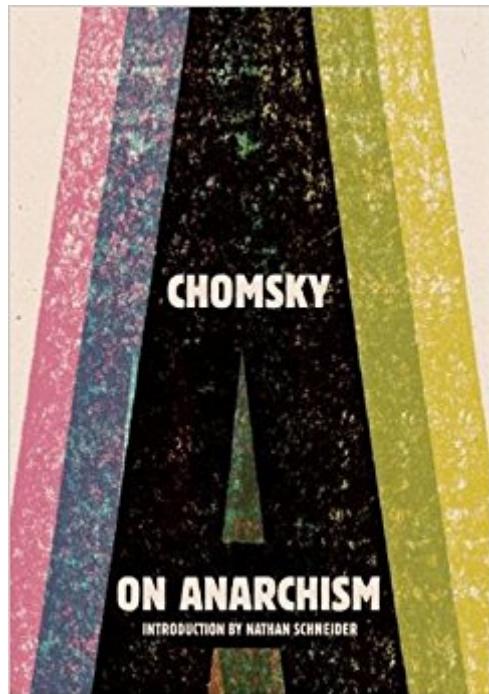


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## On Anarchism



## Synopsis

On Anarchism provides the reasoning behind Noam Chomsky's fearless lifelong questioning of the legitimacy of entrenched power. In these essays, Chomsky redeems one of the most maligned ideologies, anarchism, and places it at the foundation of his political thinking. Chomsky's anarchism is distinctly optimistic and egalitarian. Moreover, it is a living, evolving tradition that is situated in a historical lineage; Chomsky's anarchism emphasizes the power of collective, rather than individualist, action. The collection includes a revealing new introduction by journalist Nathan Schneider, who documented the Occupy movement for Harper's and The Nation, and who places Chomsky's ideas in the contemporary political moment. On Anarchism will be essential reading for a new generation of activists who are at the forefront of a resurgence of interest in anarchism—and for anyone who struggles with what can be done to create a more just world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Noam Chomsky: "Chomsky is a global phenomenon." Samantha Power, The New York Times Book Review "Chomsky's fierce talent proves once more that human beings are not condemned to become commodities." Eduardo Galeano "Not to have read [Chomsky] is to court genuine ignorance." The Nation

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor emeritus of linguistics at MIT and the author of numerous

books, including *Towards A New Cold War*, *The Chomsky-Foucault Debate*, *On Language*, and *Objectivity and Liberal Scholarship* (all available from The New Press). He lives in Lexington, Massachusetts. Nathan Schneider is the author of *Thank You, Anarchy: Notes from the Occupy Apocalypse* and *God in Proof: The Story of a Search from the Ancients to the Internet*. He also edits the online publications *Waging Nonviolence* and *Killing the Buddha*. He lives in Brooklyn.

Unless your interest in this book is purely academic analysis of political systems, I assume you have some leanings in its direction. If so, you know that anarchy has a bad rep; I've seen it equated with 'chaos' in crossword puzzles. Chomsky acknowledges this early on and refutes it; he takes us back to the original goals of anarchy, devoid of people who riot and throw bricks through windows, the goals of individual freedom, economic equality and democracy built from the ground up. The book consists of five chapters; each taken from a previously published work. Although copyright 2013, the earliest chapter is from 1969, the latest @2002. The first is an essay entitled 'Notes on Anarchism' and is just that; a wide variety of thoughts, with quotes from others, as to just what true anarchism is, and is not. The second chapter, excerpts from *Understanding Power*, is worth the price of the book. A question and answer session (Chomsky giving the answers) seemingly in a group setting with various people raising the essential questions of anarchism (tension of collectivism vs. individual freedom etc.) Chomsky gives a magnificent tour-de-force performance in replies. He also mentions the anarchy/chaos situation. The third chapter is one of very heavy reading. Stating that the Spanish Revolution, 1936-37, is of great historical significance, Chomsky not only reviews the history of the 'people's revolution' which was crushed by those in power, but, citing numerous historians, questions whether or not their views coincided with reality as to what was happening. If you're not familiar with the named historians or their works, this is a tough read. However, if you bypass all of that and accept Chomsky's opinions, you will learn a lot regarding the Spanish Civil War and especially the entrenched power response to anarchists. The fourth chapter is an interview with Harry Kreisler (of UC Berkeley), Chomsky is the interviewee; the effect is similar to chapters one and two, a variety of anarchist thoughts and concepts are discussed. The last chapter is the transcript of a lecture given at Loyola University in 1970; Chomsky is a linguist so he is seemingly in his element as this address is entitled -Language and Freedom. But no, he raises the question as to just how language and freedom are related and admits, at the end, that he is still not sure but much intrigued by the association. An interesting essay which will challenge your thinking in many areas, but may also, answer many questions you have had in your pursuit of an understanding of anarchism.

It has a very good Audio narrative.

Simply brilliant and thorough. Perhaps the best introduction to anarchism one can read.

Fantastic reader and intro into basic ideas that animate capitalism as well as socialism and beyond. This is not an intro into political theory however and is meant as a condensed version of Chomsky's more expanded works like "Understanding Power." So if you think you understand anarchy or socialism and think it's a vapid idea or just want to learn more, please consider this book. You cannot walk away from reading "On Anarchism" without understanding more about yourself and our world. Highly Recommended--I never buy anything but I bought this!

Great introduction to Chomsky's flavor of anarchism: anarcho-syndicalism. The first chapter covers the definition and history. The second and fourth are some really interesting Q&A format discussions. The third one details an essay Chomsky wrote when he was younger discussing anarchism in the Spanish civil war. The last chapter discusses Freedom and Language which connects a bit to his work on linguistics. I highly recommend it!

If more people read, understood, and applied the political principles astutely depicted by Noam Chomsky, our nation would not be suffering from the problems reflected in the population's widespread discontent.

Great book. I love Chomsky, I watched a lot of his speeches on youtube before buying any of his books, a lot of his speeches you can watch are in the book itself, but there's a ton more to offer in this book as well. I gave 4/5 just because the section on the Spanish rebellion was a little long and dry compared to the rest of the book (almost 100 pages or so lol) but other than that it was a great read.

good book, on time, as promised

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