

Property and the Anarchists

Crazy and reasonable

Francisco Ferrer

1901

It is well known that most people know about things as much as their newspapers would like to make them aware of. Few are those who reflect on what they read and who have been able to learn about the anarchist ideal.

For the common people, anarchists are ferocious murderers paid by the Jesuits or by swindlers and swindlers; if one day they were to govern, nothing would be safe and no one would be able to possess the slightest object for themselves, since they pursue the destruction of property.

It must be thought of and it must be repeated often that in a reasonable society, that is to say an anarchist one, everyone will have his own house, his own furniture, his own clothes, his own works of art, his own work instruments, in short, everything that can make life pleasant.

Naturally, we will not go from a regime of madmen like the one based on authority and property that we have been enjoying, to one of solidarity and true fraternity like a change of scenery in a theater, but it will require all the propaganda, all the instruction and even all the example that we logicians will have to give to the illogical, the thoughtless, the irrational, the crazy people who make up the vast majority today.

We anarchists want to destroy property as it exists; because it is the product of the exploitation of man by man, of the privilege granted by governments or the right of the strongest.

We acrats do not want there to be owners of large tracts of land next to families who have nowhere to rest their bodies, nor heirs to fortunes and heirs to misery.

We libertarians do not want a title or a will to be enough to spend our lives without working.

In the ideal anarchist society, the education and instruction of children will be done in such a way that everyone understands the need for work, with no exceptions other than unavoidable physical ailments; and as there will not be the current bad example of some working and others walking, of some eating and others yawning, everyone will contribute to the production of common wealth to the extent of their abilities and everyone will eat according to their appetite. It will be easy for educators to instill in children the taste and general obligation to work.

If men are reasonable, unlike what happens today, they will find without great headaches the way to be owners in life of what surrounds them and what they love, without this right to property being able to harm anyone or create supremacy of any kind.

The madness of those who do not understand anarchy lies precisely in their inability to conceive of a reasonable society.

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