

Black Flame get right? Well, almost everything! It is comprehensive, discussing all important issues, people and movements, and the authors do a great job in discussing the ins and outs of our movement and theory, using history to illuminate the ideas and show how they were applied in practice. Do yourself a favour and buy it now! You won't be disappointed".- **Iain McKay, author of *The Anarchist FAQ*, volume 1**

★ "This highly worthwhile book represents the fruit of considerable scholarship and deep reflection. The authors have done a remarkable job in drawing together a vast international body of literature, showing convincingly that anarchism and syndicalism were far more significant political forces than historians have generally given them credit for, and providing excellent accounts of the movement's global political reach. Van der Walt and Schmidt also make a powerful and lucidly written case for anarchism as a serious and coherent political philosophy".- **Prof. Jonathan Hyslop, University of the Witwatersrand, author of *The Notorious Syndicalist: JT Bain, a Scottish rebel in colonial South Africa***

★ "*Black Flame* is an outstanding contribution to a modern anarchist perspective. Its view is focused on the working class but also supportive of every struggle against oppression. Besides covering the major controversies within historical anarchism in a fair way, it is particularly unique in examining anarchism from a worldwide perspective instead of looking at it only from a west European angle. I learned a good deal from reading it, and think others will also".- **Wayne Price, author of *The Abolition of the State: Anarchist and Marxist perspectives***

★ "This book fulfils a daunting task. Covering anarchism in all parts of the world and emphatically tying it to class struggle, the authors present a highly original and challenging account of the movement, its actions and ideas. This work is a must for everybody interested in non-authoritarian social movements".- **Prof. Bert Altena, Rotterdam University, author of *Piet Honig, Herinneringen van een Rotterdamse revolutionair***

★ "A well-thought out and nuanced study of the intellectual, political, and social history of anarchism".- **Prof. Steven J. Hirsch, University of Pittsburgh, contributing editor, *Handbook of Latin American Studies***

★ "The first in a two-volume mega-work called *Counter-Power* ... the authors ... use their conceptual rubric to demonstrate conclusively the coherent international character of the Anarchist movement, a welcome antidote to Eurocentric accounts of the movement and its history. We can't wait for volume 2!" - **Red Emma's Bookstore Coffee House, Baltimore**

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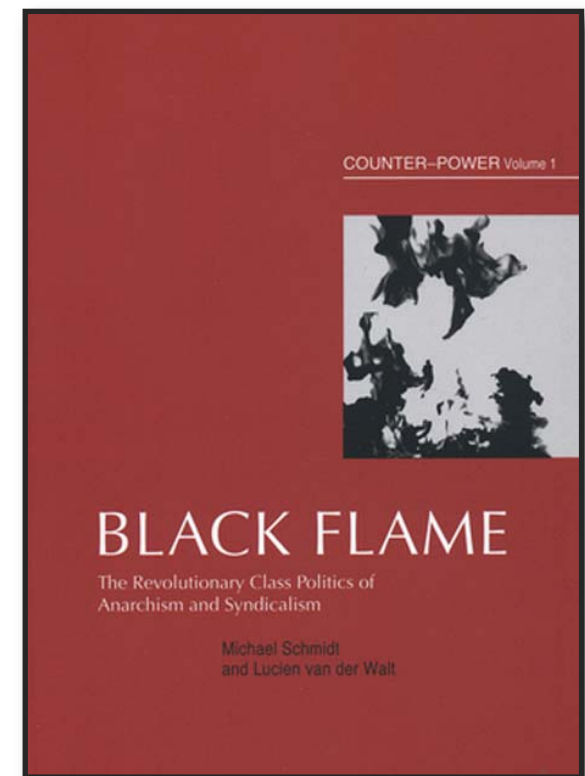
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Black Flame:

the Revolutionary Class Politics of Anarchism and Syndicalism



"Black Flame is neither obituary nor panegyric ... it is an attempt to define anarchism ... and rethink ways to implement these ideas and practices in the global economy of the twenty-first century."

— from the Preface by **Stuart Christie**

Black Flame is the first of two volumes that re-examine anarchism's democratic class politics, its vision of a decentralized planned economy, and its impact on popular struggles in five continents over the last 150 years. From the nineteenth century to today's anti-capitalist movements, it traces anarchism's insights into questions of race, gender, class, and imperialism, significantly reframing the work of previous historians on the subject, and critiquing Marxist approaches to these same questions.

About Black Flame

By the authors: We want to look at the ideas and history of the broad anarchist tradition since it initially emerged. It is a tradition rich in ideas, and one that has had an enormous impact on the history of working-class and peasant movements as well as the Left more generally. While the broad anarchist tradition has received more attention in recent years due to the prominent role of anarchists in the "anti-globalisation" movement and the rebirth of significant syndicalist union currents, its ideas and history are not well known today. In many cases, a proper appreciation of the ideas and activities of the movement have been obscured by unsympathetic scholarship and media, but the problem goes deeper than that. Even sympathetic accounts often misunderstand the core ideas and underestimate the historical reach of the broad anarchist tradition.

In our two volumes, we will undertake several key tasks: challenging many commonly held views about anarchism and syndicalism, re-examining the ideas of the broad anarchist tradition, and synthesising a global history of the movement. In doing this, we are motivated in part by a concern with demonstrating that an understanding of the role of anarchism and syndicalism is indispensable to the understanding modern history. It is simply

not possible to adequately understand the history of, for instance, unions in Latin America or peasant struggles in East Asia without taking anarchism and syndicalism seriously. The history of the broad anarchist tradition is an integral - but often forgotten - part of popular and socialist history. Besides, it is a fascinating body of thought and history.

The first volume concentrates on several main areas. First, it defines anarchism and outlines its main ideas; developing the case that anarchism is a form of revolutionary and libertarian socialism that initially arises within the First International. This volume then examines the relationship between anarchism and other ideas, particularly the views of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809-1865), the classical Marxists, and economic liberalism. Third, it explores the relationship between anarchism and syndicalism. It then looks at the major strategic and tactical debates in the movement. Next, the first volume discusses some of the major historical themes in the history of that tradition, such as its class character, along with its role in union, peasant, community, unemployed, national liberation, women's emancipation, and racial equality struggles. Sixth, it argues that the broad anarchist tradition was an international movement that cannot be adequately understood through the focus on Western anarchism that typifies most existing accounts. And finally, it suggests that an understanding of the broad anarchist tradition can play an important part in informing progressive struggles against contemporary neo-liberalism.

Reviewers' Praise for 'Black Flame'

What people say:

Black Flame: the Revolutionary Class Politics of Anarchism and Syndicalism, has scored good reviews from academics and activists (and academic activists) alike:

★ "A book with a deeply impressive quality of research, analysis and writing, this very important and much-needed work is an unexpected delight and an excellent

piece of work. *Black Flame: The Revolutionary Class Politics of Anarchism and Syndicalism*, puts politics at the centre of anarchism, and in doing so, stakes out a provocative and important thesis... The contribution of this book is three-fold: it offers a much-needed corrective to the liberal 'lifestyle' and 'philosophical' trends that have attached themselves to anarchism; it demonstrates and contributes to the diversity, themes, and arguments within anarchism; and it draws our attention to movements that have... too often been ignored, often for political rather than historical reasons. In lively yet carefully crafted prose, the authors have provided an excellent analysis of anarchism rooted in class struggle, and a proposed second volume will examine the influence of anarchism around the world. The depth and breadth of the research are impressive, the arguments sophisticated, and the call to organize timely." - **Prof. Mark Leier, Simon Fraser University, author of *Bakunin: the creative passion***

★ "... one of its distinctive contributions is its global scope. Further, the book's intellectual exploration goes deep", and, "An enjoyable read, from which I have learnt a great deal - fascinating, revealing and often startling. Thanks to both and each of you". - **Alan Lipman, anti-apartheid activist and exile, winner of South African Institute of Architecture's 'Award for Excellence' for the Workers Library and Museum (Johannesburg), author of *On the Outside Looking In: colliding with apartheid and other authorities***

★ "A useful and insightful treatment of one of the most fascinating alternatives to industrial capitalism and the modern nation state. At the heart of their scholarship is an effort to provide clarity to a much maligned and misunderstood movement and also to examine it as a social history of ideas that percolated from below as well as directed from above by intellectual giants. The authors are careful to present their analysis in a jargon-free language. Readers will be introduced to influential historical actors from across the globe. A grand work of synthesis. An excellent starting point". - **Prof. Greg Hall, Western Illinois University, author of *Harvest Wobblies: The Industrial Workers of the World and Agricultural Laborers in the American West, 1905-1930, in WorkingUSA***

★ "Brilliant, a really wonderful book and an outstanding contribution to anarchist theory and history. What does