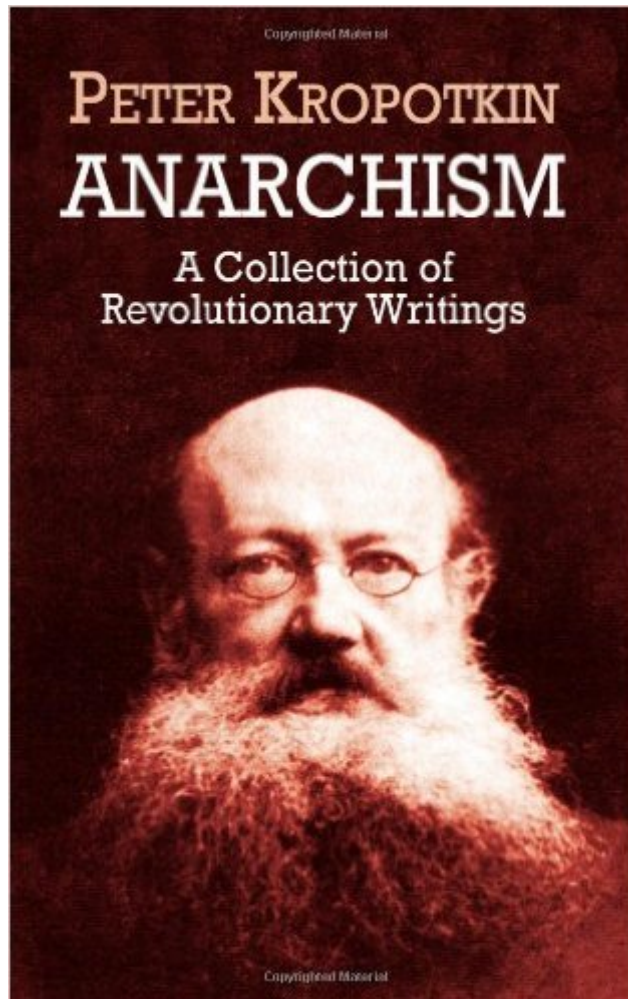


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Anarchism: A Collection Of Revolutionary Writings



Synopsis

One of the few members of the Russian aristocracy to become a revolutionary, Prince Peter Kropotkin (1842â1921) renounced his title at the age of 12. He later became one of the leading theorists of anarchism. Forced to flee his homeland in the 1870s to avoid arrest for his revolutionary activities against the czarist government, the noted geographer and social philosopher lived in exile, mainly in England, for the next 42 years of his life. During this period Kropotkin wrote a number of pamphlets on the practical and moral aspects of the anarchist movement. Allowed to return to Russia in 1917, he continued to write but remained vigorously opposed to the Bolsheviks and Marxist socialism. This collection contains a number of his important writings, including the brief but moving "Spirit of Revolt"; "Modern Science and Anarchism," an investigation of the scientific principles of revolutionary anarchism; "Law and Authority," an argument for social control through custom and education; "Prisons and Their Moral Influence on Prisoners," an unparalleled description of the evils of the prison system (which Kropotkin witnessed during his incarcerations); a note on the 1917 revolution and the Soviet government; and five other documents. Also reprinted is Kropotkin's article for the Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Anarchism," widely considered the best statement in English on the meaning, history, and aims of revolutionary anarchism. A valuable addition to the libraries of instructors and students of history and government, this modestly priced volume also will appeal to anyone interested in aspects of anarchist thought.

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Customer Reviews

Kropotkin is a class traitor to the bone. Born a prince, he spent the rest of his life trying to destroy the very system which he was blessed to be born in the good side. Kropotkin is not your typical leftist pamphleteer. His language is short and concise, and understandable by anyone. He led a revolutionary life. This book is a collection of writings by Kropotkin that deal with a wide range of topics that fall under the umbrella of freedom. Kropotkin eloquently puts forth the ideals of Anarchist Communism in simple, non-obtuse language where he lays out what Anarchist Communism, and maybe as importantly, what it isn't. In "The Spirit of Revolt", Kropotkin defends revolution, and notes that only social revolution is what will end the existing capitalist order. This is a response to the reformists and the critics of the anarchists who say that anarchism is too "idealist." Quite the opposite, Kropotkin knew full well to avoid utopian fantasies and believed firmly that the only way the working class can liberate itself is by doing it themselves in revolution. Even though his demeanor from his writings indicates a calm, if not lovable old sage (in contrast to many of the leftists of his day), Kropotkin does not deny the reality that revolution may or even has to be violent. Kropotkin was a full on realist. Even though I consider myself a solid leftist, I was somewhat reserved on the idea of getting rid of prisons entirely. I definitely oppose the prison system as it exists right now, but I was conflicted on the institution in general. Even though I know full well that prison does not a thing to end crime, there are some people who commit such heinous acts they should be put away. Peter Kropotkin, in short, straight up embarrassed me.

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