and communication

Everyone involved in the action should be aware of and prepared for the risks they may encounter. It is important to prepare for the possibility that you might be arrested, and to be aware of what your rights are. You have the right to know what charges you might face, and to be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested. You should also be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

Find a sympathetic and trustworthy lawyer as soon as you can. If you are arrested, you must thoroughly explain to your lawyer what you did and why you did it. Your lawyer must fully understand all the details of your case, and be able to tell you what your options are. If you are arrested for a crime, you must be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

When predicting the responses of others, consider the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested. You must be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

Prepare an infrastructure to provide support and communication

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Legal Support

Most of the people that you meet while you are preparing for an action will be new to you. It is important to be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

Never violate agreements that you have made. If you make a commitment to someone, you must keep it. If you break a commitment, you must make it right. If you cannot make it right, you must be prepared to pay the consequences.

Legal Support

Study the context of the action and keep up with changes

Before the action, study the area carefully. Know the routes you plan to take, and be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

When you are preparing for an action, be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested. You must be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

Plan the action carefully. Make sure that you know what you are doing, and that you are prepared for the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

Consider the way the action will be perceived

Consider the way the action will be perceived. It is important to be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

Legal Support

If your action is taking place during or as a part of a large event, there may be large numbers of people and a high risk of being questioned or arrested. You must be aware of the possibility that you might be questioned or arrested.

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