

NIGHTLIGHTS

VOLUME III

YOUNG PEOPLE

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All non-capitalist ventures, proceed with impunity and support.

Text from Guy Debord's "Society of the Spectacle", 1967.





The spectacle, like modern society, is at once unified and divided.
Like society, it builds its unity on the disjunction.

But the contradiction, when it emerges in the spectacle,
is in turn contradicted by a reversal of its meaning,
so that the demonstrated division is unitary,
while the demonstrated unity is divided.

Under the shimmering diversions of the spectacle,



banalization dominates modern society the world over and at every point

where the developed consumption of commodities has seemingly multiplied the roles and objects to choose from.

The smug acceptance of what exists can also merge
with purely spectacular rebellion;

this reflects the simple fact that dissatisfaction itself
became a commodity

as soon as economic abundance could extend
production to the processing of such raw materials.



The agent of the spectacle placed on stage as a star is the opposite of the individual, the enemy of the individual in himself as well as in others.

Passing into the spectacle as a model for identification, the agent renounces all autonomous qualities in order to identify himself with the general law of obedience to the course of things.

The consumption celebrity superficially represents different types of personality and shows each of these types having equal access to the totality of consumption and finding similar happiness there.



Things rule and are young;
things confront and replace one another.





What hides under the spectacular oppositions is a unity of misery.

Behind the masks of total choice, different forms of the same alienation confront each other, all of them built on real contradictions which are repressed. The spectacle exists in a concentrated or a diffuse form depending on the necessities of the particular stage of misery which it denies and supports.

In both cases, the spectacle is nothing more than an image of happy unification surrounded by desolation and fear at the tranquil center of misery.



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