

How do you match up with Malatesta?

Do you think this is good introduction to anarchism and a good teaching tool? What did you find that was really good and what did you feel was lacking. How does Malatesta's explanation of anarchism match your own?

What other descriptions that you know do you consider better? How do you describe anarchism to a person who is totally unfamiliar? As a document from a century ago how does his description of anarchism hold up?

Chapter one:

Definitions of words. The confusion around the words anarchism and state. What do you think of abolition of government instead of abolition of the state?

The image of the bound person.

Do you think the metaphor of the bound person is a good way of describing how a person born into bondage might think that their bondage facilitates their living, that government is a necessary organ of social life?

Chapter two:

Such a good description of the failings of government.

Chapter three:

Survival of the fittest versus mutual aid.

The owning class makes the government its own gendarme.

The capitalist class demands the government should rise from its own ranks.

then he describes solidarity. Struggle versus mutual aid.

Is this a complete analysis? What does he leave out? Did you find it clear?

Chapter four:

How can people be shown that cooperation rather than subjugation is to their advantage?

P. 30 The inhabitant of Naples is as concerned about the improvement of the living conditions of the people inhabiting the banks of the Ganges from whence Cholera comes to them.....

If private property were abolished would government disappear?

Chapter five:

Do you buy Malatesta's argument that any government, even one with no private property, would be coopted by those who want power.

Chapter Six:

How can a society live without government?

Do not confuse the function of government with that of an administrator.

Malatesta says without oppressive government and with equal distribution of wealth the baser parts of human nature would recede. Do you think human nature would accept free society.

Chapter seven:

What will an anarchist society look like?

Malatesta says we don't know but by removing oppression and poverty from the social equation and educating people on anarchist principles they will naturally move towards solidarity and a way of organizing.

Anarchy as understood by anarchists is based on socialism.

Can people who are brought up as slaves make a free world?

Chapter eight:

Malatesta makes the argument that government is unnecessary for motivating people to act in their interests. If there were no teachers government could not create them.

Chapter nine:

Human progress is measured by the extent government power and private property are reduced.