



# QUIET RUMOURS



QUIET  
RUMOURS

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Quiet Rumours — an anarcha-feminist anthology

**Contents:**

- Anarcho-feminism; two statements by Chicago anarcho-feminists and Black Rose anarcho-feminists.
- Feminism as Anarchism by Lynne Farrow
- Anarchism — The Feminist Connection by Peggy Kornegger
- The Making of an Anarchist by Voltarine de Cleyre
- Socialism, Anarchism and Feminism by Carol Erlich

The feminist movement that began in the late '60s developed its own organisational form and practice, at the heart of which lay the small group — for example for consciousness raising — often composed of close friends. From a base of thousands of such groups grew the larger, international movement.

In its early years the feminist movement was notable for its absence of leaders (and led), its decentralism, its federalism — best witnessed in the thousands of magazines, newspapers and pamphlets that wove the movement

together — its complete lack of dogma and its denial of any one ideology or line. Lastly, springing from all this, its overall emphasis upon a non-hierarchical movement. It must be pointed out that all these forms of organisation appeared spontaneously without any external direction or pre-conceived programme.

By the mid '70s most of these principles were in real danger of being forgotten as the movement became dominated by political ideologies, ideologies that some women regarded as essentially male, for example marxism and its many brands. Also the movement began to be directed towards mass and reformist campaigns which were often inherently hierarchical and centrist and of course intended to appeal to the ultimate expression of the patriarchy — the state.

For those feminists already aware of anarchist ideas the dangers of these developments were immediately clear and all too familiar. The anarcha-feminist critique gained popularity and was widely studied. The first English anarcha-feminist groups appeared in 1977 and soon grew to a national network with its

own bulletins and newspaper, with two national and several regional conferences. Throughout this period the Black Bear group was busy publishing pamphlets on anarcha-feminism, all of which were extremely popular, going through several reprints and selling in their thousands.

But by 1980 the anarcha-feminist movement had to all intents and purposes ceased to function. It seems, looking back, rather short-lived. For one thing it faced opposition not only from marxist and reformist feminists but also from the traditional, and male dominated, anarchist movement, which regarded anarcha-feminists as some kind of threat to its position. Partly because of all this, anarcha-feminists moved away into other areas of activity, particularly the growing anti-nuclear movement.

However, a great demand still exists for the pamphlets first published by Black Bear and so they are now collected together for the first time in *Quiet Rumours*. Hopefully their reappearance will once again stimulate readers to consider and recognise the value of their arguments.

**FREEDOM BOOKSHOP:** The main anarchist bookshop in Britain. Also linked with **FREEDOM PRESS**, publishers of anarchist titles since 1886.

**ANARCHIST BOOK SERVICE:** The youngster of the team, one year old and growing. It was set up to provide a wide selection of titles by mail order for those having difficulty obtaining them through their local bookshop.

NAR is a joint project by the following organisations:-

**A DISTRIBUTION:** A co-operative of anarchist publishers set up to provide a joint distribution network for books and periodicals.

**HOUSMANS:** Long established bookshop and distributor of 'alternative' publishers.

Published by NEW ANARCHIST REVIEW  
c/o Dark Star,  
5 Caledonian Road,  
London N1 9DX.

# AGAINST HIS-STORY AGAINST LEVIATHAN

Trade: Housemans  
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Fredy Perlman  
Black & Red (USA)  
Paperback  
£4.50



'We are here as victims, or as spectators or as perpetrators of tortures, massacres, poisonings, manipulations, despoilations.'

Thus does Fredy Perlman describe the wasteland which is our world in which everyday life confronts the public secret — that our 'freedoms' leave us powerless, that our 'civilisation' is universal barbarism.

If the rise of civilisation has been the systematic enslavement of humanity and the progressive destruction of nature, this process has matured into an ecological potential in which the parasite has the capacity to kill the host. One might say that 'mankind' is killing 'Mother Earth' but for the fact that there have always existed communities that do not commit acts of war against the biosphere. Free human communities have existed for thousands of generations, whilst civilisation is a young Frankenstein's monster of at most two or three hundred generations — it is from this historical perspective, akin to Paul Goodmans *Neolithic Conservatism*, that Perlman charts His-story.

Through the vision, insight and experience of these countless generations have been erased, it is still possible to see through the proponents of civilisation when they tell us that 'animals lead happier lives in cages', and to know they are talking about us. The 'Golden Age' is still described and dreamed of — it is 'the state of nature', 'primitive communism', 'anarchy', 'matriarchy'.

The villain of the piece which Perlman seeks to expose is a life devouring monster, only the

attributes of which have been understood by Marchists and Anarchists. This monster is driven on its crusade against 'the wilderness', by the 'Western Spirit', it is a *conquistador* for civilisation against free life in all its forms. Within a narrative which confidently weaves its way relentlessly through His-story, Perlman's task of describing the body of the beast is undertaken.

Our epic tale begins in the birth-place of our civilisation, the Middle East, among communities up against the hard land misnamed 'the Fertile Crescent'. Their struggle for survival gives birth to the Leviathan, by the permanent institution of emergency 'austerity Measures'. This proved not to be a still-birth, though the monster is a dead thing, its body is given movement by the 'zeks', the forced labour squads trapped within its body. Leviathan grows, but, dependent on its zeks, its progress is continually plagued by their withdrawal to pastures new and resistance that throws it into decomposition. Unfortunately dead things have powers humans lack and Leviathan, like a dismembered worm, can grow anew from its segments. Like the machine it is, Leviathan can be repaired, human communities however, once dead stay dead.

Civilisation's institutions are the segments of this worm and surplus product, the material content which can not exist outside its body, its entrails. Trade burgeons, being something people do to their enemies (to friends they give), as

under the tutelage of Leviathan virtually everyone becomes everyone else's enemy

Within His-story the only human element is the Resistance, the rest is Leviathanic progress. Resistance need not be explained or justified, it is a natural response by humans to dehumanisation. Historically, those that shrug off Leviathan are faced with daunting tasks, they cannot return to the old communities long since murdered. They must start again, yet culture cannot regenerate overnight. They must face the new life camped amidst the monsters remnants, that can be reactivated by 'any good mechanic', to set the zeks back in their 'proper place'. It is the great mystery of civilised life — the compulsive and compulsory reproduction of the monster.

In the modern world, having exterminated the communities of outsiders, our Technological Wonder is generating outsiders within itself, replacing zeks with machines, and creating pockets of internal exiles. Having consumed everyone and everything, leaving only itself for reference, Leviathan entertains itself, exploits itself, wars on itself. It has nothing left to progress against except itself.

**AT LEAST  
CRUISE IS CLEAN**

Lynchcombe



NICCOLOPRESS

**AT LEAST CRUISE IS CLEAN**

Lynchcombe  
Niccolo Press  
pamphlet, 48pp  
£1.20

everyone wanted a copy. But with Newbury bookshops banning it, distribution was a problem. People in Newbury were travelling up to London to buy copies and even photocopies were being sold. Since then distribution has improved considerably.

Reaction to the pamphlet in Newbury has been good. Even a Court Usher was heard remarking that he knew some of the allegations made were true.

*At Least Cruise is Clean* is published by Niccolo Press and written by Lynchcombe (a play on Wynchcombe, the pseudonym used by the *Newbury Weekly News*' editor in his local chat column).

Publishers Niccolo Press have been astonished by the success of their pamphlet *At Least Cruise is Clean*. An everyday story of small-town corruption, set against the background of canals, ducks and the arrival of Cruise missiles in Newbury, the publishers expected it to have a limited local readership.

However, within two weeks over half the print-run had been sold — thanks to a front page article in the *Newbury Weekly News* (reprinted opposite).

With the free publicity, suddenly

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**Cruise conspiracy,  
booklet taken off  
the shelves**

AN ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED...  
...the book is still in circulation...  
...taken off the shelves...

At present Freedom Press has about a dozen titles in print. More importance is attached to the writings of this century rather than the last one and so none of the famous anarchist writers of the last century, Bakunin, Kropotkin and so on, feature in the current Freedom Press list. If, as is hoped, Freedom Press is able to expand and increase its number of titles, then it should be possible to bring out editions of famous anarchist works like Kropotkin's *Mutual Aid*. (An edition, incidentally, considerably cheaper than the imported one currently available.) For the moment at least, finance restricts Freedom Press to twentieth century anarchist writing and three such Freedom Press titles have just been reprinted. Errico Malatesta's pamphlet *Anarchy* is an introduction to anarchism and his *Life and Ideas* is a collection of his writings together with an appraisal of the man widely regarded as anarchism's best theoretician. Alexander Berkman's *ABC of Anarchism* is an application of anarchist ideas to practical problems. Later on this year two more Freedom Press titles will run out and, finance permitting, will be reprinted. These are Colin Ward's *Anarchy in Action* and Marie Louise Berneri's *Journey through Utopia*. All this, of course, is just maintaining the present Freedom Press list, rather than expanding it.

The last new title from Freedom Press was *Why Work?*, a collection of writings by different authors questioning the work ethic. 'This book does not offer solutions to the problems of capitalism. On the contrary, it seeks to persuade its readers that the capitalist system is good only for a relatively small number of people and institutions while the rest of the community are its victims.' All but two of the contributions are from this century, including the six drawings by Clifford Harper which describe a 'vision of a post-industrial society.' Such a society isn't here yet and whilst millions live just above starvation point it is easier to get

a job in the armaments industry than producing food for those who need it. *Why Work?* criticises the present situation where wages are in inverse proportion to the social value of a job and as more and more people in the industrial world find it difficult to get work, so the potential audience for a radical examination of capitalism grows. The next title from Freedom Press, due out in October, will be *Uprooting War* by Brian Martin. A three hundred page examination of war and militarism, capitalism and patriarchy, by the author of (for those who remember it) the pamphlet *Changing the Cogs*. More details when it's available.

**THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK**

Gregory Petrovich Maximoff  
Cienfuegos Press  
hardback, 340pp  
£5.00

*The Guillotine At Work* is the definitive study of Soviet terror after the Revolution. It develops the theme that the Stalinist Atrocities of the 1930s, the bureaucratisation of Russian Society, the Imperialist Escapades, are not aberrations in the development of a Socialist society, but rather a logical development of Marxist philosophy.

Maximoff, the author, was himself the victim of Bolshevik repression. As one of the foremost Anarchists

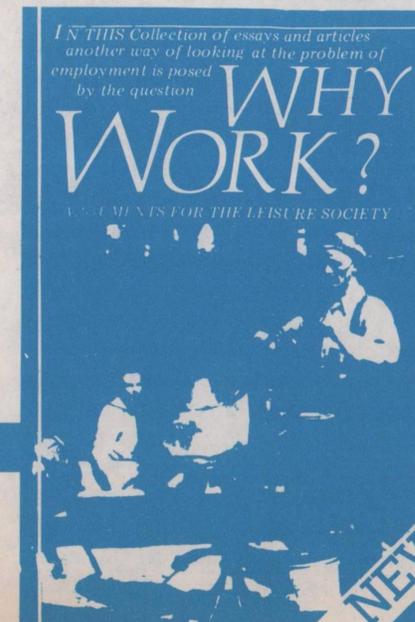
during the Revolution, he was imprisoned twice and eventually exiled. He spent the rest of his life denouncing the Bolshevik terror which had usurped the Revolution.

The book was published in 1979 by Cienfuegos Press. Unfortunately Cienfuegos is now defunct, but A Distribution has a number of copies of the book. Available in hardback, in unusually mint condition for A Distribution stock! It represents excellent value.

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On the whole the book is well rounded, thought provoking and highly recommended.

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GREGORY PETROVICH  
MAXIMOFF

**THE  
GUILLOTINE  
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VOL. I: THE LENINIST  
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