

From: Joi Ito <[REDACTED]>

To: Epstein Jeffrey <jeevacation@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: [IP] How cryptography is a key weapon in the fight against empire states

Date: Wed, 10 Jul 2013 11:56:32 +0000

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Farber <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [IP] How cryptography is a key weapon in the fight against empire states

Date: July 10, 2013 07:40:13 -0400

To: "ip" <[REDACTED]>

Reply-To: dave@farber.net

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dewayne Hendricks <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [Dewayne-Net] How cryptography is a key weapon in the fight against empire states

Date: July 10, 2013 6:59:28 AM EDT

To: Multiple recipients of Dewayne-Net <[REDACTED]>

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

How cryptography is a key weapon in the fight against empire states

What began as a means of retaining individual freedom can now be used by smaller states to fend off the ambitions of larger ones

By Julian Assange

July 9 2013

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/09/cryptography-weapon-fight-empire-states-julian-assange>>

The original cypherpunks were mostly Californian libertarians. I was from a different tradition but we all sought to protect individual freedom from state tyranny. Cryptography was our secret weapon. It has been forgotten how subversive this was. Cryptography was then the exclusive property of states, for use in their various wars. By writing our own software and disseminating it far and wide we liberated cryptography, democratised it and spread it through the frontiers of the new internet.

The resulting crackdown, under various "arms trafficking" laws, failed. Cryptography became standardised in web browsers and other software that people now use on a daily basis. Strong cryptography is a vital tool in fighting state oppression. That is the message in my book, Cypherpunks. But the movement for the universal availability of strong cryptography must be made to do more than this. Our future does not lie in the liberty of individuals alone.

Our work in WikiLeaks imparts a keen understanding of the dynamics of the international order and the logic of empire. During WikiLeaks' rise we have seen evidence of small countries bullied and dominated by larger ones or infiltrated by foreign enterprise and made to act against themselves. We have seen the popular will denied expression, elections bought and sold, and the riches of countries such as Kenya stolen and auctioned off to plutocrats in London and New York.

The struggle for Latin American self-determination is important for many more people than live in Latin America, because it shows the rest of the world that it can be done. But Latin American independence is still in its infancy. Attempts at subversion of Latin American democracy are still happening, including most recently in Honduras, Haiti, Ecuador and Venezuela.

[snip]

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