

“If I say most people are pretty decent that may sound nice and warm but actually it's really radical and subversive and that's why, all throughout history, those who have advocated a more hopeful view of human nature – often the anarchists – have been persecuted.”

– Rutger Bregman, historian.

Anarchism has been called “boring radical democracy”, both Jesus Christ and Johnny Rotten have been said to be included in our ranks (the latter denies it), anarchists have been accused of “mindlessly tearing up American cities while attacking police and innocent bystanders” (nope), and blamed for starting World War One (we didn't do that either).

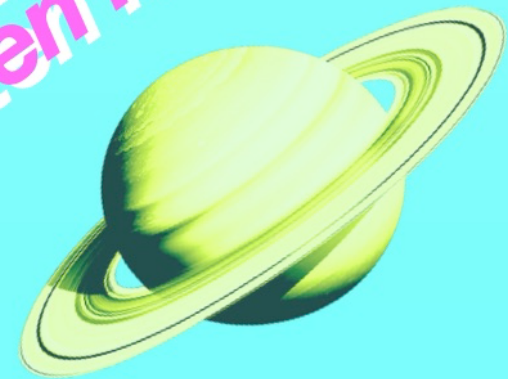
Written to be read on a 4km bus commute or morning tea break, this pamphlet succinctly sums up the ideas anarchists hold and what we do. Cheap, short and legal in most jurisdictions. An ideal introduction to anarchism for the busy executive on the move.

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Anarchist coffee break series

Anarchism
in ten minutes



Sam Buchanan

Most of the time, anarchist movements are quite fun, and creative. We like making things. Not all anarchists are foodies, just most of us (hit me up for recipes). We don't get too bogged down in intellectual meanderings and there's something wrong if nobody makes jokes in meetings (humour is a sign of mutual trust). I read a lot of history, but discussions with friends, conversations with random people at railway stations and comic books have had a huge influence on my politics as well.

As activists we write, organise events, meet people, travel, plant trees and gardens, protest and debate. Embracing anarchism usually makes for an interesting and rewarding life, although you do get hit over the head from time to time. Building a new world might also be a slow, sometimes difficult, process, but do you have something better to do?

Further reading

Bits of this summary have been inspired by writers including Ricardo Flores Magon, Kemal Jumblatt, bell hooks, Mustapha Khayati, Tove Jansson, Noam Chomsky, Kanan Makiya, Sunyoung Park, Adam Smith, David Graeber, Murray Bookchin, Raoul Vaneigem, B. Traven and a whole host of others. But it doesn't really matter what you read, everything contains useful lessons if you think about it with a critical mind and a desire for freedom.