

Alan Atkisson: Here's some of modes of resistance to the negative aspects of globalization. And response to... because one mode is simple **accommodation**. And I think most of us do some level of accommodation, work within the system somehow, make our compromises. But modes of resistance could be:

1. **System transformation:** Some of the stuff going on in corporations today -- I worked in corporations, in fact I own one -- is far more radical in certain ways than what happen in the progressive movement. You'd be amazed, those of you who don't really experience corporate culture, what the discourse is like inside some companies. And you might be chilled, but you might also be amazed, depending on your perspective. .
2. Then there's **Personal Extraction** from the system, which can happen. There's a book called *Your Money or Your Life* -- that's basically a map for essentially pulling yourself out of the money economy within 5- 7 years, if you want to do it, by living more simply, by saving and investing in treasury bills, after which you can be financially independent for the rest of your life, and then devote yourself to whatever cause you want with your time. It's a very radical transformational book. It was written by Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez. Joe was interesting -- he's dead now -- but he grew up in Spanish Harlem and worked on Wall Street til he was 30, retired at the age of 30, having done nothing but save his paychecks; he didn't invest a dime in the market. He just figured out how to invest his paycheck, extracted himself from the system, and for the next 30 years, did nothing but volunteer work. And every penny the book made has been given back to volunteer projects; no one has made a dime on it. It's an amazing phenomenon. He's been on Oprah twice, top of the bestseller list for over a year; now they're doing workshops with companies who are trying to teach their employees how to be better money managers ... it's so subversive ...

Participant: it's so they don't have to pay their pensions ...

This is a big problem. It's also so when they get laid off, it won't hurt so bad. It's very strange --
But as a person, you can actually extract yourself from the system, by following the system their book proposes.

3. There's also **Community Extraction** -- you can join a small eco-village or intentional community that's not plugged into the money economy. Or you can have the community say. I should have mentioned this earlier, because this is happening all over the world, you can print your own currency and say it's only good here. 'when you massage me, I'll pay you with this and you can go to the store and buy your food' .. it keeps the money there. Because that's what happens with globalization, ya McDonalds comes and goes but the money goes out, it doesn't circulate in the community, it doesn't make jobs. It is possible to use these strategies, and create your own community -- they're not easy In fact in the UK right now some of these local currency systems are doing so well, that the federal government is trying to shut them down as tax evasion strategies. This is part of a process that's been going on for centuries -- I mean local currencies existed in this country up until the mid to late 1800s -- people don't know about that but. So this is an option.
4. Then there's **Political Organizing**.
While I'm a person who works with corporations, and I own one, I recognize the validity of the critique that's embodied in the corporate charter. And again, you may or may not know that corporations, when they are created, they are created with the understanding in their charter that says -- to this day -- that the state could revoke their charter if they fail to serve the public interest. This is still on the books.
Since corporations were made legal persons, it's a practical impossibility, in my opinion, for this to happen, however the radical critique is interesting and worth knowing about, perhaps to change the discourse around civil responsibility in the corporate arena.

Lastly there are two modes in which artists can be very important players

5. **Symbolic Resistance** - one example might be the *buy nothing day*, it's a symbolic resistance to our embeddedness in the global economy. It's not an act that's going to actually change the system, but it's demonstrating a desire to live outside of that system in some way shape or from
6. **Symbolic Protestors;** AdBusters is a great example of symbolic protest. They produce subversive magazine and television ads and try to get them placed in various commercial settings until they are stopped and taken to court, etc. This is symbolic protest. In fact a lot of Madison Avenue people secretly work with AdBusters -- help them get placed, share ideas etc., they really like to subvert the system. There are a lot of subversive people who work in corporations -- because they have kids, they need pensions and they've made their accommodations, but they secretly send money off to radical orgs and don't tell their boss about it or whatever. So it's not a monolithic world out there.

So these are some of the modes of responding to the challenge of globalization— and there are ways of getting yourself – to the extent that you want to – there are ways of extracting yourself from the system. Gandhi said ‘I do not know why we should postpone living the way of life in the future, anyone can do it today if they want to make certain choices.’

Other resources you can check out are:

Ralph Nader’s Public Citizen - which is doing great work to kill MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment)

International Forum on Globalization

There’s a book called *Time Dollars* by Jonathan Rowe

There’s a lot on the web. One of the interesting facts about globalization is that it does make activism easier. You can get on the web and find all kinds of resources thanks to the defense department.

The world is shot thru with irony – and there’s all kinds of possibilities out there— and don’t just stand there and watch those tanks going by, if you want to see them up close, go stand in front of them and take a look

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