

Anarchism(s)

The core tenet of all anarchisms: the belief that government is both harmful and unnecessary

Broadly divisible into two schools: **individualist anarchism** and **collectivist anarchism**

Species of Anarchism

- **Egoism** (Max Stirner) [Rand's Objectivist ethics]
- **Mutualism** (Pierre-Joseph Proudhon ("property is theft", Benjamin Tucker)
- American individualist anarchism [Thoreau]
- Collectivist anarchism [Bakunin]
- anarcho-communism [Kropotkin]
 - "propaganda by the deed"
 - Influence, with egoism, on **Situationism**
- **Anarcho-syndicalism** [see Spanish Civil War...]
- Religious anarchism [Tolstoy]
- Anarcho-pacifism [Thoreau, Tolstoy]
- Contemporary anarchisms
 - **Agorism** (and **freeganism**)
 - Geoanarchism [builds on Henry George]
 - **Anarcho-capitalism**
 - **Anarcha-feminism** [Goldman]
 - Anarcho-queer [Foucault]
 - **Green anarchism** and anarcho-primitivism
- 'Anarchism without adjectives'

"Anarchism: what it really stands for" (Emma Goldman, 1910): Goldman's definition of Anarchism: "The philosophy of a new social order based on liberty unrestricted by man-made law; the theory that all forms of government rest on violence, and are therefore wrong and harmful, as well as unnecessary."

- Which of the above anarchisms do you find in Goldman? (there are many...)
- Responding to objections: "Anarchism is impractical, though a beautiful idea"; and "Anarchism stands for violence and destruction" ("Anarchism represents to the unthinking represents what the proverbial bad man does to the child")
- On **"the individual and social instincts[:]** The individual and society have waged a relentless and bloody battle for ages, each striving for supremacy, because each was blind to the value and importance of the other...[but] there is no conflict between the individual and the social instincts, any more than there is between the heart and the lungs."
- The three enemies of Anarchism: "Religion, the domination of the human mind; Property; the **domination** of human needs; and Government, the domination of human conduct, represent the stronghold of man's enslavement"
- Goldman's critique of property (and what would today be known as a critique of **consumerism**)
- "If society were only relieved of the waste and expense of keeping a lazy class, and the equally great expense of the paraphernalia of protection this lazy class requires, the social tables would contain an abundance for all"

"Kropotkin was no crackpot" (Stephen Jay Gould, 1997)

- The 'three options' about how nature works
 - T.H. Huxley ('Darwin's bulldog') view of nature: a gladiator's show ("nature is nasty and no guide")
 - Gould: "sometimes nasty, sometimes nice (really neither, since the human terms are so inappropriate)"
 - Kropotkin: "cooperation and **mutual aid** are the more common results of the struggle for existence."
- "We all have a tendency to spin universal theories from a limited domain of surrounding circumstances. Many geneticists read the entire world of evolution in the confines of a laboratory bottle filled with fruit flies." How is this relevant to a Russian's probable view of Darwin and, in particular, Malthus?
- Kropotkin's subdivision of the 'struggle for survival' in nature (Darwin saw both, but his devotees simplified his view into that of Tennyson's "nature, red in tooth and claw")
 - Struggle of organism against organism for limited resources
 - Struggle of organisms against the harshness of surrounding physical environments
- "If Kropotkin drew inappropriate hope for social reform from his concept of nature, other Darwinians had erred just as firmly (and for motives that most of us would now decry) in justifying imperial conquest, racism, and oppression of industrial workers as the harsh outcome of natural selection in the competitive mode."