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August 7th 2020
From southeastman
and headingnorther

BLOCING UP

VOL II

Complete with
tips and tricks and
unsolicited advice!

Warning: highly
condensed history.
Consider diluting with
further reading.



Citations:

1. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
2. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos: A Brief History of the Black Bloc"
3. T. Ordeman, *Squatters in Kreuzberg*, 1981, Wikimedia Commons
4. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't stop Kaos: a Brief History of the Black Bloc"
5. Vitalist International, "Summer in Smoke Report from the World's Biggest Bloc," 325 RSS, December 10, 2019
6. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
7. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos..."
8. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos..."
9. B. Keiser, *Demonstrators don sea turtle costumes* 1999
10. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos..."
11. K. Desouki, 2013, Getty Images
12. W. Eskandar, "The Black Bloc: Evolution of the Revolution," Middle East Institute, April 25, 2013
13. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
14. A. Kwan, *Hong Kongers Protest*, June 12, 2019, Getty Images
15. Vitalist International, "Summer in Smoke Report from the World's Biggest Bloc," 325 RSS, December 10, 2019
16. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
17. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
18. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
19. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"
20. Crimethink, "Blocs, Black and Otherwise"

Notice any patterns? If you want to learn a lot more about the history, implementation, and impact of bloc, check out the two zines:

"Blocs, Black and Otherwise" (Crimethink)

"Can't stop Kaos: a Brief History of the Black Bloc"
(Autonomous Resistance)

Both of which are a quick google away.



ACTION ITEMS

After a stressful protest, a narrow escape, or a daring action, you'll have some emotions to unpack. Being attacked by police is traumatic; talk to your protest partner and affinity group. Help each other process. Doing so will make you more effective in the long run.

As advertised: unsolicited advice

- Spend time with people outside of the context of actions
- Take breaks
- Quest Center is offering free mental health services & acupuncture for BIPOC protestors (as of June 19, 2020) quest-center.org
- Rosehip Medic Collective has a collection of local resources at rosehipmedics.org/links-and-resources/local-community-resources

Bloc curious? For a lot more info on how to do bloc right, check out the zine "Blocs, Black and Otherwise" (see citations)



Nice to see you again! I'm your friendly neighborhood anti-fascist, here to talk to you about bloc.

Black bloc is a strategy to avoid police surveillance by dressing in generic black.

BLOC

- ☐ Cover face and hair
- ☐ Cover tattoos and piercings
- ☐ Carry a black bag

TIPS

- Use black tape to cover visible logos
- No plain black shirt? Turn one inside out
- Try a t-shirt balaclava (but wear a mask underneath to protect against COVID-19)
- Change up your bloc often- including bag

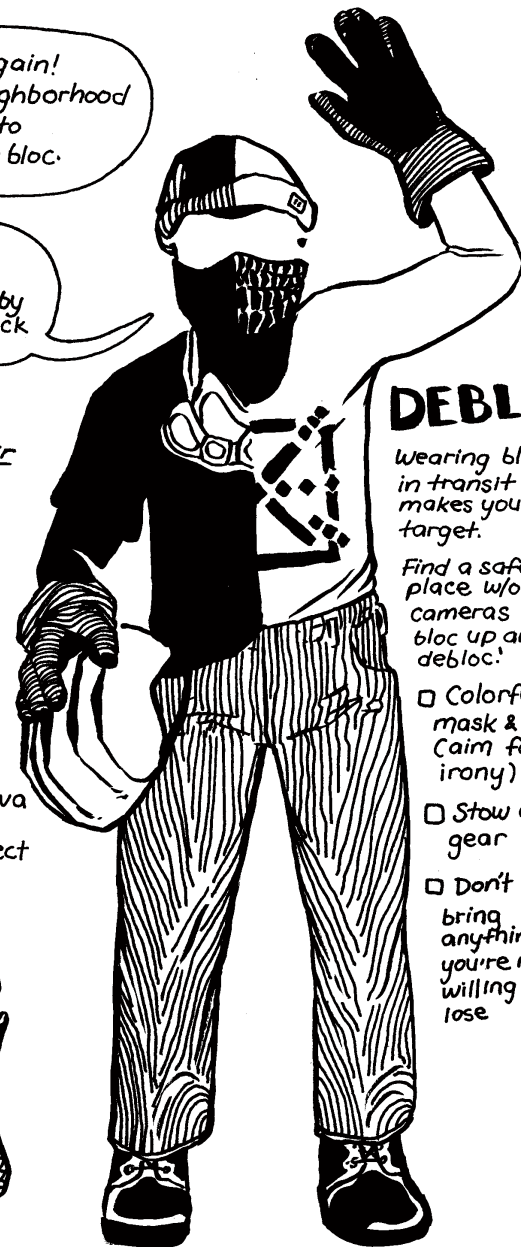


DEBLOC

Wearing bloc in transit makes you a target.

Find a safe place w/out cameras to bloc up and debloc.

- ☐ Colorful mask & shirt (aim for irony)
- ☐ Stow all gear
- ☐ Don't bring anything you're not willing to lose



History & Purpose

Black bloc originated in the Autonomen movement in West Berlin from 1980-81 when, facing a housing crisis thousands of people squatted in abandoned buildings.²

Black blocs are most often utilized to combat surveillance technology.⁴ It's often associated with anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anarchist movements - but since its popularization it has been used by diverse movements including Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters.⁵



Over the next decade, bloc became common in Germany and then spread to the rest of the world.

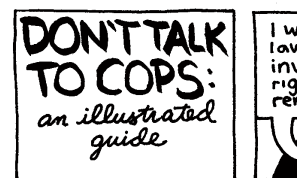
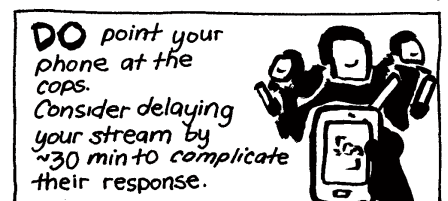
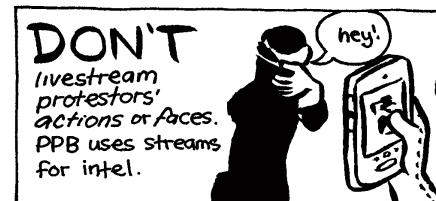
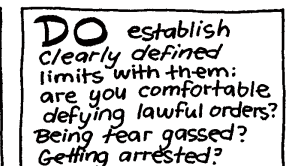
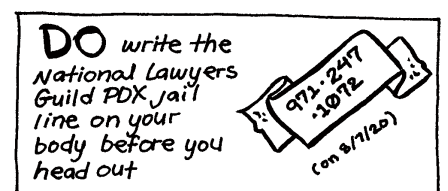
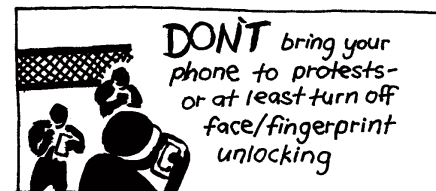
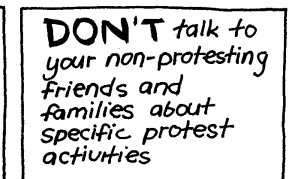
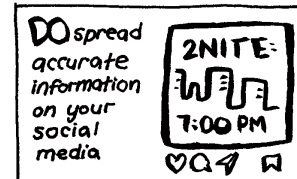
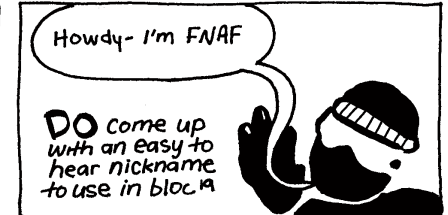
Blocs are known for employing a diversity of tactics including resisting police dispersal and property damage.⁶

Berlin 1988: 80,000 protesters, 8,000 black bloc, disrupt IMF/WB congress.⁸



Seattle 1999: anti WTO protests mark first large black bloc in North America; national media attention.⁹

DOS AND DON'TS



SO YOU'RE AT A PORTLAND PROTEST



During a dispersal, it's easy to panic.

Don't panic.

Running is a natural response to dispersal, but it leaves people behind and can lead to trampling.

It's important to keep in touch with your affinity group and protest buddies.

For all these reasons:

Walk don't run¹⁸

(and don't turn your back on the riot cops)

Walk don't run

of Black Bloc

Egypt 2013:



Following revolution, Black Bloc formed to protect large anti-government protests & shut down public transit.¹²

So why should you consider blocing up?

- To avoid surveillance & remain anonymous.
- Even if you don't think you're breaking any laws, police are arresting people for no more than their presence at protests.

Hong Kong 2019:

- To protect others: if you look the same as vulnerable people (eg. people on the front lines, people who are more marginalized) it's harder to identify them.
- It encourages widespread participation: anyone can wear black.
- It promotes unity & solidarity.¹³



Huge black blocs battle with police, vandalize shopping malls and more in pro-democracy protests, a direct result of proposed extradition bill.¹⁵

