

Any project of spreading consciousness is primarily a project of accumulating capital: printing presses, buildings, vehicles, weapons, computers, money. There is also the question of developing social capital: hipness, street cred, graphic design, fashion, branding, writing style, networking.

Debates and conflicts between pro-revolutionary groups are primarily about how all this capital can be accumulated and used effectively. The difference between Left anarchists and insurrectionary anarchists is one of business model: formal organization on the one hand and informal organization on the other. The former are able to effectively accumulate capital through dues collection, inheritance, owning property, and connections to the non-profit sector. While this means publications and spaces can be operational for long periods of time, the conservatism of formal organization prevents the development of social capital. The Left anarchist position emulates the business model of a church or NGO.

Ideas are as popular as the amount of capital behind them!

Negative?

The insurrectionary anarchist position focuses on developing social capital while lacking the structure necessary to consistently accumulate and hold onto capital. The inability to maintain what is accumulated is due to the illegal or semi-legal means of acquiring money, spaces, and printing. Projects are short-lived, but this constant turn-over keeps images and language up-to-date and in line with emerging cultural trends. The insurrectionary anarchist position emulates the business model of a gang or guerrilla marketing firm.

Just a thought.

Not an argument.

Beyond this debate about organization looms a larger problem: those who propagate anti-capitalist ideas must accumulate capital to do so, while those in a structural conflict with capital do not propagate anti-capitalist ideas.