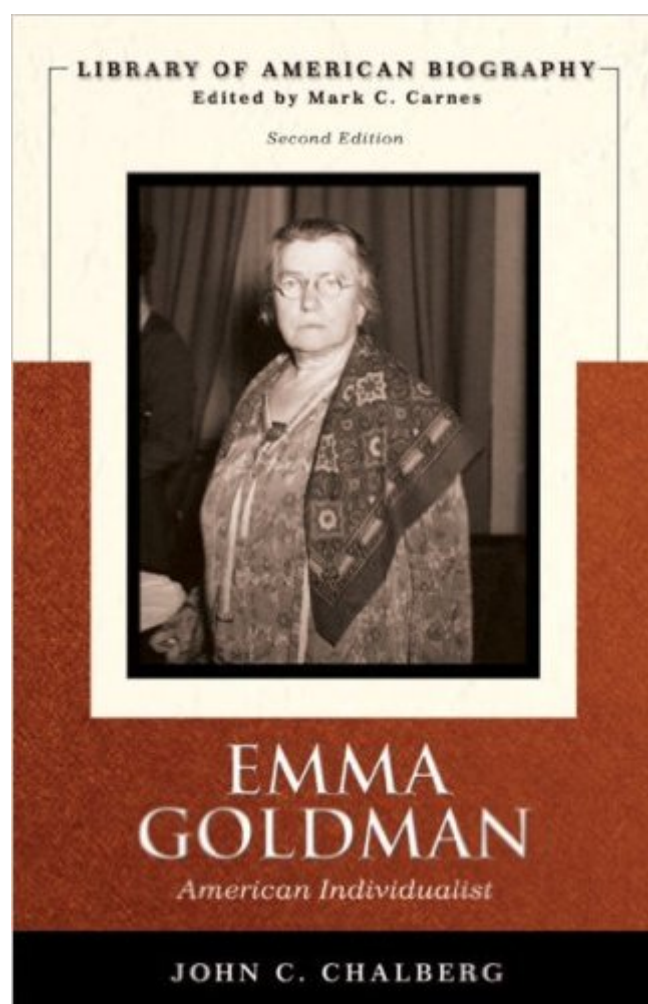


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# Emma Goldman: American Individualist (Library Of American Biography Series) (2nd Edition)



## Synopsis

One of the most colorful, controversial and radical figures in American history, Emma Goldman challenged the legitimacy of religion, government, and private property in the United States. Imprisoned, tried, and later deported for her beliefs, the Goldman story is a window through which students will see a better picture of the history of American radicalism, the history of civil liberties in America, and the history of American foreign policy. The titles in the Library of American Biography Series make ideal supplements for American History Survey courses or other courses in American history where figures in history are explored. Paperback, brief, and inexpensive, each interpretive biography in this series focuses on a figure whose actions and ideas significantly influenced the course of American history and national life. In addition, each biography relates the life of its subject to the broader themes and developments of the times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was mildly startled to come across this title and a bit taken aback when I saw this book appearing in this series intended for high schoolers. Back when I was a youth fifty years ago, all I remember we had was the rather simplified Landmark series on American history. As a long time student of U.S. political and economic history, especially the period of the oughts and teens of the twentieth century, I have seen several mentions of Emma Goldman in relation to the labor movement, socialism, and the Red revolution in Russia. It is astonishing to me that the right wing book burners and the vociferous "family values" crowd have not made a big fuss; they seem to believe that if persons

reads about organized labor and socialism, they will become rabble rousers and riot in the streets. This is analogous to the movement to curtail sex education for fear that if one reads about it one will be tempted to try it. Formulaic series such as this written following a template for length by definition cannot be comprehensive. Similarly the Osprey titles on military history and the Ballantine paperbacks "History of the Violent Century" serve a valid social purpose in satisfying a basic curiosity about a topic; the mildly curious would not read a definitive 500 pager about Goldman. Provided of course, that if such a work may displease both the radical right and the fringe wild left, proving it is as neutral in sticking to the facts and leaving opinion to other more weighty works which can cover the myriad intricacies of such a controversial person as was Goldman. Other famous and infamous labor movement characters of the times, such as Samuel Gompers and Joe Hill also need a popular work for the mildly curious.

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