CHAPTER III - CONCLUSIONS

THE GEOGRAPHY OF SUBALTERN RESISTANCE: REMAPPING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The geography of these alternative powers, the new cartography, is still waiting to be written – or really, it is being written today through the resistance, struggles, and desires of the multitude. - Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire, xvi.

The previous chapters of this thesis have been concerned with exploring and contextualizing political, environmental, economic, social, and other interdisciplinary intersections between Silko’s vision of science and technology in Almanac and similar real-world techno-scientific innovations and implications. This concluding chapter marks a slight transition from this format, as this chapter is less concerned with critiquing real-world applications and implications concerning the feasibility of Almanac’s vision of revolution. Rather, this conclusion is focused on embracing the imaginative literary space of Almanac that allows for articulations of a revolution in which science and technology might be appropriated, subverted, or resurrected as tools of counter-hegemonic empowerment. In context of this thesis’s investigations of biosphere and biomaterial technologies, this final chapter concludes that Almanac proposes the 1) appropriation of techno-scientific innovations developed by dominant society and 2) subversions of these innovations to serve counter-hegemonic purposes. Importantly, Silko also 3) resurrects traditional indigenous and subaltern populations’
knowledge/power systems, techno-scientific paradigms, and historical precedence to
guide this process of appropriation and subversion of dominant science and technology.
Thus, the work of this thesis suggests that an integration of these three elements define
the re-mapping of the role of science and technology that Silko constructs in *Almanac*.

A synthesis of ideas explored in the previous chapters are overviewed in order to
embrace the imaginary space of *Almanac*. This process further decodes Silko’s vision of
science and technology, and implements this vision into hypotheses on biosphere and
biomedical innovations’ counter-hegemonic potential. Therefore, while the previous
chapters provided relatively in-depth readings of two of Silko’s techno-scientific
innovations, the conclusion provides a more general contextualization of *Almanac* by
investigating how science and technology may be implicated in *Almanac*’s holistic vision
of counter-hegemonic, subaltern revolution.

This concluding chapter is divided into three interconnected sections and
numerous sub-sections. In its entirety, the conclusion investigates how Silko
appropriates, subverts, and resurrects science and technology to re-map a counter-
hegemonic subaltern revolution in *Almanac*. In order to provide this inclusive act of
figurative remapping that Silko articulates throughout her text, it is first important to
explore how Silko literally remaps local/global space, time, and power organization in the
Five Hundred Year Map that prefaces *Almanac*. This conclusion asserts that the Five
Hundred Year Map provides an example of Silko’s appropriation, subversion, and
resurrection of technologies and sciences, and, moreover, this model can be followed to
rearticulate other dominant techno-scientific innovations for revolutionary purposes that embrace the counter-hegemonic privileging of indigenous, subaltern paradigms.

The chapter begins by investigating the ways that Silko appropriates and subverts the technology of cartography, as she creates the Five Hundred Year Map which visually exemplifies the type of counter-hegemonic union of subaltern resistance that Silko envisions in unified transnational space and local place. Specifically, the conclusion is interested in how the science of cartography represents dominant ideologies such as power, science, boundaries, and time. The Five Hundred Year Map subverts these dominant ideologies through its representations that illustrate both a rearticulation of this science, as well as a model for the type of counter-hegemonic expression of global organization, science, and technology that Silko’s project as a whole is attempting. Importantly, Silko not only appropriates and subverts the dominant science of cartography, but she also creates a map which historical evidence suggests resurrects and reproduces indigenous paths of Yaqui revolt in the Southwest, therefore empowering traditional subaltern forms of knowledge/power/organization. This integration of suppressed subaltern, indigenous knowledges (specifically, cartographies and histories) as privileged paradigms, fundamentally de-settles Western knowledge’s dominant positioning, and articulates a new logic of science and technology. It is through this understanding of the work that Silko does in the Five Hundred Year Map that the rest of the chapter hypothesizes the potential for subaltern, counter-hegemonic revolution in Almanac’s other techno-scientific innovations.
Next, building upon an understanding of Silko’s mapping of networks of subaltern resistance explored in the first section, the second section historicizes and problematizes the underlying assumptions of dominant ideologies of science and technology. Through this process, ways in which techno-scientific innovations may be rearticulated and subverted through a counter-hegemonic global organization are explored. Using Deleuze and Guattari’s categories of royal/state and nomadic science, this section investigates how subversions of techno-scientific innovations might include an aspect of resurrecting indigenous or subaltern populations’ notions of nomadic science. Importantly, it is not just this process of appropriation and subversion, but also a fundamental restructuring of the hegemonic organization of knowledge, upon which the subaltern potential of techno-scientific innovation depends. Again, this resistance toward the dominant ideologies of science and technology can be seen in both Silko’s conceptual remappings of power/knowledge networks, as well as through the literal renapping undertaken by the Five Hundred Year Map.

Lastly, an overview of how Silko demonstrates a subaltern appropriation and subversion of dominant science and technologies or resurrection of suppressed science and technologies in Almanac is investigated in conjunction with the ways that subaltern networks begin to organize themselves at the end of Almanac according to an emerging counter-hegemonic logic. The chapter concludes by hypothesizing potential spaces for further subaltern re-articulations of biosphere and biomaternal techno-scientific innovations that extend beyond the scope of what information Almanac provides readers.