

The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible

Written by Charles Eisenstein

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energy to exert force upon the material world. Force is the essence of our civilization and our technology. The Shuar will not beat industrial civilization at its own game. Yet the Shuar are going to win. Let us understand why. What game are they playing? If we, aspiring changemakers, can understand that, then perhaps we can win, too.

Whatever game they are playing, we might recognize it — the same game the indigenous women in western Canada are playing in the Idle No More movement to stop the ravaging of their lands. In a sense, all of these people are being naive. Such movements do not always prevail — or do they, in some way we cannot see? What of all the exterminated tribes who died protecting ecosystems — that are no more? Were their efforts in vain? Will your efforts be in vain, to create a more beautiful world?

The first thing I notice about the Shuar is that their commitment is to the land, the forest, the tribe, and to what they hold sacred. It is not a fear-based response to a threat; indeed, they are facing much greater personal risk by resisting the Obedient March of Progress than they would be acquiescing to it.

The second thing I notice is that they are not fighting against something; they are fighting for something. They have a vision of their land — it should be. They have something bigger than

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If the Shuar succeed in preserving their homeland, it won't be because their spears overcame civilization's machine guns. It will be because the story that justifies killing them and taking the minerals wasn't strong enough to withstand their challenge. It will be because enough people in key positions declined to take up the guns, bombs, and bulldozers. It will be because we the

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