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What are They So Angry About?: A Photo Exhibit of Political Graffiti in Geneva, Switzerland

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Poster Presentation P56

**WHAT ARE THEY SO ANGRY ABOUT?: A PHOTO EXHIBIT OF POLITICAL
GRAFFITI IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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This poster presentation was inspired by the sheer profusion of political graffiti that covers the infrastructure of the city of Geneva. When I visited the city in the fall of 2003, these subversive prints were the only evident tell-tale signs of recent political demonstrations. While the protestors were gone, their messages - which I captured on film - remained. But what do these messages mean? What does it mean to Eat The Rich , to F*** Bush ? What are they so angry about? These photographs give a glimpse into the vague, diverse, and, essentially subversive narratives of political graffiti.

Without their authors, the intended meaning behind the graffiti is hidden, which leaves room for the extrapolation of the political message that is conveyed. While the sentiments expressed can be crudely characterized as anti-capitalist and anti-American, this presentation seeks to reveal the individual interpretations and reactions of those who view the photos of the graffiti. Thus, the viewers of the exhibit will be encouraged to articulate their reactions to the political messages of the graffiti and write their own political messages on a board positioned next to the photo spread. This exercise is intended to stimulate thought and discussion on the issues and concerns that these political graffiti so forcefully convey.