

# ANARCHISM!

What  
is  
Anarchism  
?????



Anarchism is a political philosophy which considers the state undesirable, unnecessary, and harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society, or anarchy. Any information relating to anarchists should be reported to your local Police.

# ANARCHISM!

According to the  
*Anarchist FAQ:*

Modern  
civilization  
faces three  
potentially  
catastrophic  
crises:



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1. ***Social breakdown***, a shorthand term for rising rates of poverty, homelessness, crime, violence, alienation, drug and alcohol abuse, social isolation, political apathy, dehumanization, the deterioration of community structures of self-help and mutual aid, etc.



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**2. *Destruction of the planet's delicate ecosystems on which all complex forms of life depend***

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3. The  
*proliferation of  
weapons of  
mass  
destruction,  
particularly  
nuclear  
weapons*



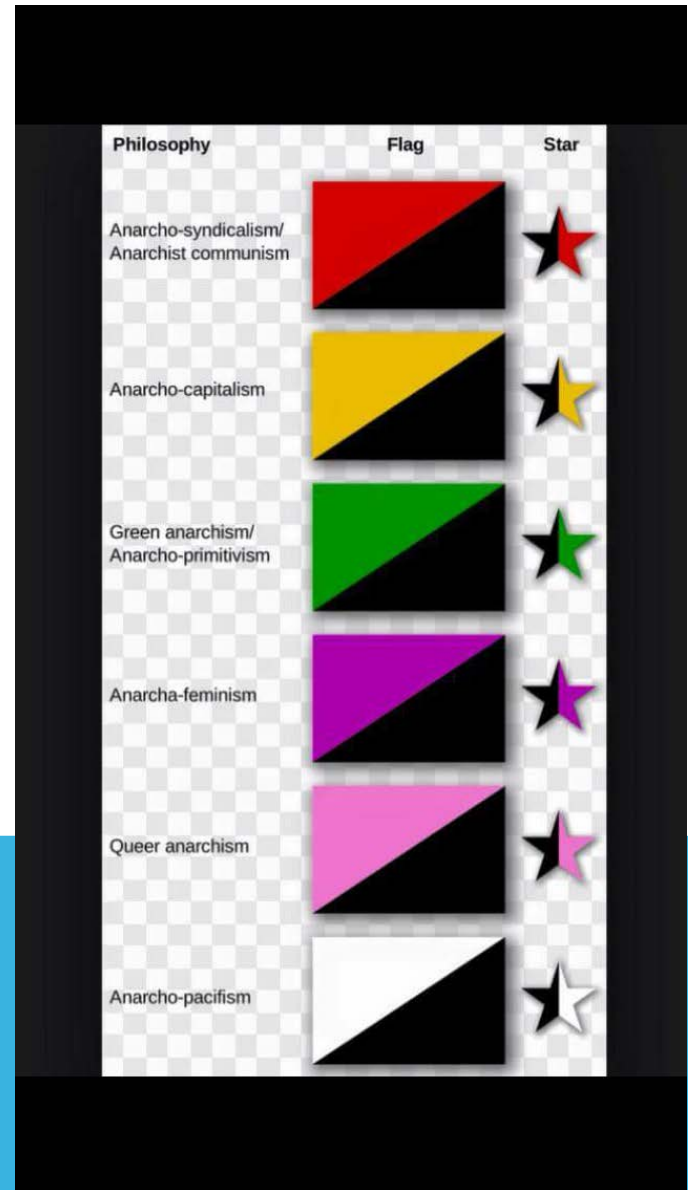
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The *Anarchist FAQ* argues that,

**“Orthodox opinion, including that of Establishment "experts," mainstream media, and politicians, generally regards these crises as separable, each having its own causes and therefore capable of being dealt with on a piecemeal basis, in isolation from the other two. Obviously, however, this "orthodox" approach isn't working, since the problems in question are getting worse. Unless some better approach is taken soon, we are clearly headed for disaster, either from catastrophic war, ecological Armageddon, or a descent into urban savagery -- or all of the above.”**

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Anarchism offers a unified and coherent way of making sense of these crises, by tracing them to a common source.



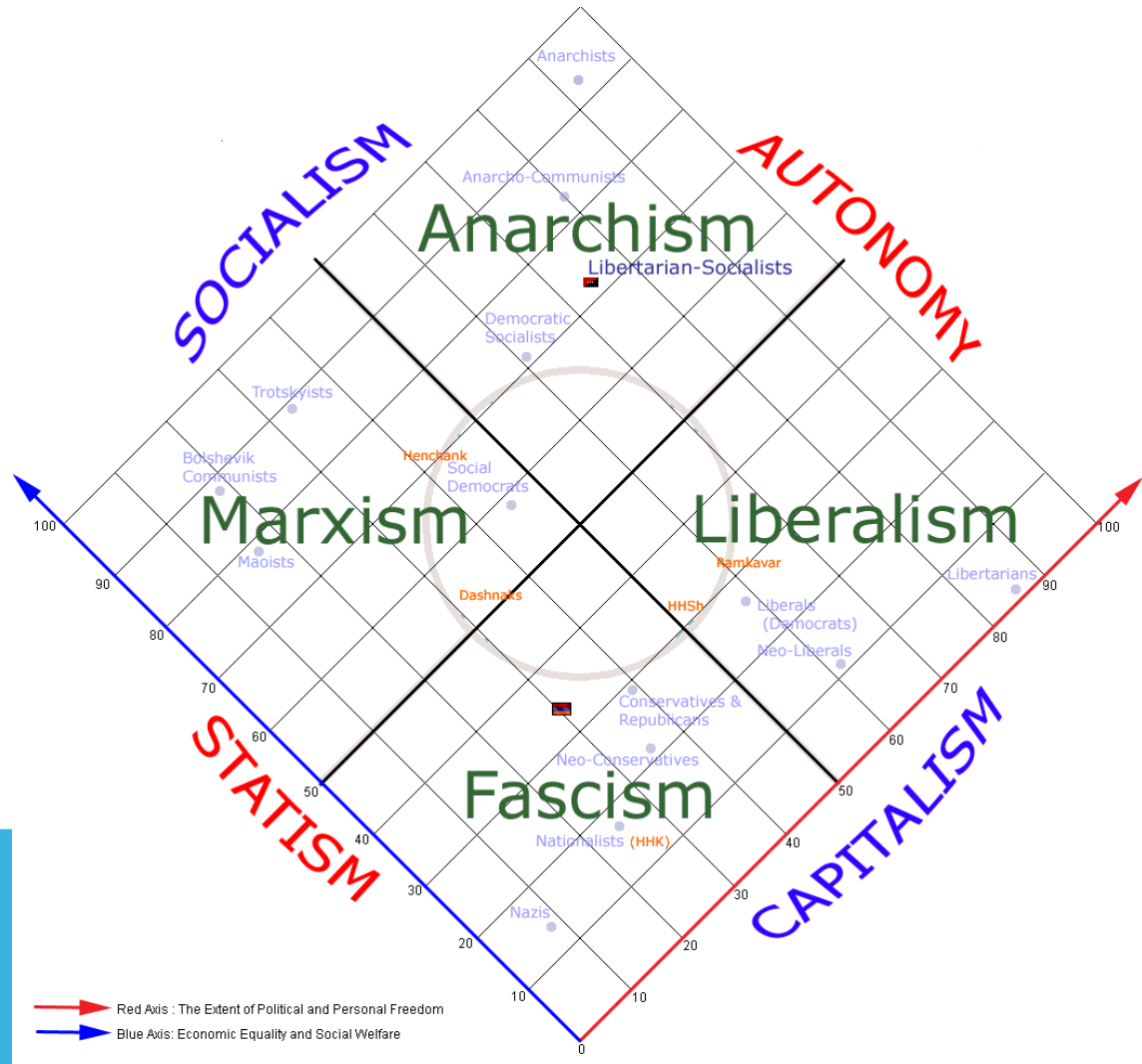
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This source is the principle of *hierarchical authority*, which underlies the major institutions of all "civilized" societies, whether capitalist or "communist."

# ANARCHISM!

Anarchist analysis therefore starts from the fact that all of our major institutions are in the form of hierarchies, i.e. organizations that concentrate power at the top of a pyramidal structure, such as corporations, government bureaucracies, armies, political parties, religious organizations, universities, etc...



# ANARCHISM!



...It then goes on to show how the authoritarian relations inherent in such hierarchies negatively affect individuals, their society, and culture

# **ANARCHISM!**

**One important point the authors of the *AFAQ* mention is that,**

**“Anarchism is a socio-economic and political theory, but not an ideology. The difference is very important. Basically, theory means you have ideas; an ideology means ideas have you. Anarchism is a body of ideas, but they are flexible, in a constant state of evolution and flux, and open to modification in light of new data. As society changes and develops, so does anarchism. An ideology, in contrast, is a set of "fixed" ideas which people believe dogmatically, usually ignoring reality or "changing" it so as to fit with the ideology, which is (by definition) correct.”**

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# History of Philosophical Anarchism



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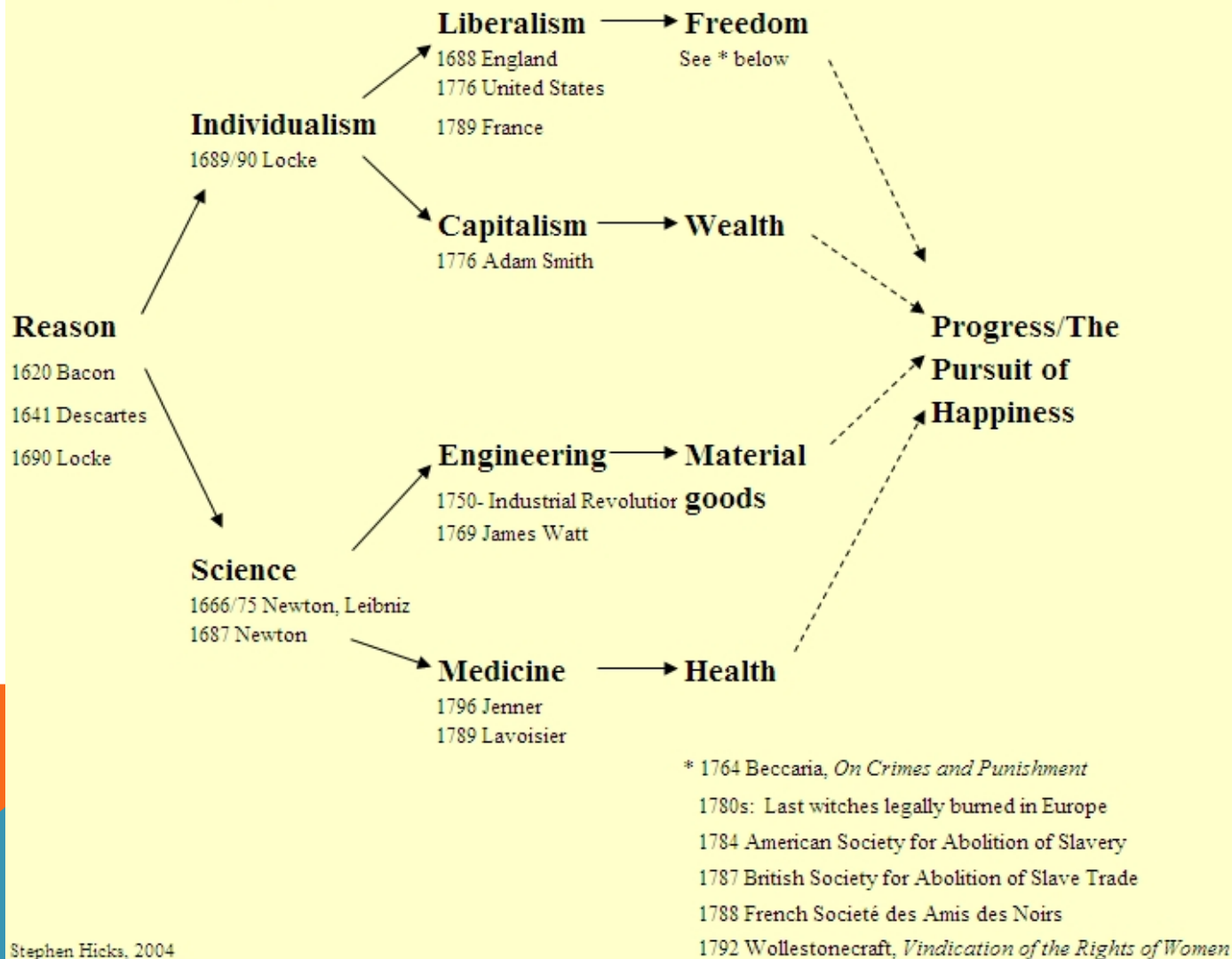
Although **Hoffman** and **Graham** see anarchism as a very old theory, they believe it only emerged *systematically* in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a part of the Enlightenment.

## Enlightenment Ideals

- **1. Human autonomy is the means and end of Enlightenment**
- **2. The importance of reason**  
*a. Freedom means being able to think rationally for yourself. b. Reason will lead us to the truth.*
- **3. Enlightenment is universal**  
*All humans are equal by nature.*
- **4. Progress**  
*Human history is the story of progress in the human condition.*
- **5. Secularism**  
*Religion and politics should be separated. One's method of worship should be a private matter.*
- **6. The centrality of economics to politics**  
*A society's well-being depends on how its economy is structured.*
- **7. The ideal of popular government**  
*People are capable of ruling themselves. The aristocracy is not the only class that deserved to rule.*

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## *The Enlightenment Vision*



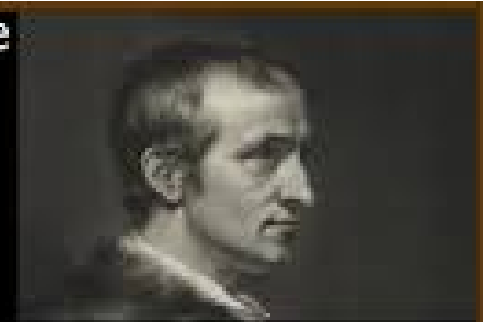
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Anarchism begins with **William Godwin's** *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice* (1783). Humans are social beings, molded by their environment, and have the capacity for reason.

Without society people would be miserable, but what is most important without society our existence would be aimless

— William Godwin —

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Godwin saw individuals as benevolent and rational.

# ANARCHISM!

To me there is nothing  
above me

~ Max Stirner ~



www.StatusMind.com

It develops further through the work of **Max Stirner's** *The Ego and His Own* (1845). He advocates the formation of an association of sovereign individuals or “conscious egoists.”

Stirner *did not* see humans and benevolent and rational, but did not want a “state” (like Hobbes) to tackle the problem

# ANARCHISM!

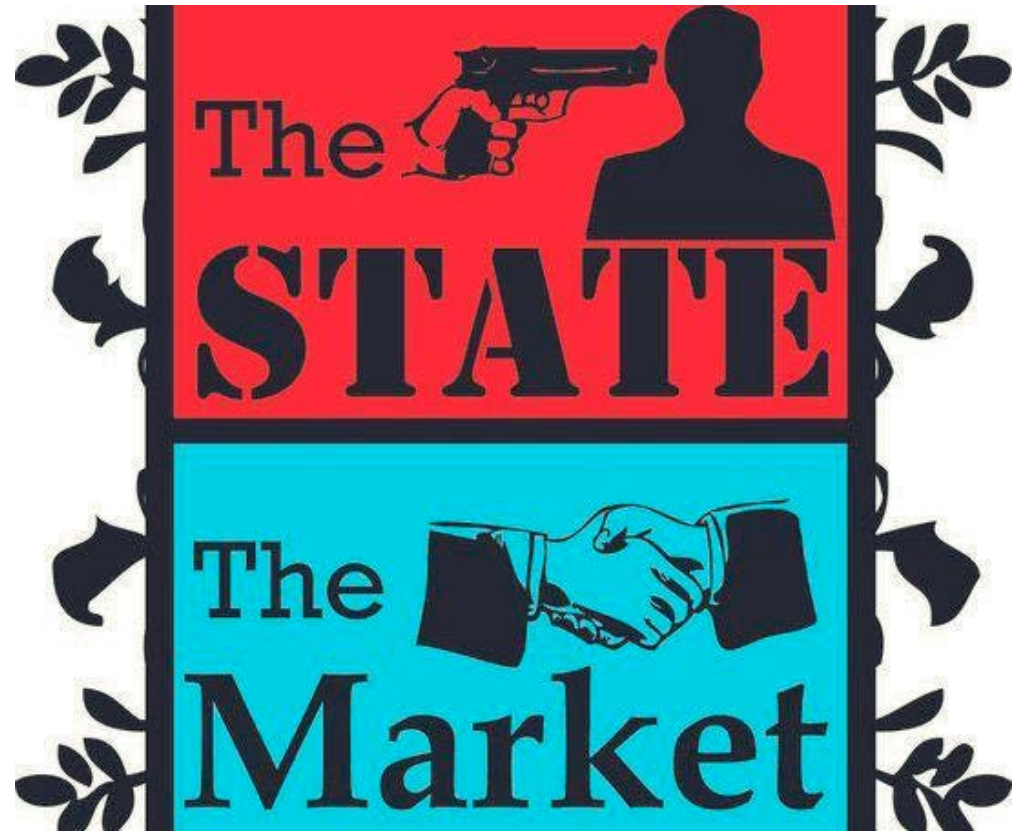
**Hoffman** and **Graham** point out that,

**“All philosophical anarchists have the problem of moving from the individual to some kind of collective organization which, on the one hand, is deemed necessary to realize anarchism, but which, on the other, contradicts anarchist principles.”**

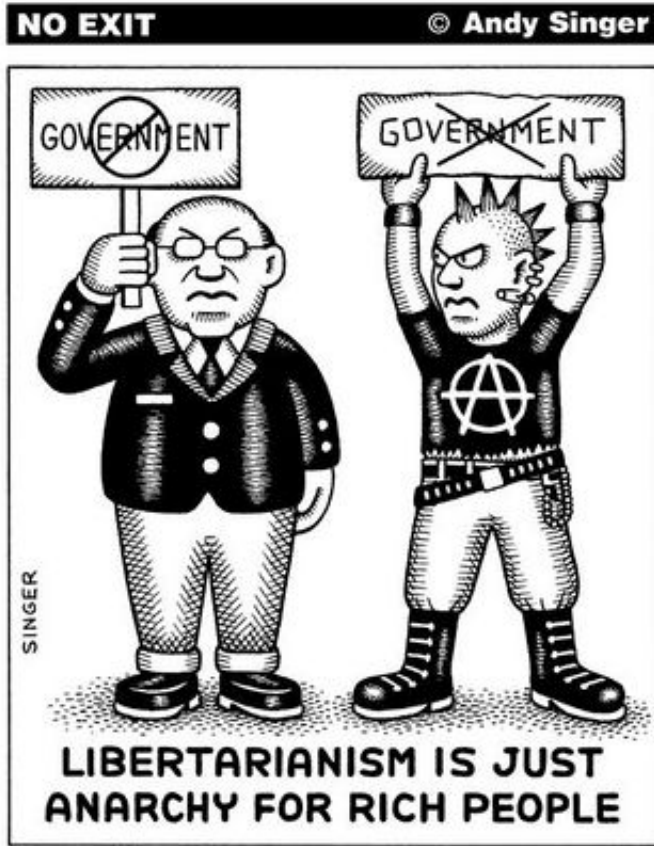
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## *Free Market Anarchism*

Although the free market might generate structural inequalities, this just means everyone should be an entrepreneur! Inequalities are inevitable in a free society.



# ANARCHISM!



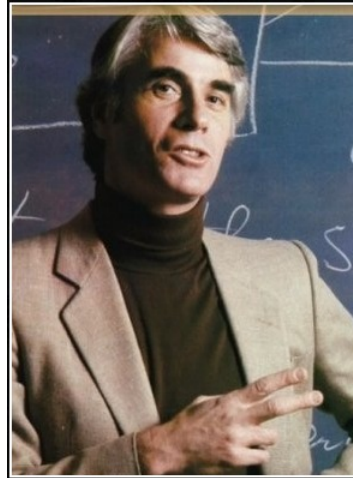
Murray Rothbard

State welfare is  
as pernicious  
as state  
warfare.

# ANARCHISM!

Robert Nozick

**Humans  
remain  
possessive  
individualists  
by nature**



Taxation of earnings from labor is on a par with forced labor. Seizing the results of someone's labor is equivalent to seizing hours from him and directing him to carry on various activities.

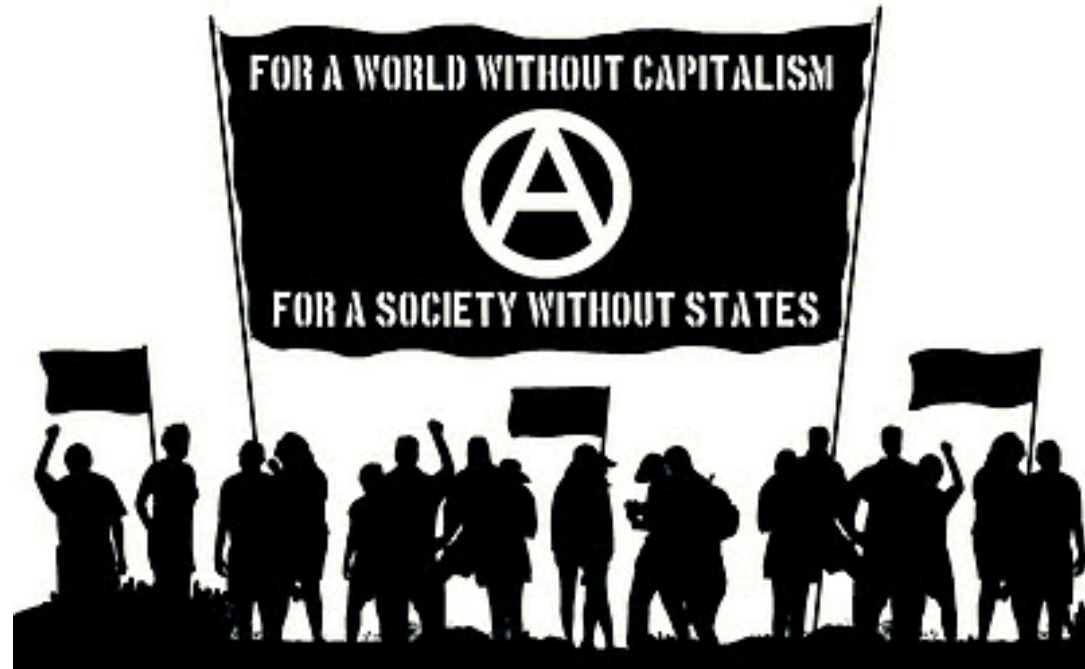
— *Robert Nozick* —

AZ QUOTES

# ANARCHISM!

*Anti-Capitalist  
Anarchists*

**Proudhon,  
Bakunin  
and  
Kropotkin**



# ANARCHISM!

From **Hoffman** and **Graham**:

**“Kropotkin called himself a communist anarchist; Bakunin preferred to see himself as a collectivist, while Proudhon regarded himself as a mutualist;, but all were critical of capitalism, and all saw anarchism as a solution to the kind of inequality generated by a capitalist society.”**



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## *Anarchism and the Problem of Violence*

This is linked to the question of transition – how gradual is the movement towards a stateless society to be? Can a dramatic transformation of society take place bit by bit?

**ANARCHISM**

DOES **NOT** MEAN  
~~VIOLENCE~~  
~~CHAOS~~  
~~DISORDER~~  
~~DESTRUCTION~~

DOES MEAN  
PEACE  
EQUALITY  
FREEDOM  
COOPERATION  
SHARING  
JUSTICE  
NO MORE RACISM  
NO MORE SEXISM

Anarchists believe that human beings can organise themselves without being dominated or controlled. To find out more simply google 'anarchism' or visit:  
[REDDIT.COM/R/SIMPLEANARCHY](https://www.reddit.com/r/simpleanarchy)

# ANARCHISM!

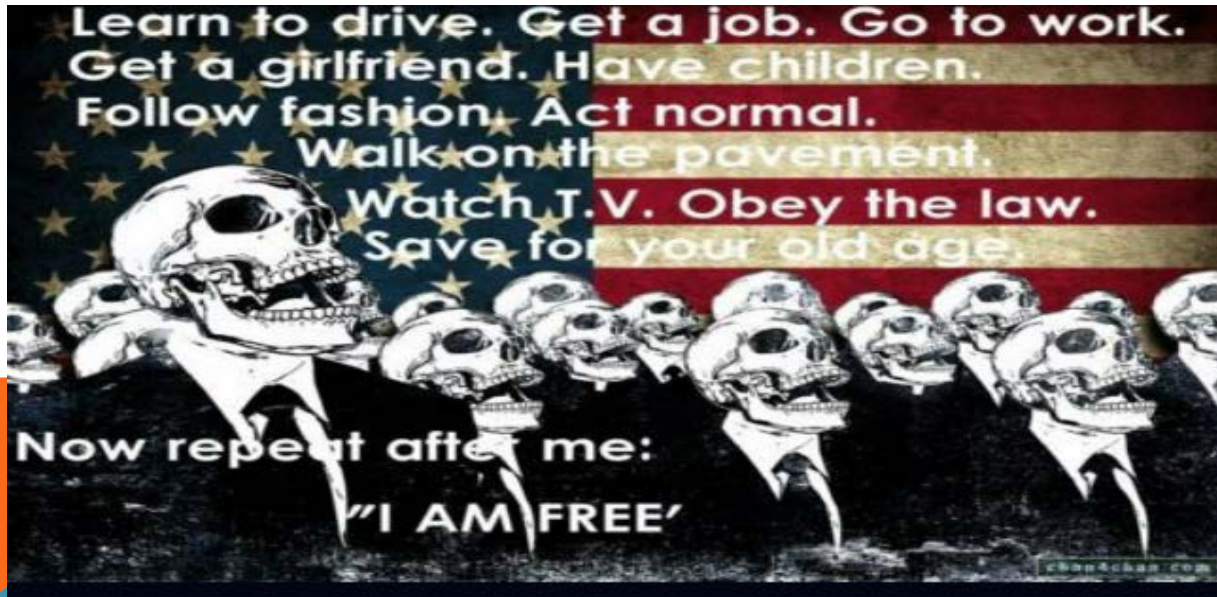


**What are  
anarchists  
to do if the  
masses fail  
to rise in  
revolt?**

**2 responses are  
possible....**

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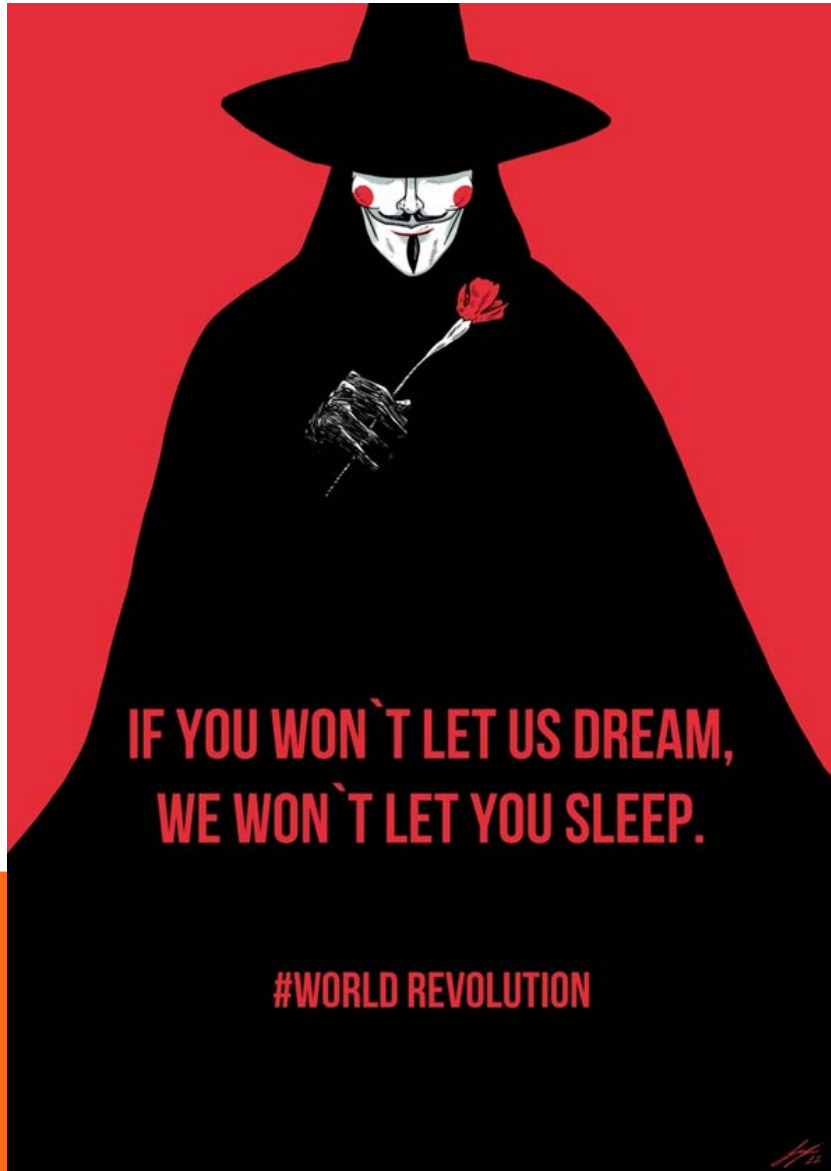
1. Anarchists can simply wait (**Godwin**) until the spirit of rational enlightenment takes root in the minds of the masses, or...



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# ANARCHISM!



2. ....the people  
can get a  
“helping  
hand”

An invisible  
dictatorship?  
(**Bakunin**)

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## *Anarchism and New Social Movements*

Characterized by a general anti-authoritarianism which sees conventional politics as stifling and treacherous; by a concern with breaking down barriers between the personal and political; and through adopting a style of campaigning that unites ends and means and links enjoyment to efficiency.



By anarchist spirit I mean that deeply human sentiment, which aims at the good of all, freedom and justice for all, solidarity and love among the people; which is not an exclusive characteristic only of self-declared anarchists, but inspires all people who have a generous heart and an open mind...

(Errico Malatesta)

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## *The Problem of Hierarchy*

**Hoffman** and **Graham** argue that although anarchists use the term “hierarchy” in a negative way, the reality is that hierarchy is part and parcel to human relationships.

However, such hierarchies can be fluid and interpenetrating (i.e. the doctor and the auto mechanic), and do not need to be *repressive* (for example the student can teach the teacher as well as the teacher teaching the student).

# ANARCHISM!

In the end the authors of your textbook believe that:

“Anarchism and anarchist values are clearly the price which society pays for a conventional politics that fails to ameliorate inequality and ecological damage”



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Another World is Possible!  
*From the Spanish Civil War to the fall of  
the Berlin Wall, anarchism pushes for a  
new social order*