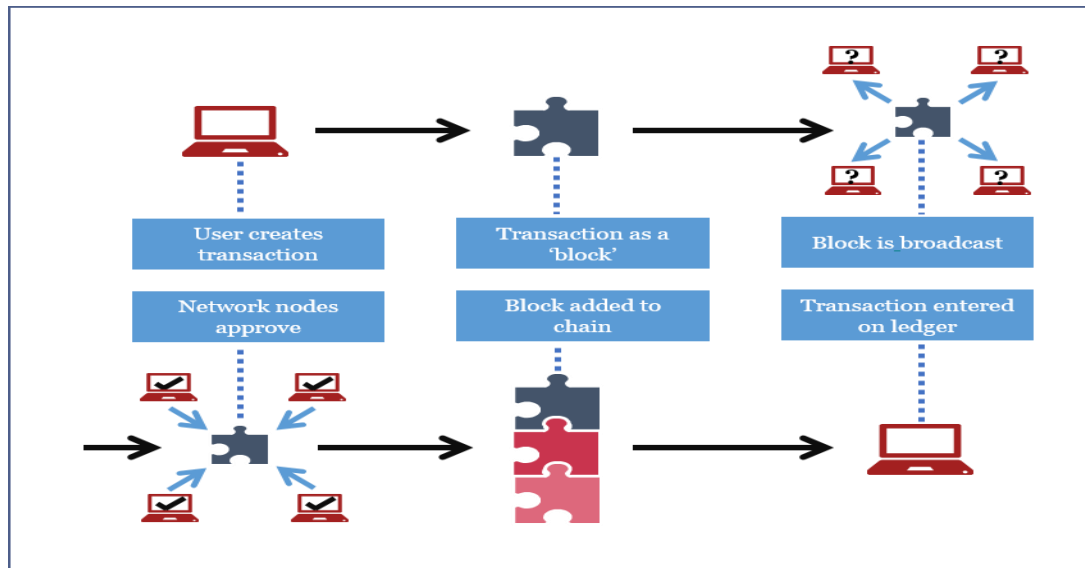


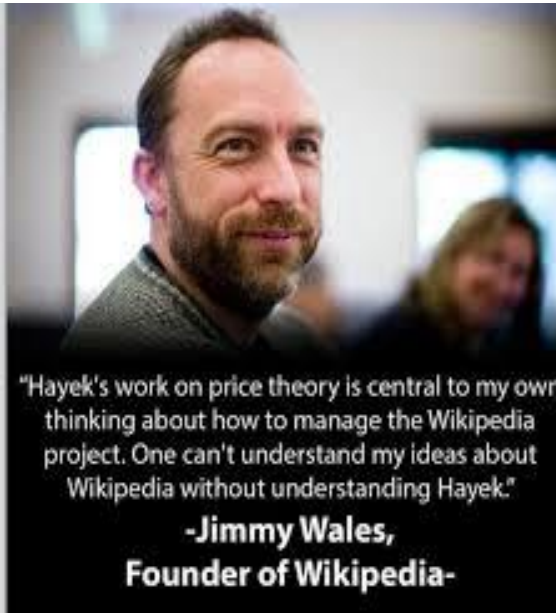
# Digital Democracy and FairCoop's Commonist Adoption of Blockchain

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- Blockchain

- A secure, transparent and incorruptible distributed ledger
- “Interesting because it has features that potentially allow for non-hierarchal self-organization and peer-to-peer collaboration within a communitarian network structure”(Huckle and White, 2016: 9)
- “Just as the Second Amendment in the United States, at its core, [Bitcoin] remains the final right of a free people to prevent their ultimate political repression”(Golumbia, 2015: 122)



Savagery from Julian Assange and Wikileaks. #Bitcoin #BTC #FreeMarkets (CS)



- Optimism about the democratic potential of digital networks has been dominated by libertarianism
- Libertarianism and Commonism, despite the renowned ideological antipodes between them, share a lot with respect to the principles of social organization

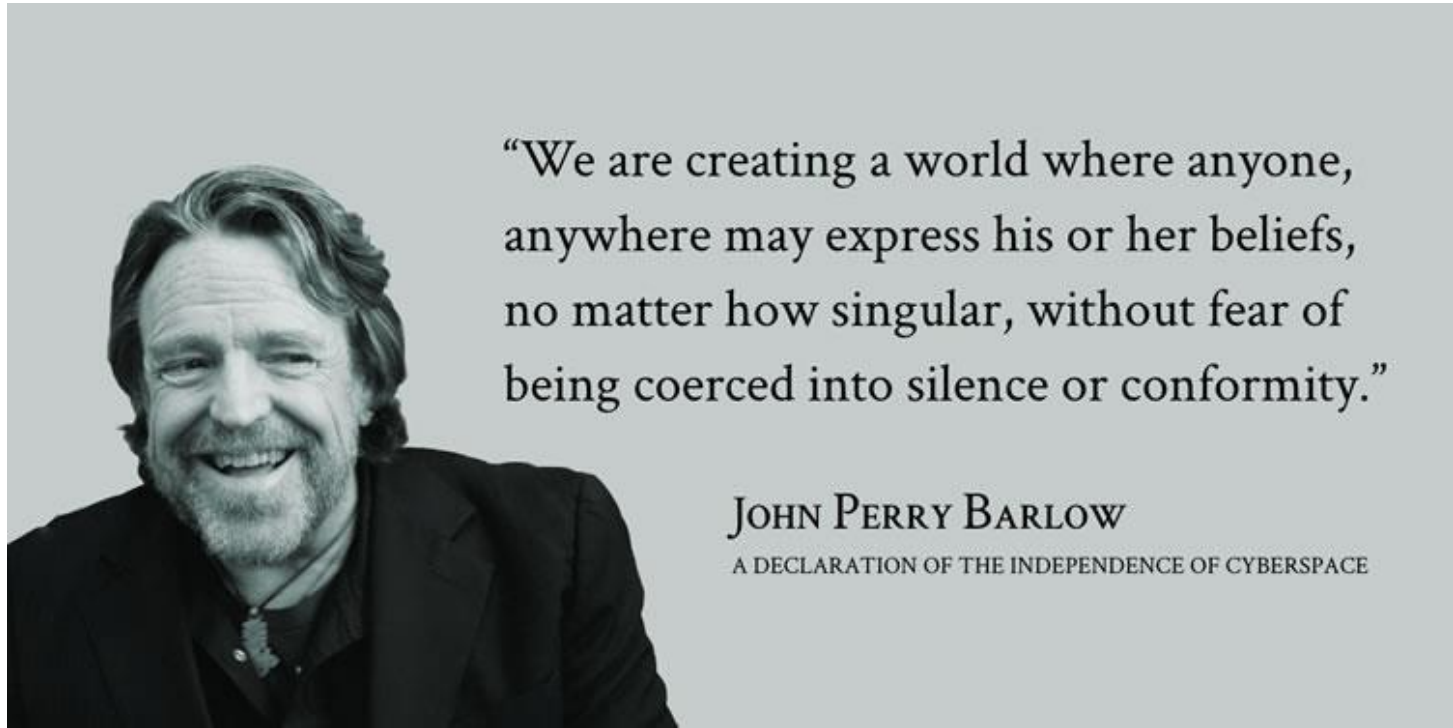
## <Questions>

▶ Will blockchain serve as a new technology to integrate the population of the network into the today's financial market?

or,

▶ Will it serve as a technology to develop alternative forms of production strengthening the common foundation of social solidarity?

## ◆ Blockchain and Technological Determinism of Libertarianism



- Independence and freedom from government’s control
- Self-regulation and self-determination of collective action
- The free market of ideas

Mute WE GLADLY FEAST ON THOSE WHO WOULD SUBDUCE US  
SIC GORGIAMUS ALLOS SUBJECTATOS NUNCI

## THE CALIFORNIAN IDEOLOGY

By Richard Barbrook and Andy Cameron  
Featured in Mute Vol 1,  
No. 3 - CODE

- The “Californian Ideology”: capitalism, collectivism, and technological determinism
- “Computer nerds, slacker students, innovative capitalists, social activists, trendy academics, futurist bureaucrats and opportunistic politicians across the USA” (Barbrook and Cameron, 1995)
- “While the New Left resents the government for funding the military–industrial complex, the New Right attacks the state for interfering with the spontaneous dissemination of new technologies by market competition” (Barbrook and Cameron, 1995)





‘DIY’ Citizenship’s “manifestations include fan cultures, youth cultures, taste constituencies, consumer–sovereignty movements and those privatizations of previously ‘public’ cultures that succeed in democratization without politicization.”(Hartley, 1999: 161)

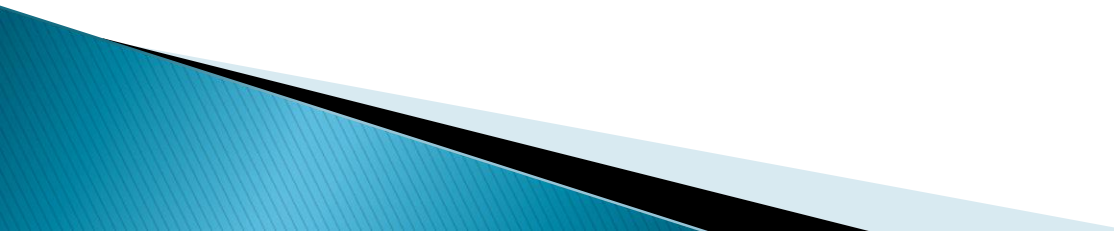
## Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

Satoshi Nakamoto  
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www.bitcoin.org

**Abstract.** A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution. Digital signatures provide part of the solution, but the main benefits are lost if a trusted third party is still required to prevent double-spending. We propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer network. The network timestamps transactions by hashing them into an ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work. The longest chain not only serves as proof of the sequence of events witnessed, but proof that it came from the largest pool of CPU power. As long as a majority of CPU power is controlled by nodes that are not cooperating to attack the network, they'll generate the longest chain and outpace attackers. The network itself requires minimal structure. Messages are broadcast on a best effort basis, and nodes can leave and rejoin the network at will, accepting the longest proof-of-work chain as proof of what happened while they were gone.

- Cryptography: The protect of citizen's freedom and privacy from the surveillance of the governments and large corporations
- The implementation of direct democracy: Individuals' autonomy and self-governance and their direct participation in the collective decision-making processes
- Anti-authoritarianism: Decentralization is the foundation of a new social contract that promotes and spreads non-hierarchical and horizontal social relations of freely collaborating individuals



- Technology/market evangelism of blockchain (bitcoin)
  - The capabilities of governmental monetary policy become fundamentally limited and there should be no single point of control
  - Government and politics are effectively replaced by blockchain
  - Liberalism is based on the assumption that the centralized hierarchy inevitably leads to the problems of power abuse, authoritarianism, opacity, and corruption
  - Liberalism expects that the blockchain, which makes the government completely obsolete, will bring a free market that guarantees the lives, freedoms and property of individuals
- 

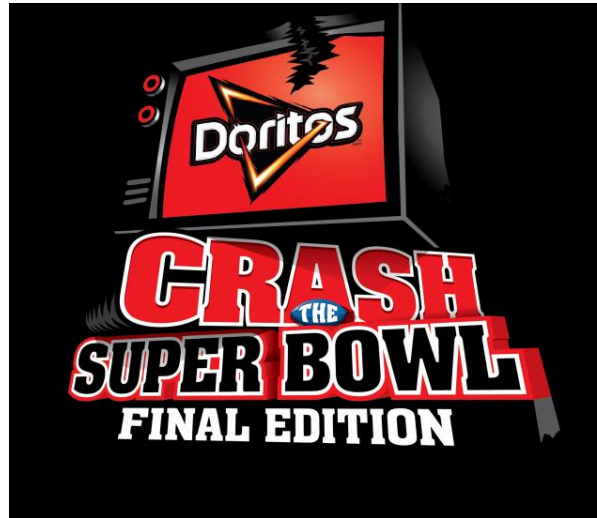
## ◆ Blockchain and Political Economy of Commonism

### **GENERAL INTELLECT**

**In a society where machines have largely replaced human workers, there are few skills or forms of knowledge that remain exclusively human.**

**Marx anticipated this situation when he coined the term “general intellect” to describe the collective, social intelligence that arises from abstract human knowledge.**

- In the Communist political economy, a key element of modern capitalist transformation is the development of ‘general intellect’, rather than ICT technologies such as computers, the Internet, mobile devices, and blockchains.
- “A diffused intellectuality...not only precedes the ‘information revolution’...but is also partially at its origin.”(Vercellone et al., 2013: 9)



- ‘Free Labor’: corporate-sponsored contest of business ideas open-source software projects, online communities of interests and lifestyles, user-generated contents, etc.
- Labor of affective, cognitive, and relational nature: “Inherently common”
- ‘Production of man for man’: non-commercial collective services of education, research, health care, and pensions organized by the logic of the common



- Universal Basic Income as a 'Commonfare'
- Not a distribution, but a monetary compensation for the free labor's direct production value: the primary income of individuals
- The scheme of the common sharing the value created in common rather than relying on the public sector



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5th May 2015 | 9:30-18:30  
Venue: CCCB - Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona,  
C/Montalegre, 5 - 08001 Barcelona  
D-CENT event

(Picture: Xavier Valls)

D-CENT is a Europe-wide project creating next generation democracy tools and applications that are decentralised, privacy-aware, and enhance citizens' rights. D-CENT is trying to change the decision-making processes and makes it easier for citizens and social movements to participate in the political process and change things.

- Commons: “The peer-to-peer production of value on the basis of distributed or common property infrastructures (natural resources, technology, know-how, capital, culture), self-managed by their user communities in accordance to democratically established rules or norms” (Papadimitropoulos, 2017: 563)



“Ways of management based on self-governance and collaborative economics; relationships of exchange based on reciprocity and gratuitousness; legal regimes that, like the invention of copyleft for free software, guarantee the accumulation of a stock of CPR; distribution norms that permit the active involvement of the commoners in the development of the commons, guaranteeing basic income, for example”(Vercellone, Bria, Fumagalli, Gentilucci, Giuliani, Griziotti and Vattimo, 2015: 5)



○ Vercellone et al.(2013)

- Blockchain cryptocurrency may positively contribute to the tradition of open licensing, collaborative projects, collective innovation of social technology, hacker community, and Linux
- Cryptocurrency can be set as the currency of commons
- It is necessary to prevent the accumulation of cryptography so that it can not be the object of speculation (Demurrage Currency)
- Lower dependency of workers on wage relations: universal basic income
- Providing free time and resources to populations to develop alternative forms of cooperation in production and exchange networks untouched by the market logic of profit
- The creation of a cryptocurrency that incorporates these principles within its own algorithms may contribute to the realization of the truly autonomous currency of the digital common

<Table-1> Principles of Libertarianism, Commonism and Blockchain

		Libertarianism	Commonism	Blockchain	Blockchain of the Common
Basic Value		Free market Private property Individual liberty Legal equality	Commons Common property Accessibility Fair distribution of wealth Self-regulation and Cooperation Sustainability	Free market	Commons Horizontal collaboration Social production Cooperative sharing
Organizing principles	Commonalities	Anti-government, Anti-bank Decentralization Anti-authoritarianism Bottom-up Autonomy Self-organization Self-regulation Plurality Collective Intelligence		Anti-government, Anti-bank Decentralization Anti-authoritarianism Horizontality Autonomy Transparency Encryption Personal liberty Privacy	
	Differences	Free competition	Collective Decision making Equality Solidarity Reciprocity Collaboration	Market Cryptocurrency (store of value, unit of measure, medium of exchange)	Self-regulation Cryptocurrency (Anti-speculative medium of exchange)

## ◆ Commons and Blockchain: Faircoop and Faircoin

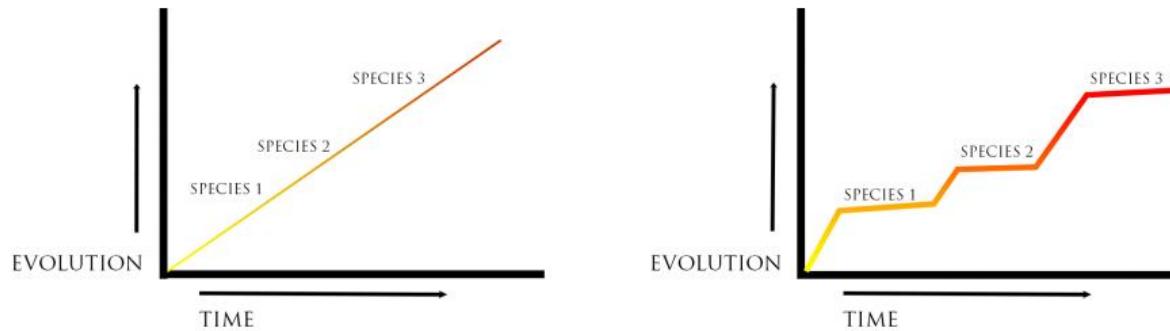


- A common that seeks to build an alternative global post-capitalist economic system from below, using blockchain technology and cryptocurrency
- A member of 'Catalan Integral Cooperative'
- Catalan Integral Cooperative aims at an open cooperative any group or individual can freely participate in, a mixed cooperative encompassing a variety of services not limited to any one particular activity, and a global cooperative working beyond local territories



- Opposition to all forms of domination between human beings and humans and natural environments brought about state, capitalism and patriarchy
- It focuses on resistance and does not seek reform, and no longer depends on large corporations, the banking system, and the unjust state laws
- It is only possible to overcome existing systems when creating an alternative, self-managed society outside its dominance

## PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM



- The fundamental and revolutionary change of social structure is grasped from the viewpoint of 'punctuated equilibrium' which repeats the process of stable stability for a long time and radical transformation in a relatively short time period
- Blockchain not only enables the creation of independent networks connecting remote commons, but also provides a self-managing means for decentralized and autonomous economic activities



# FairCoop

Earth's cooperative ecosystem  
for a fair economy

- By combining the ethics and experience of the cooperative movement with new decentralization technologies, it tries to make available the global wealth to all the people and create a new common economic ecosystem of cooperation, ethics, solidarity, South–North redistribution, and justice
- Principles of the common: equal human relationships based on freedom, rejection of state control, self-organization and sovereign popular council, self-management by consensus, restoration of common ownership, mutual assistance, a new economy based on adjacency, cooperation between life and nature, transparency, and sustainability (FairCoop, 2018)





- Building of a 21st century radicalism model that does not any longer depend on the state by combining co-operatives' long-running self-management practices and recent development of blockchain
- Anti-speculation cryptocurrency that is faithful to money's exchange function
- Only 10% of the total currency is circulated in its the external market
- Its value will never be lost since a true user community exists and the system is substantially backed by the diverse economic activities of the participants



- Its price is designed to increase slowly: in January 2018 Faircoop General Council set the value of the 1 faircoin to 1.20 euros
- Faircoin's price stability does not promote or support any speculative desire and is based on the ethical value of the common
- Faircoin stresses money's value storage function, which differentiates itself from other demurrage currencies
- Unlike most market-dependent cryptocurrencies, Faircoin is organized around the principle of self-management comprising open participation and democratic decision-making among members
- The generation of blockchain is based on the consensus algorithm called "proof-of-cooperation", which is different from "proof-of-work" (mine) or "proof-of-stake" (mint)

## ◆ Conclusion

- Faircoop's Faircoin shares common organizational principles with most other cryptocurrencies
- But it is an anti-speculative money organized by self-regulation of the common seeking to horizontal co-operation, social production, and cooperative sharing
- So, it should be seen as a precious social practice to explore the potential of the blockchain for building the economy of the common