ANARCHISM

WHAT IS ANARCHISM?

Contrary to popular belief, anarchy =/= chaos. The reason that people think it means chaos is because of its rejection of government from above (namely, by politicians and officials) in favor of a government by the people.

The reason anarchism is against government from above is because it is a political thought and movement that focuses on the elimination of domination (control over another) and hierarchy (a dynamic of domination and subordination), which they believe to be the root causes of all injustice, inequality and oppression.

In one sentence, anarchism is best explained as "striving toward a 'free society of free individuals'" (Milstein, 2010). This means that anarchism abandons the false binary of the collective vs. the individual in favor of seeing the two as necessary aspects to be balanced in society.

WHAT DO ANARCHISTS BELIEVE IN AND DO?

PREFIGURATIVE POLITICS

Anarchists believe that means and ends should be aligned: we have to already be working on and living the values, relationships, and practices we want to see in the future now. We as radicals can't want an equal society and not have equal relationships and practices at present.

SELF-ORGANIZATION

Anarchists believe in direct actionmany efforts to change things do not need to wait for the government or some other "higher" entity to move; the people themselves do it, and they do it through their communities and affinity groups. Anarchists believe that we all have the capacity to organize ourselves because we already organize ourselves on a daily basis, from lines and carpools to fandoms and hobby groups.

WHAT DO ANARCHISTS BELIEVE IN AND DO?

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

Anarchists do not believe in coercion and obedience: everything has to be consensual. This can be an arduous process, one definitely not free from conflict, but intentionality and mindfulness in doing together allows us to practice being free together. This means that as we choose to be together, we also hold ourselves accountable to the promises we make to each other.

MUTUAL AID

Mutual aid is just a fancy word for cooperation. In Milstein's words: "It expresses an openhanded spirit of abundance, in which kindness is never in short supply. ... Mutual aid communalizes compassion, thereby translating into greater "social security" for everyone-without need for topdown institutions" (p.56-67).

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WHAT IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANARCHISM AND MARXISM?

There are many overlaps between anarchism and Marxism especially when it comes to their critique of capitalism. There are also overlaps when it comes to their actions because tactics are not exactly the ownership of any one kind of thinking.

However, the way anarchists and Marxists look at the state is different. For many Marxists, state takeover is not just ideal but even necessary in being able to change society. For anarchists, the state will always be a tool of domination and hierarchy because it takes away the ability of the people to directly decide and act. Rather than a tool, anarchists see the state as a relation hinged on domination and hierarchy, and thus inherently oppressive.



WILLIAM GODWIN

Founder of philosophical anarchism. Also the husband of Mary Wollstonecraft (founding feminist philosopher) and dad of Mary Shelley (author of Frankenstein).



PIERRE-JOSEPH PROUDHON

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LABOR DAY AND THE 8-HOUR WORK DAY SEARCH: Havmarket Affair, Havmarket Martyrs, Chicago Anarchists Hand-in-hand with Marxist workers. unions and organizations. anarchists are a large part of why we

celebrate Labor Day.

SPANISH REVOLUTION
SEARCH: Spanish
Revolution. Living Utopia
(documentary)
Years-long practice of
anarchist principles
and organizational
tactics towards the

eradication of State

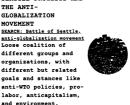
and Church power and

more communal, worker-

controlled industries

and affairs.

SEATTLE PROTESTS AND THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION MOVEMENT Loose coalition of



ARAB SPRING SEARCH: Arab Spring. Egyptian Revolution of 2011 North African-Middle Eastern series of antigovernment protests and rebellions responding to authoritarianism. corruption, and state brutality in different countries in the early 2010s. Some areas, such as Tahrir Square, developed wellfunctioning communes during this time.

ANARCHISM FAQ

ISN'T ANARCHISM TOO IDEALISTIC AND UNREALISTIC?

It can sound idealistic, but
anarchism is not only achievable, it
is already being done. Because
anarchists believes in prefigurative
politics, they always already work
towards making the future they want
to see a reality.

Some examples to search: the Zapatistas and Cherán of Mexico, Rojava of Syria, the documentary The Take (2004)

AREN'T ANARCHISTS VIOLENT?

Just as there are different kinds of Marxists, there are also different kinds of anarchists. Some use more extreme methods, but the very core of anarchism is organizing with communities and groups for things ranging from caring for each

other's kids to nationwide protests, such as the BLM and anti-cop movements.

Anarchists can prefer one strategy over the other; at the end of the day, there are different ways to achieve different but related goals. Again, diversity of tactics is a core principle of anarchism.

ANARCHISM FAO

WON'T THINGS FALL TO CHAOS WITHOUT AUTHORITY?

On the contrary, anarchists believe that we have disorder because of authority. Authorities enforce policies without nuance, even if the people under these policies live very different lives and contexts.

Anarchism believes that the people know best what they need because they live those realities themselves. Without rulers, the people can respond to the situations they find themselves in without others pretending they know better.

GOT QUESTIONS THAT WEREN'T TACKLED? COMMENT THEM OR

LET'S FIND ANSWERS TOGETHER.

REACH OUT VIA DIRECT MESSAGE!





Anarchism and Its Aspirations

Available on theanarchistlibrary.org This is the book I used as a guide in creating this presentation! It's very easy to understand. It's like a pocketbook in size and length.

To Change Everything by CrimethInc.



Available on crimething.com/tce A small booklet that serves as a quide on what first step to take. CrimethInc. is a rebel alliance that publishes, translates, and circulates written works focused on informing the people of the situation of different countries and regions under Empire. They have everything from situation briefers to historical pieces and reviews to onthe-ground reports.