FOR ANARCHIST JURISDICTIONS & SOUP FOR OUR FAMILIES

ROLOGISTO VOLNE



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EDITORIAL NOTES

"I don't vote. Two reasons. First of all it's meaningless; this country was bought and sold a long time ago. The shit they shovel around every 4 years doesn't mean a fucking thing. Secondly, I believe if you vote, you have no right to complain. People like to twist that around they say, 'If you don't vote, you have no right to complain', but where's the logic in that? If you vote and you elect dishonest, incompetent people into office who screw everything up, you are responsible for what they have done. You caused the problem; you voted them in; you have no right to complain. I. on the other hand. who did not vote, who in fact did not even leave the house on election day, am in no way responsible for what these people have done and have every right to complain about the mess you created that I had nothing to do with."

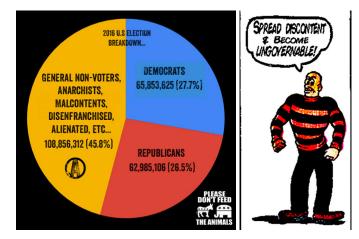
George Carlin

At the 2016 US election, the overwhelming majority of people (over 100million), for whatever reason, did not vote. Given the shocking calibre of the two candidates on offer this time, there is no reason to suspect that it will be any different – in fact, with the level of global disillusionment in politicians, that majority could be even bigger. The system is simply not working for most citizens around the world and they are coming out onto the streets in insurrectionary style. In America, in Mexico, in Chile, in Bangladesh, Columbia and in Indonesia, the ideas of anarchism are on the rise once again – the symbols of our movement and

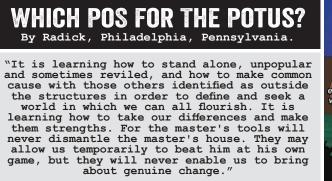
the anti-authoritarian attitude are on the frontlines. Grass-roots mutual-aid and community solidarity is in abundance – particularly evident during this period of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is driving up unemployment, evictions and food-poverty.

Ironically, Trump has put the word 'anarchism', front and centre – it is now part of the lexicon and will be repeated again and again during this campaign. Fearful Democrats and Republicans are attempting to create a new bogey-man – but there is a huge disconnect between what politicians say, and what people actually see anarchists doing on the ground and in their communities.

An increasing number of people appear to have had enough of out of touch, growth-bound, obsolete, and state-owned political parties. We need to transfer power and energy away from the political class and towards strong and vibrant community groups based upon direct action. mutual-aid and solidarity. Where people's voices are actually heard, where decision-making about our everyday lives and what happens in our communities, can be be undertaken at a grassroots, truly democratic level, instead of being passed down from on-high by the 'free-market' and by systematically-corrupted and careerist, local and national politicians. They, and their system are obsolete - we must say fuck them, become ungovernable and stand with the natural constituents of anarchism, the non-voter!







Audre Lorde

All anarchists are not against voting, but most of us are against the division it causes and the fact that a small majority of rich powerful people reign over us and are in charge just to go and make dangerous decisions about our lives. Voting seems to be an illusion that we are partaking in change however some would argue that we are actually participating in reinforcing the same oppressive system we are fighting up against. By pushing an idea that serves only rich people and that hurts the working class and the poor. A vote represents a vote of trust in the system. Some of us lack that confidence. But not voting does not absolve us from having the responsibility for the outcome. We are weeks away from the American 2020 election. Whoever wins we still have a fight ahead to dismantle all manifestations of oppression. November will reverberate for a generation to come, through all three branches of American government and across the world. It's been racists and fascists running amock and spewing endless amounts of misinformation and hate.

Unnecessary deaths, murder hornets, corrupt police, the press being silenced, parts of California burning, storms across the south, we started off the year pissing off Iran, women in migrant camps and now having hysterectomies without giving consent. children are missing and the entire country is up in arms about human trafficking and pointing fingers but nothing is really getting done except people fucking whining. The idea that voter fraud or a rigged election could exist shouldn't even be a question when we are talking about some of the biggest pieces of shit to ever exist also known as, politicians. Yet when we stray from it, we land on some other appalling social issue or injustice to be enraged and disgusted by.

The president kicked off the COVID 19 panic by denying its existence, declaring it a hoax, mocking mask wearers, being most concerned about the economy over lives, and blaming China. Calling it the "China virus" like the blatantly impertinent ass he is. The damage he has caused is irreversible and he shouldn't even be allowed to be in his position. Over 200,000 people have died from COVID in the US and the entire year has been a shit show from the start. Even the president has contracted the virus and it's spreading through the white house like



a domino effect of karma. A truly doomsday kind of year for the USA. Here we are faced with this awful choice between two dense, incompetent, and insufferable cunts Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

The first debate between Trump and Biden was like watching an argument between two dementia ridden buffoons arguing over the last cup of pudding at the senior center. They never touched on any plans or issues the American people are concerned about.

Two racist pandering old white dolts appropriating having a working-class interest and or voice. I felt a bit cheated. I also became jaded by this idea that we were a society that was campaigning for social justice when we're not, we're just talking about what's around us instead of organizing in solidarity to change it together. Voting in the USA can't solve political problems or white supremacy. And I think the majority of Americans take on politics is cliched, patronizing, insulting, and mediocre.

Removing Trump will not take down nor remove the infrastructure that embraced the white supremacy and fascism in this country. Most of us are connected as anti-fascists, globally. Antifa is no one and everyone with a conscience and heart is Antifa. All things misconstrued and pulled apart to fit a narrative to push a specific political agenda

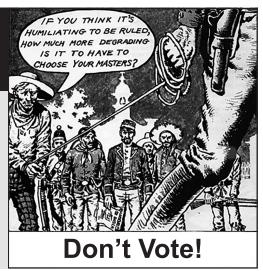
An agenda that holds hate in place and spreads it like cancer throughout the people of America. A country so drenched with self-importance and narcissism that a good foot up the arse would do us all some good.

This is a war on hate, you would think after learning about World War II that Americans would be so against fascism that there would be no doubt that a person like Donald Trump who is connected to the KKK, who has locked migrant children in cages, and separated them from their families, and has refused to denounce white supremacy on live television would be strung up in the town hall and made an example of, instead he is praised and sucked off by every sod in the country,

All those people surrounding Trump will still be holding a place in the senate and house and in his cult of followers. So the only way to win this war is to come together as a people and fight uphill against it. Otherwise, we are all fucked.

DON'T VOTE, TAKE To the streets!

"Voting is not act of political freedom. It is an act of political conformity. Those who refuse to vote are not expressing silence. They are screaming in the politician's ear: 'You do not represent me. This is not a process in which my voice matters. I do not believe you'." Wendy, Anarcha-Feminist, New York.



That mark on the ballot paper means "yes" it is the consent given to the electoral process by virtue of participating. No wonder all these grubby candidates agree on one point: you should vote. They are like religious leaders who urge you to worship at the church of your choice. First and foremost, politicians want you to sanction the process by which they acquire power and money - because without that sanction, they have no legitimacy.

The expression "Don't vote, it only encourages the bastards," connects on some level with the idea of making a statement through consciously not voting - a sense of disgust or disillusionment with the system makes them shy away from participating in it.

Whether vocalized or transferred into action, non-voting is a gauge of how deeply alienated people have become from the political establishment. Sometimes, that disgust converts into protest through which people express a word that all politicians fear: 'NO.' Not just 'NO' to them but to the entire corrupted system.

It is commonly said, 'If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about the outcome.' The opposite is true. By playing the game, voters agree to the rules. Only those who don't play and withhold their consent have a right to complain about the outcome.

Voting is not an act of political freedom. It is an act of political conformity and those of us who

refuse to vote are not expressing silence. We are screaming in every politician's ear: 'You do not fucking-well represent me. This is not a process in which my voice matters. I do not believe you, you self-serving arsehole'.

These 'elected representatives', are just the same at local, national and European level, these 'bought and paid for' politicians are not interested in real grass-roots democracy, they are interested in power and they serve the narrow interests of self, obsolete political party, the state and the endless programme of capitalist growth. By virtue of participating, that mark on the ballot paper is consent given to that state and a corrupt electoral process. No wonder all these grubby candidates agree on one point: you should yote and if 'you don't vote, you can't complain' - they need you to sanction the process by which they acquire power and money because without that sanction, the system has no legitimacy.

All states are structured as hierarchies of control and privilege – structures that centralise more and more power in fewer and fewer individuals as you go up the chain of command. This very structure is contradictory and opposed, in form and content, to a democratic, emancipatory working class project. Once a party is involved in the selfsustaining state machinery, its leaders are drawn into the day-to-day necessities of the interests of competing parties and politicians.

'Every Election Year Is Awful, But This Year...This Year Is Hell'

By Emily, Anarchist, Western Montana.

'Every election year is awful, but this year... this year is hell' goes the constant refrain back and forth between comrades as we scroll and whiplash our way from whining attacks by vote-scolding liberals to the tattered dreams of democratic party capture by the social democrats and party power Marxists in our respective orbits.

It's not just, as the old song says "the choice between cancer and polio" but the particular kind of disgust that can only be aroused by finger wagging peace police trying to lecture anarchists about the dangers of fascism, while insisting that we must lie in the graves the ruling class has compelled us to dig for ourselves and never dare to look up at the sky, let alone dream of breaking down the cemetery gates. If there is any sliver of truth to the idea of American exceptionalism, it is that Americans who are not leftists (or, to give them their due, comical neofeudalist reactionaries being wheeled out of state houses on office chairs, having gone afield to assert the inalienable right of capital to passively murder the working class without even modest fiduciary penalties*) have a peculiar relationship with the state.

Civic religion has been carefully nurtured from the post civil war era right through the red scare in the USA, and it reached something of an apotheosis as neo-liberalism took the helm of the death machine. The state has all the terror and grandeur of the medieval church, but o glory! we can now vote for god. This, in conjunction with what David Harvey has coined 'capitalist time-space compression' but which I myself think of as the gaping memory hole wherein material history vanishes forever, replaced by frangible nostalgic impressions of commodities and cultural productions refracted through sedimentary layers of tragedy, has led us to our current juncture.

There's no need to list the injustices that are the background static of life in the USA, but there's a kind of dream logic in watching the largest mass mobilization against state violence to ever occur in the long, bloody history of this country, only to hear the nervous refrain of the Hamilton crowd repeating "Vote!" like an invocation that will ward off the red skies and the black winds of change. I couldn't begin to accurately predict the results of the Biden v Trump election, except to say that there is no good outcome. There's not even really a least-worst outcome-- a return to eminently polite technocratic warmongering is just as catastrophic as the nationalistic clown show currently in power. Of course liberals find Trump as distasteful as someone taking a shit in the cathedral nave, but suggest that we ought to blow the whole thing down and they get that witch trial gleam in their eyes. The future of electoral politics will not be functionally dissimilar to the past, I suspect, but there may well be a capitalist recuperation of leftist ideas (which we are seeing across media already), such that an ostensibly left caucus takes permanent control of the democratic party and lulls a significant portion of the people who even care about electoral politics into deeper complacency.

Meanwhile, the non-voters who are quite aware that they may as well piss into the wind as vote will carry on, at least until material conditions no longer allow for carrying on. Perhaps we'll see a lurch away form the two party system in a last-ditch effort to placate the fractious masses, or perhaps the conservatives will finally attempt to install a king only to be devoured by their own ravening pack of homegrown fascists.

Whatever the case, a sea change has occurred that the ruling class is terrified of, and which, as an anarchist I can only watch with ill-advised optimism. The electoral spectacle is failing to seize the energy of the streets, and where the carrot fails, the stick fails even more. For anarchists, the struggle carries on. We agitate, educate, organize and carry on (now is a good time to join the IWW). The only way out is through.

*See the recent case of Ammon Bundy and company in the Idaho statehouse for maximal amusement



"ANARCHISTS KNOW THAT A LONG PERIOD OF EDUCATION MUST PRECEDE ANY GREAT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOCIETY, HENCE THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IN VOTE BEGGING, NOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, BUT RATHER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-THINKING INDIVIDUALS. WE LOOK AWAY FROM GOVERNMENT FOR RELIEF, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT FORCE INVADES THE PERSONAL LIBERTY OF MAN, SEIZES UPON THE NATURAL ELEMENTS AND INTERVENES BETWEEN MAN AND NATURAL LAWS; FROM THIS EXERCISE OF FORCE THROUGH GOVERNMENTS FLOWS NEARLY ALL THE MISERY, POVERTY, CRIME AND CONFUSION EXISTING IN SOCIETY. WE BELIEVE THE COMING CHANGE CAN ONLY COME THROUGH A REVOLUTION, BECAUSE THE POSSESSING CLASS WILL NOT ALLOW A PEACEFUL CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE; STILL WE ARE WILLING TO WORK FOR PEACE AT ANY PRICE, EXCEPT AT THE PRICE OF LIBERTY."

LUCY PARSONS, AMERICAN ANARCHIST.





BREAKING FREE FROM THE 'PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS' By Natascha de Los Ángeles, from the Anarchist Jurisdiction of NYC.

de bate /də bāt/

noun 1. a formal discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting or legislative assembly, in which opposing arguments are put forward. A non-debate/non-də 'bāt/ is where a controversial topic generates discussion, but neither side debates with each other in any meaningful way, instead choosing to remain in 'camps' on either side of the non-debate, where they will validate each others views. This leads to both camps becoming echo chambers that exist off of each other, and will continue to grow until both echo chambers have been disassembled, and dismantled.

I am once again witnessing the united states of Amerikkka devolve even further into irretrievable fuckery before my very eyes, this time it's in the form of the 'Presidential Debates'. We began the primaries this time around with a record number of candidates who were women and people of color, but ended up with two old, inept, white men. Of fuckin' course.

In one corner we have Joe Biden. A doddering, cop loving, wealthy white man who is most likely suffering from dementia. And in the other corner we have Donald Trump. A Covid-spreading, pussy-grabbing, mail order bride loving white man, who is most likely suffering from the dreaded plague that we latinos call 'niño lindo' syndrome. This should be amusing, and at this point how could it not be? It's only life, after all. Might as well have a laugh.

None of this comes as a surprise to anyone who grew up in the States and has managed to somehow retain use of at least half their fuckin' brain. We are, after all, a collection of colonies cheaply disguised as a nation that was stolen, built, and exploited to exhaustion all on the backs of kidnapped Africans, first nations people, women, and immigrants from around the globe.

What is still surprising to me is how few of us see this and still insist on 'participating' in this sham we call a government. And by participating I mean casting a ballot every four years, and nothing else. Each election year we are hounded by masses of brainwashed, screeching people who demand that we get out and vote!! Even though there has never been anyone worth voting for and the system we are being manipulated to vote within has operations in place that can overturn the popular vote without explanation or consequence. What's the fuckin' point, you ask? There isn't one.

Religion used to be the opiate for these ignorant masses. These days the opiate is the illusion we are force fed, that voting can change it all when it obviously can not. It's the worst form of mental abuse that exists on this grand of a scale. It's the same straight up victim blaming type shit that has ensured rape kits in police departments go untested and that women are asked what we were wearing when we've been raped. If you don't like where the country is going it's because you didn't vote hard enough! It's fuckin nuts. I know.

As I watch boo-boo the fool allow himself to be interrupted ad-nauseam by agent orange who is no doubt wearing an adult diaper, I think to myself with a whiskey in my little paw, this is exactly where we deserve to be as a nation. We asked for this and we got it.

Despite this I still want better for all of us. Even the people in the south who vote against my best interests, who have somehow forgotten that their beloved Nascar was born of rednecks who souped-up their engines to outrun the law. The same people who manufactured and delivered illegal booze during prohibition. The same people who never talked to pigs. The same people who now deep throat the boots on their necks with prostitute like precision. I even want them to be free.

At the time I'm writing this, half of the staff of the White House has been infected with Covid. Since the staff of the White House is largely made up of elderly men with preexisting conditions I can only think that Covid may in fact be an unexpected friend. A microscopic guillotine that could in fact wipe out a lot of nasty little fuckers that don't deserve to be in the free world with the rest of us. Imagine that? Imagine being so fed up that I'm rooting for a fuckin' virus? But here I am. Welcome to the 2020's in Amerikkka - hold on motherfukkers, it's gonna be a bumpy ride.



Voting Anarchists: An Oxymoron or What?

From the Boston Anarchist Drinking Brigade, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While historically anarchists assiduously avoided any involvement with electoral politics, in more recent times, some anarchists have advocated voting. The arguments these voting anarchists put forward are generally the same as those put forward by other leftists who are unable or unwilling to completely sever their connection to the political process. They argue that voting for their candidate, usually described as a lesser evil, is some sort of self-defense against the more conservative candidate, or is merely better than "apathy," as some describe abstention from voting. While one could argue against voting simply because it rarely, if ever, accomplishes any of the goals its advocates claim it can, there is a more fundamental reason for anarchists to oppose voting: voting in government elections is an inherently authoritarian activity, and authoritarian means never yield libertarian results.

The primary reason why anti-statists should not vote, and in fact should oppose voting, is that the very act of voting is an attempt on the part of voters to delegate to another a power that they could not justly possess themselves. Government is based on coercion. While states of various sorts provide some services and benefits to residents of their iurisdictions, institution the of government also utilizes cops, courts, the military, etc, to coercively interfere in the lives of its subjects. Anarchists argue that no one, whether in or out of government should have such power. If this is true, anarchists, who oppose political power and coercion of any sort, cannot consistently advocate voting. Individuals should not have the authority to coerce others, and therefore they should not put themselves in a position to delegate such authority to third



parties, which is the essence of voting. While some argue that they vote only in self-defense, the consequence of their voting is that their candidate coerces others who choose not to participate in the process, and therefore this method of self-defense should be unacceptable to anarchists.

Besides being unethical for an antiauthoritarian in and itself. of participation in electoral politics serves to legitimize the whole political process and the existence of government. If people did not vote, the democratic theory of government would lose its legitimacy and politicians would have to justify their rule on the basis of something other than the alleged consent of the governed. This, hopefully, would make the true nature of the state more obvious to the governed. And such a revelation would have the potential to motivate people to challenge, evade, or ignore government interference and coercion.

Even if anarchists could ethically participate in voting, there is one major reason to boycott the process: any candidate anarchists help elect will implement interventionist policies and initiate coercive actions, the results of which will be incompatible with anarchist goals.

Non-voting on the part of anarchists is not a sign of apathy. On the contrary, it is a sign of rejection of the political, i.e., coercive, means of dealing with problems and living our lives. If, as anarchists, we are serious about finding new ways of living and interacting, it would behoove us to stay out of the swamp of electoral politics and maintain our traditional opposition to involvement with electoral politics in any form.

US Politics = No Change By Susan, Anarchist, banks of the Mississippi River, Tennessee.

See the change. Be the change. Vote for change. Believe! Be my friend. Help me win, and you will be deceived. No one suspects no difference between the left or right. Unimportant issues distract and make us fight. No change, that's our change now!

No matter who holds power in their greedy, selfish hands, They will never do a thing for the small or common man. There is no better place for the world to strive to be As long as those who serve us cut our throats and make us bleed. No Change, OUR Change for the Future!

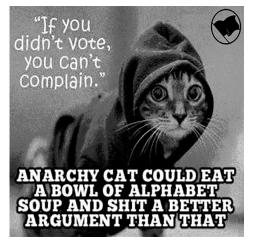
In US politics, campaigns for office never end, There are always photo ops to be taken advantage of and a constant stream of political posturing by incumbents and new wanna-be's competing for the stage in US media. However, every 2 and 4 years, the ooze of manure increases as candidates prepare for the circus we call our national elections. The grand shitshow occurs every 4 years during presidential and congressional elections. Indoctrinated voters are whipped into a frenzy. looking to upset the balance of power in Congress by electing members of "their party" who will save us from ruin that supposedly is caused by the "other party". The time has come when voters will soon elect their ruling-class-vetted saviors and perhaps replace some of the current criminals with new criminals, new faces, and the same old intent - to serve their ruling class corporate owners.

The US political system is a sham and its democracy is an illusion. The president, congress, and the courts are products of a constitution that was written expressly to block democracy; they're products of the propaganda system (controlled by the rich) utilized to control public opinion and limit the human imagination. When the US was first established, the only people who could vote were white men 21 years

of age and older who owned property, yet the US presented itself as a democracy in which all men were created equal. Currently, the US is a plutocratic oligarchy, a corporate dictatorship in which the desires of the wealthy and their corporations take precedence over the needs of the people, yet it still maintains it's a democracy.

We have a Congress made up of over 50% millionaires and an orange billionaire reality tv star as President who is a pathological liar and braggart and, hopefully, won't be reelected, not that his replacement will be better, just less of an embarrassment. The biggest lie ever is that we are participants in a system of democracy. We are servants of the plutocrats, the kleptocrats. We are wage slaves trapped in paycheck prisons. Only 49% - 55% of the voting-age public votes, and it's mind-boggling they think rich people will serve their interests. Such is the effect of cradle-to-grave indoctrination in the faux democracy of the crumbling US empire.

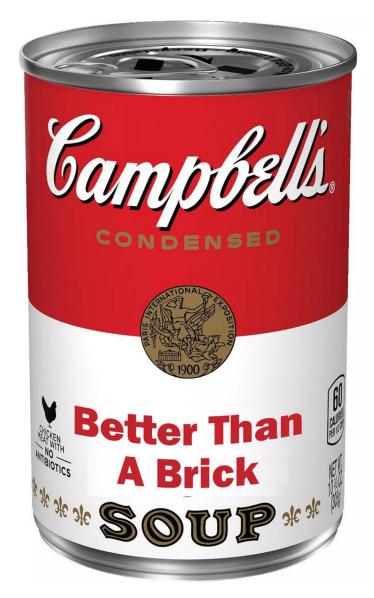
The people are the urinals that the wealthy soil and use. Flushed down their silver sewers, we're gladly their refuse. No matter if you vote, your fate will never change Because the ones you vote for merely flush you down the drain.





"Men and women ... do you not realise that the State is the worst enemy you have? It is a machine that crushes you in order to sustain the ruling class, your masters. Like naïve children you put your trust in your political leaders. You make it possible for them to creep into your confidence, only to have them betray you to the first bidder. But even where there is no direct betrayal, the labour politicians make common cause with your enemies to keep you in leash, to prevent your direct action. The State is the pillar of capitalism, and it is ridiculous to expect any redress from it." Emma Goldman

21st August 1893, Emma Goldman led a march to Union Square, New York, where, speaking in German and English, she stated her belief that workers have a right to take bread if they are hungry, and to demonstrate their needs "before the palaces of the rich"; she addressed a crowd of 3,000. Goldman's speech was characterised by the press as "incendiary" and, just over a week later, cited as the reason for her arrest.



"ARE YOU A BOY OR A GIRL?" *I'M AN ANTI-FASCIST...* "NO, BUT WHAT'S IN YOUR PANTS?? *Soup for my family...*

ELECTORAL POLITICS - IT'S THAT DAMNED TIME AGAIN By Scott, Anarchist, Portland.

That daunting time where every four years we're told how important and imperative it is we all get out and vote. Whether in person or by mail we'll repeat the pattern of "choosing the lesser of two evils". Millions will tune in and witness the diatribes of vitriol take precedence over addressing real systemic issues. See that just wouldn't be in the best interest of the capitalist class. They have chosen their champions and the frightening reality is, one of them will win. As for the capitalist elite, they win either way.

For two hundred plus years Americans have participated in the process of electoral politics, many of which holding expectations and hopes of bettering their situation. More times than not, it's produced the opposite, unless your a member of the capitalist class. Some would argue that it has produced some good, I mean yes in certain aspects it's gotten a bone thrown our way at times, but that's about it, crumbs from the table. If you're part of the working class/poor, voting should be viewed as a tactical disagreement instead of a means to an end. Attaching expectations to a candidate or party is where we go wrong. Either way, participating in electoral politics has contributed to creating the Plutocracy and the oppression of the working class/poor that we suffer under today. Neoliberal policy ,trickle down economics, fabricated endless wars etc, are all products of failed electoral politics. Voting harder is not going to get us out of the current socio-economic conditions that we're living in. This past election has highlighted once again that the majorities voice (popular vote) doesn't mean very much and doesn't determine the outcome. The electoral college is just an unnecessary complication in the election process and discourages many voters.

Another glaring issue is that it's estimated 70% of the population in the US has no influence on public policy anyway, so it's worthless looking to the top down electoral process to save us. Politicians are merely puppets and a tool of the owning class. The party system is but an illusion of choice. As we've seen with Bernie Sanders past two bids, if a candidate doesn't fully align with serving the capitalist agenda, they're toast! This is by no means implying that Bernie was a capitalist's nightmare. He is a reformist and had no intention of abolishing, or even putting a dent into capitalism. The system would not allow it. We are in a time of immense societal vulnerability and these two 70 something's, are definitely not, the light at the end of the electoral tunnel. Real socioeconomic change will not come from voting in the right candidate, it will come from sustained, robust grass-roots movements, autonomous zones and other forms of organizational/mobilization efforts. If the recent uprisings have taught us anything, it's that it is up to us and there just aren't enough police or politicians to stand in our way if we really want change.

So here we are once again, faced with two candidates that are symbolic of everything that's wrong with American electoral politics. Neither candidate is what you might call 'a paragon of virtue', but yet one is supposedly the "lesser of two evils". Neither one would be my 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th choice - but the sad fact is one will win and these are the choices whether we like it or not. I personally, would encourage people to hold their noses and vote – but with very low expectations.

Donald Trump is clearly an economic accelerationist who cares little for the well-being of ordinary people or the planet and the bumbling career-politician Biden, simply cannot offer the real fundamental change that is required – the overwhelming majority of citizens in the US never vote and given the two decrepit clowns/candidates before us, there has never been a better time for anarchists to tap into and join the voices of the unheard, via real, grass-roots, community politics.





Participation in parliamentary/electoral politics has affected the socialist labour movement like an insidious poison. It destroyed the belief in the necessity of constructive, grass-roots socialist activity and, worst of all, the impulse to self-help, by inoculating people with the ruinous delusion that salvation always comes from above. The peoples owe all political rights and privileges which we enjoy today in greater or lesser measure, not to the good will of their governments, but to their own strength. One need only study the history of the past three hundred years to understand by what relentless struggles every right has had to be wrested inch by inch from the despots.

Only through their own struggle for liberation, will ordinary people come to comprehend their true nature, which has been suppressed and distorted within institutional structures designed to assure obedience and subordination.

Rudolph Rocker

"Government exists but to maintain special privilege and property rights; it coerces the people into submission and therefore robs them of dignity, self-respect, and life."

Emma Goldman



In the most recent elections into the Duma, Putin's governing party Edinaya Rossiya (United Russia), once again, emerged victorious (to absolutely no anarchist's surprise). This has been the common theme in recent years. And contrary to opinions prevalent in the West, Alexei Navalniy (the 'anti-corruption figurehead') has always been far from posing a significant threat to Putin - he became even less capable of challenging the establishment, due to events like his being put on parole after the Kirovles affair where he was accused of embezzlement to the tune of 16 million rubles (like elsewhere in the world, there's big money in Russian politics and money buys power).

Nevertheless. Navalniv's impact with the younger generation has been impressive. He has certainly drawn a lot of attention towards corruption, fraudulent elections, police brutality, suppression of freedom of speech and related topics. However, his agenda has been vague at best and contradictory at worst, and has failed to draw the focus of the younger portion of the electorate towards the greatest warfare there is - class warfare. School textbooks are now infiltrated with all kinds of pro-capitalist revisionism, and the government sponsors things like the Yeltsin Centre, which lauds Yeltsin's supposed achievements without ever mentioning how many people died due to his policies. I cannot help but feel sympathy for the younger generation of the opposition, because I, too, want widespread poverty, police brutality and LGBT discrimination to stop, but these struggles cannot ever be vanguished if we do not uphold the class struggle. Sadly, the Russian Left - especially the pro-USSR "tankies" are heavily bigoted, and hardly make young oppositioners feel welcome. By tolerating homophobic stereotypes, vitriol and aggression towards queer teens or even just anybody who looks "strange" and dresses "too brightly", the Russian organised Communist Left has greatly betrayed young oppositioners.

Navalniy has made a point to support the trade Union movement in Russia - but even that, as he recently said in his Spiegel interview, he has done only because he thought "all the oppositioners must unite, nationalists, communists, all!" (??). Indeed, one would be forgiven for not being able, sometimes, to distinguish the opposition candidates to power from the current establishment. Navalniy, for one, has had a very questionable history with nationalist remarks and demonstrations. The Spiegel journalist to have done so, in fact - to ask Navalniy to comment on his ousting from the Social Democratic party Yabloko for participating in the Russian March (a gathering of nationalists). But why did he mention nothing of Navalniy drinking "first toast - to the Holocaust" some years ago? Why was there no mention of Navalniy's denigrating of Armenians with slurs? Nothing whatsoever about his participation in agitation videos which advocated for the deportation of Central Asian migrants to avoid the rise of fascist sentiments?

The liberals kept trying to convince the electorate that anything, ANYONE, is better than Putin. However, the ungrateful plebs just wouldn't chew that cud - and rightly so. The Russian working class, far from being a homogenous mass of pro-Putin, ultra-conservative, liberal 'Vatniks' (those who see no wrong in the Motherland), see things exactly for what they are. It is clear to them that Navalniy and other right-leaning liberals will put anybody who goes against them behind bars - much like the current establishment does. It is clear to them that Navalniy and co will do as much stealing as Putin and his criminal oligarch friends. When some or other Russian liberal laments to me that people don't support Navalny ass much as they "should", I can't help but feel immense pride, for I am myself greatly wary of him.

When it comes to the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, they pander heavily to Edinaya Rossiya (making allowances for Putin's KGB/Soviet history) and do basically nothing apart from getting involved in a couple of local projects like playgrounds which is okay I guess LMAO...

Russia certainly does interfere in elections of other governments, and receives support from many other authoritarian governments around the world, including China. Aside from the interference in the US 2016 presidential elections, Putin's links with the far-right German party, AfD, are also notable. Russia Today, an outlet sponsored by the Kremlin, traffics in hoaxes and poorly sourced fear-mongering stories with racist tropes about refugees in Europe and black Americans - two ideas which the AfD have risen to prominence upon. Many "Russian troll bot" accounts had also been shown to weaponise anti-black myths during the 2016 presidential election in order to sway the election. Furthermore, an AfD politician came to Moscow to act as an election monitor during the constitutional referendum in the summer. The links between AfD and ER and big, dirty money have not yet been fully exposed, but they are there - hiding in plain, untouchable sight.

catharsis

/kəˈθɑːsɪs/ noun

- 1. the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions. "revolution is a means of catharsis for them"
- 2. RARE MEDICINE purgation.

PANDEMIC AS CATALYST AND CATHARSIS? Sonia, Education/Health Worker, anarchist, Motmakt, Norway



Another farce of an election – this time in the mighty U.S.A. The 'quality' of the candidates means that the option of 'none of the above' has never been more clearly illustrated.

Following Trump's brush with the virus, in a great capitalistic style, he had the best medical treatment that dollars could buy - while over 200.000 American citizens have already died due to lack of access to medical follow-up. This huge and obscene example of class war has surely made a difference in the way people think about a system that is built on stark inequalities. Trump's pathological narcissism and his way of weaponising the pandemic has meant that the most oppressed and discriminated against working class communities, have born the brunt of the disease. But something appears to be happening deep in the soul of that country, who's constitution was written from revolutionary, idealistic standpoints and people are taking to the streets.

This will not be a regular election, and we can just hope that the increasing grass-roots movements will continue to take direct action, to begin to deconstruct the corporate and corrupt political system that has evolved. If there is to be change, then people must begin to stop playing these electoral games and show no mercy nor compassion with the capitalist elites. Trump and their followers are willing to let people die, and even worse, they are willing to start street wars, supported by supremacist and fascist groups. We know that the political class, will not give their power away lightly, but we also know that there are many out there who absolutely need to liberate themselves. As the great American anarchist, Lucy Parsons said: "We believe the coming change can only come through a revolution, because the possessing class will not

allow a peaceful change to take place; still we are willing to work for peace at any price, except at the price of liberty."

The undignified attempts to condemn anarchists have largely backfired and thriving direct action and mutual aid groups have flourished - working in communities on a daily basis to establish new foundations in society. In these circumstances of undistinguishable chaos, we must show our solidarity and collective care towards each other. It is from chaos we can rebuild the societies that are already breathing in the shadows.

All power to the people of the U.S. Your freedom will be taken back in the streets and in the yards. Burn the ballots, because in the crumbling roar of fascism, new beginnings are being born.

IN THE MEDIA



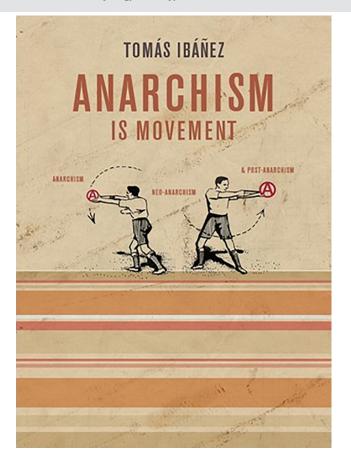
The Impetuous Resurgence of Anarchism in the Beginning of the 21st Century...

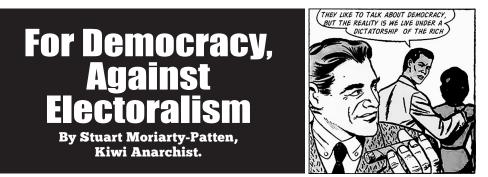
"Beneath the incredulous gaze of those who had locked it in the dungeons of history and to the surprise of many, anarchism has been experiencing an impressive increase in momentum since the beginning of the 21st century that has manifested itself in various regions of the globe."

An accessible and inspirational way to get your head round 'Neo-Anarchism', 'Post-Anarchism' and a look at why there's a global resurgence/renewal of our movement - Anarchism is Movement by Tomás Ibáñez.

Direct Action, Mutual-Aid, Solidarity - more than ever before, these words have resonance.

Anarchism is Movement at the Anarchist Library: https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/tomas-ibanez-anarchism-is-movement





As an anarchist I won't be voting in any election, and these are my reasons.

Electoralism ensures that everything is seen in terms of state intervention and following the decisions of the leaders, which has always proved deadly to encouraging a spirit of self-management and self-help — the very keys to creating real change in a society.

Politics shouldn't be a specialised activity in the hands of so-called experts (ie politicians) but should instead lie in the hands of those directly affected by it in the process of participation, direct action and self-management. Those that channel any "political" conclusions into electoral politics distort discussions into only what is possible within the current system.

I know I will get told that "If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about the outcome", but I consider the opposite to be true. It is those who have voted, agreed to the rules, and agreed to be governed by the winners who can't complain. Those who don't participate have a right to complain about the outcome more than anyone else.

We get told that voting does change things, but I deny that. Voting attempts to provide the population with the illusion of change while in reality it reinforces the current system. A policy here and there may change, the faces may change, but the system of a wealthy minority ruling a poorer majority remains.

Before going any further, it is important to clarify that I am for democracy. What I am against is a system that allows for us to tick a box every few years for candidates that are selected for us, and policies that are chosen for us, which allows whoever received the most Xs to make decisions that affect our lives in all ways.

Much of our so-called "democracy" is bogus and

undemocratic, as many of the hundreds of thousands of people who don't vote understand. Even many who do vote do so simply against the other candidate. They vote for what they perceive as those who will do the least harm, but are inevitably disappointed as they get to face the same problems under their chosen leaders.

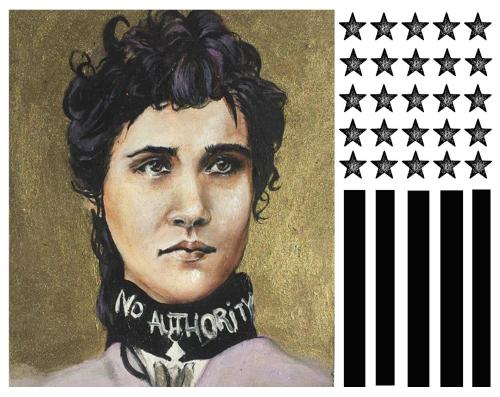
Before going to cast your vote remember that there is a real limit to what governments can do anyway — winning an election is not taking power. The real decision-making takes place in the boardrooms of corporations, not in Parliament. Political parties, even in a majority government, can only do what capitalism allows them to. MPs are little more than the committee for managing the affairs of capitalism.

Voting is a lottery, your preferred candidate may not get elected, and all the time and energy put into supporting them is wasted. Also, voting is only possible when election time comes around. Relying on electoralism means you can only address whatever topics are current in the political agendas of candidates. If we ignore this system and make things happen for ourselves you can be sure that your work will offer some kind of results, and the experience you gain, the lessons learnt, cannot be taken away from you.

By making the principled choice not to participate in the election, I am using the opportunity to raise the question of the acceptance of the status quo, and to say that there are better, more meaningful ways to achieve a fairer, freer, more meaningful life – and raise the option of choosing to rule ourselves, to organise with others in our workplaces and communities to fight for something you cannot vote for: a new society, a society that works for everyone, and not just an elite few.

"ANARCHISM, TO ME, MEANS NOT ONLY THE DENIAL OF AUTHORITY, NOT ONLY A NEW ECONOMY, BUT A REVISION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY. IT MEANS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AS WELL AS THE ASSERTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IT MEANS SELF-RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOT LEADER-WORSHIP."

VOLTAIRINE DE CLEYRE, American Anarchist.



DEBATING SOCIETIES AND POSTURING, OR GRASS-ROOTS/ COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AND STREET POLITICS? By Martin Wright, The Whitechapel Anarchist.

The Presidential Election took (yet another) bizarre turn with what could prove the ultimate election ploy, with Coronavirus getting a dose of Trump - the latter, possibly profiting from the relationship. The UK establishment and it's 'owned' media, have always held American elections at arms length and with a degree of disdain. They don't need all the ballyhoo, the bunkum, the showmanship and the razzamatazz to hold onto what is 'rightfully theirs' - they do it quietly and knowingly, with handshakes and nods in the shadowy corridors and cigar-smoke drawing-rooms of power.

Both Conservative and Labour politicians though, have proven themselves time and time again, to be willing poolles to whoever has their finger on the button in Washington – they might hold their noses sometimes, but always follow the money. The most obvious and blood-stained example in recent times, being the warcriminal Tony Blair.

Sections of the UK middle-class also have an in-built recoil mechanism at much of what has emerged from the USA, the most dynamic of the capitalist nations. Much of this attitude is driven by old-fashioned snobbery, of which the middle-classes, in all of it's manifestations, has an overwhelming abundance of – much of it so arcane, it remains a mystery to us plebs, on a par with rocket-science. Maybe this has trickled down from our true-blue aristocratic class, which has been in place and lording over us since the Norman Conquest, and have never truly forgiven the Americans for having a revolution and becoming a republic – rebelling, casting the monarchy aside and creating their own idealistic, but highly flawed system of democracy.

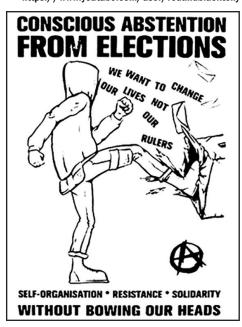
The liberals and lefties of the UK, throw their hands up in horror that Americans have the constitutional right to bear arms for instance – though it's abundantly and historically obvious, that a people armed is dangerous to order and to the state (particularly if they are a people united). In the UK, we prefer the police, the army and drug-dealers to be the only ones with automatic weapons on our streets.

And when the straw-man Trump visits our feudal shores, the 'left' come out en-masse to protest, in the tame and neutered manner of a repressed and frustrated middleclass – the same Waitrose Warriors were picnicking with cleverly worded placards, on the Remain demonstrations. A sublimated cry, over values that the Americans discarded over 200 years, a deep-seated fear of real fundamental change. The oaf Trump? Having tea with the Queen? The very idea!!

But unlike here, where the majority still grovel before the monarchy, where an arrogant, distant, useless middle-class, have largely ignored 20 fuckin' years of brutal austerity, gentrification and social cleansing which has obliterated many working class communities, in the US, things are actually happening on the streets, big-style.

There are riots, uprisings, near insurrections, strong, diverse anti-police/anti-politician movements and groups are emerging. This is a serious questioning of the system by a substantial part of the population (there are 61 million unemployed with insecure housing and no proper health-care), not only oppressed working class black communities, but all manner of disenfranchised. alienated. impoverished. malcontents, have been taking to the streets - despite federal and state opposition and military-grade weaponry. Over the past few months, parts of America have resembled a war-zone. The burgeoning anarchist movement, as nicely advertised by the orange one, is experiencing a rebirth, seemingly casting off the deadweight of the middle-class fire-blanketeers and identitarians, in favour of actual, grass-roots organising in their own neighbourhoods and communities.

Martin is also a presenter at Red & Black TV – for more of his anarchist philosophy, go to: https://www.youtube.com/user/redandblacktelly



Direct Action & Not Voting Gets The Goods

DIRECT ACTION "means that the working class, in constant rebellion against the existing state of affairs, expects nothing from outside people, powers or forces, but rather creates its own conditions of struggle and looks to itself for its means of action." ~ Emile Pouget

Simply, direct action involves taking action for ourselves, tackling а problem directly without appealing to any authority to act on our behalf. It involves finding solutions and bringing about desired changes through our own self-organised activity. "Direct action gets the goods", the saying goes. It's effective because it cannot so easily be controlled, recuperated, or ignored. Being independent of any bureaucratic procedures or regulations, direct action can remain responsive to the needs and desires of those involved, adaptive to specific situations, and flexible to varying conditions. It is guided by our first-hand knowledge and not confined by orders from above.

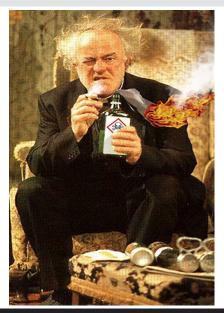
Direct action might be an individual or mass phenomenon, it could be peaceful or forceful; examples include the workplace strike, rent strike, boycott, occupation, blockade, sabotage, and much more.

Through direct action we escape the officially confines of sanctioned channels for grievance and reform, such as electoralism, that are designed to defang or misdirect our potential strength. By choosing how to use our individual and collective capacity ourselves we take away from the power that corporations and governments have over us. In this way, direct action can be empowering: we learn to manage our own lives at the same time as we rediscover and assert our individuality. This kind of experience is fertile soil in which to increase our capacity for self-organisation, solidarity and free initiative. This personal and social transformation disrupts the normal functioning of hierarchies, which depend on the obedience passivity and of subordinates. Instead, we learn to combine our efforts - to organise freely without submitting to any authority.

From The Liverpool Anarchists.



The Father Jack Hackett Column. Front-line revolutionary anarchist, Former bank-robber and ranter a.k.a. Jack Hackett, gives us his sermon.



Shit, Pricks, Motherfuckers, Cunts, Dickwads and Fucknoses.

These are a few of the words that spring to Father Jacks mind when he sees the four yearly cycle otherwise know as the elections, roll into town. The choice presented to you is between an orange wrinkly misogynist racist turd which even Satan himself would deny defecating from hells anus. Trump is the type of fuckwit one could imagine standing at the gates of hell trying to selling fire extinguishers. In the other corner we have the poster child for the walking dead. Old Joe Biden the paedophile and walking corpse, a man who if he stood next to a two week old cadaver, would make the cadaver look as fit as a butchers dog. He reeks of the stench and the decay of those decrepit politicians who have spent a lifetime making shady deals and compromises with other people's lives. Neither of these walking bags of pus and piss could lie straight in a bed. Don't vote it changes nothing except makes you complicit in the ongoing horror show of war, famine and climate destruction. Voting is the equivalent of intellectual wanking, momentarily gratifying but ultimately, deeply unsatisfying. Polling booth and confessional box are very similar: you enter: do the business: get absolution: leave and start all over again with a clear conscience. Both institutions are part of the great fraud. After watching the Trump/Biden TV debate between two decrepit diseased ancient perverts, you realise that your voting choice is on a par with going to a restaurant and being offered a choice between a roasted dog turd or a plate of fried cat shit. No doubt you would say Fuck Off! Well fuck this for a sham shit-show. Don't be verbally medicated. Get you mind (and arse) off the couch.

Take to the streets for Health and Anarchy!!

Parkour For Future Actions By Ezio aged 8.

My Anarcho-Dudes: Ezio is back! How is my Bruddas doing? Today is a good day - its parkour training day for junior anarchists who might need those moves one day. I will be doing Cats, Cats up and precision jumping from roof to roof. This training is to prepare me for future actions. You need grippy shoes for parkour. Some people at my parkour camp are home schooled. I would like to be home schooled, cos then I could do what I want, when I want and at the time I want. Daily routine at school is Maths and English. The best new bit about school is that every Thurs and Friday I can wear my own clothes. NO UNIFORM .. I wear black hoodie, black trousers with no white symbols and black grippy shoes. Black-Bloc Style..Black needs to come back. Apparently, word in the playground is that there may be another lock down...Yippee. No school, more me time. Three simple words to describe Boris and Trump (and all other politicians) - stupid, annoying and idiotic. Hope both Trump and Biden gets Corona and the votes of the election are the same so they don't know who to choose.

To my brothers and sisters of D.I.Y crew, will see you next time...Don't believe the Hype!!



Anarchist Film Group 🛧 (AFG)

https://www.facebook.com/groups/anarchistfilmgroup

The Anarchist Film Group is a platform for anarchist and related film-works - documentary, TV, feature-film, short clips and domestic/ amateur footage, both historic and contemporary. The group is growing rapidly and is open to anyone who is interested in the subject and to those who want to develop a massive, outward-looking and inclusive anarchist movement.

AFG on Instagram: https://instagram.com/anarchist.films

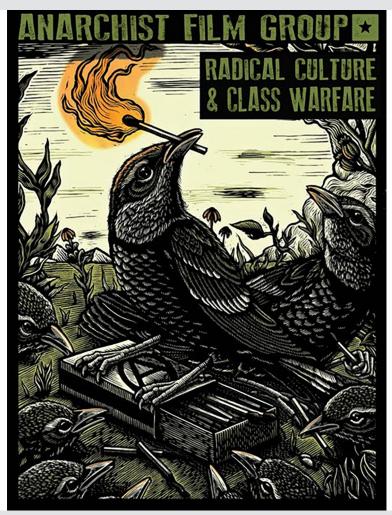


Illustration by comrade Mazatl, graphic artist/illustrator and graffiti artist who lives in Mexico City. He's a member of Justseeds Artists' Cooperative and APC (The Animal Power Crew): https://justseeds.org/artist/mazatl/ Films on elections and dirty politicians (there are no clean ones), as selected by the Cinema Workers Collective London - most of whom are on massively reduced hours or have been made redundant. But we are of course, all in this shit together!! We need these cinemas as community facilities, run by the people that staff them - we do not need shareholders, overpaid corporate CEOs, bosses or bureaucrats. We definitely don't need any more fukkin churches:

Star Wars Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace. 1999. 2h 16m. Director George Lucas.The election of Palpatine as Supreme Chancellor.

Election. 1999. 103mins. Director, Alexander Payne. Election transcended its roots as the sharply observed tale of a high-school president contest, to become an allegory for American politics, in which the sharp-elbowed battle the stupid and manipulated.

The Purge: Election Year. 2016. 109mins. Director, James DeMonaco. Former Police Sergeant Barnes becomes head of security for Senator Charlie Roan, a Presidential candidate targeted for death on Purge night.

Betty Boop for President. 1932. In the mire of the Great Depression, Betty Boop discloses a disbelief in the effectiveness of the ruling class and a desire for simple entertainment as an antidote to rhetoric.

Napoleon Dynamite. 2004. 96mins. Director, Jared Hess. A listless and alienated teenager decides to help his new friend win the class presidency in their small western high school.

All the President's Men. 1976. 138mins. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Richard Nixon's resignation.

Idiocracy. 2006. 84mins. Director, Mike Judge. Writer Etan Cohen expressed opinions that the film's predictions were converging on accuracy. Comparisons have been made between the film and Trump's presidency in areas such as science, business, entertainment, environment, healthcare, law enforcement, and politics. The Great Dictator. 1940. 125mins. Written, directed, produced, scored by, and starring British comedian Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin's film advanced a stirring condemnation of Hitler, Mussolini, fascism, anti-Semitism and the Nazis.

All the King's Men. 1949. 110mins. American film-noir directed by Robert Rossen. The plot focuses on the rise and fall of the ambitious and ruthless politician, Willie Stark (Crawford) in the American South.

Ballot Box Bunny. 1951. Yosemite Sam is running for mayor of a small town, offering such empty promises as: "There's enough fresh air and sunshine in this great country of ours for everybody – and I'll see to it, that you'll get your share!".Bugs is underneath the podium when Sam makes a pledge "to rid this country of every last rabbit". He decides to run against him.

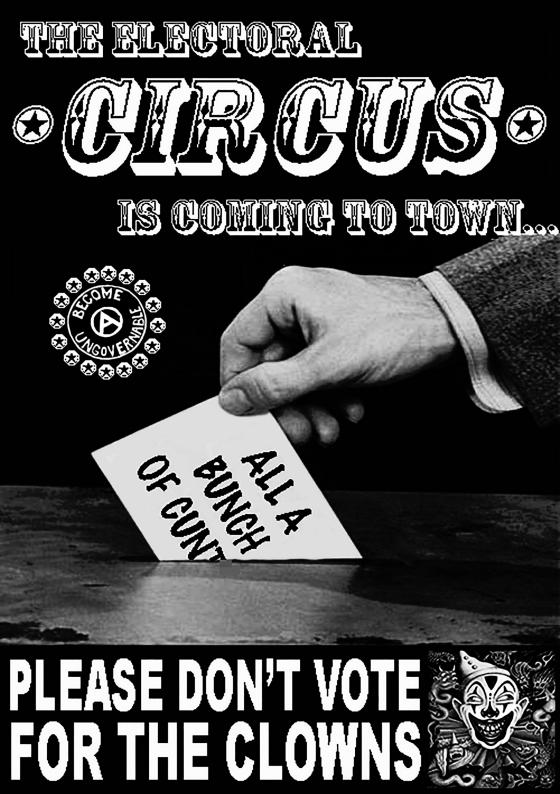
The Candidate (El reino). 2018. 132mins. Director, Rodrigo Sorogoyen. A Spanish politician whose high-class lifestyle is based on nefarious and illegal business threatens to break his entire party after a newspaper expose him to the public eye.

Our Friends in the North. 1996. British TV drama that covers electoral, police and housing corruption from 1964 to 1995.

House of Cards. 2013 – 2018. This detailed study of corruption earned 33 Emmy nominations for its portrayal of Congressman Frank Underwood and his dark quest for power at any cost.

The Wire. 2002 – 2008. One of the greatest TV shows of all time, "The Wire" provided a glimpse into various Baltimore institutions and their relationship to law enforcement. Electoral power-plays and funding games means city hall does not come out smelling of roses.





BOOKSHOPS / SOCIAL CENTRES / RESOURCES

1in2 Club (Bradford): https://www.facebook.com/1in12/ 56a Infoshop (London): http://56a.org.uk/ Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh: http://autonomous.org.uk/ Bristol Anarchist Solidarity Easton (BASE): https://network23.org/kebele2/ Cowley Club (Brighton): https://cowley.club/ DIY Space for London: https://divspaceforlondon.org/ Freedom (London): https://freedompress.org.uk/ Housmans (London): http://www.housmans.com/ London Action Resource Centre: http://larc.space/ May Day Rooms (London): https://maydayrooms.org/ News From Nowhere (Liverpool): http://www.newsfromnowhere.org.uk/ Next to Nowhere (Liverpool): http://www.liverpoolsocialcentre.org/ Oxford Action Resource Centre: https://radar.squat.net/en/oxford/oxford-action-resource-centre Partisan (Manchester): https://www.facebook.com/partisancollective/ Star and Shadow (Newcastle): https://www.starandshadow.org.uk/ Sumac Centre (Nottingham): https://sumac.org.uk/ Sylvia's Corner (London): https://focuse15.org/sylvias-corner/ The Common House (London): https://www.commonhouse.org.uk/ The Field (London): http://thefieldnx.com/ Wharf Chambers (Leeds): http://www.wharfchambers.org/ Anarchist Film Group (AFG) https://www.facebook.com/groups/291682418494775/

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The Slow Burning Fuse - a populist reservoir of anarchist fun, philosophy and imagery:

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Dog Section Press: https://dogsection.org/