



# ANARCHISTS are the hard-nosed **REALISTS.**

People who have this fixation on some  
**IDEAL GOVERNMENT,**  
which isn't fundamentally just a  
**CRIMINAL GANG  
WITH FLAGS,**  
are the starry-eyed dreamers  
*without* a firm grasp on  
**REALITY.**

Brad Spangler

## AN ANARCHIST CRITIQUE OF BRISBANE'S G20 MEETING 2014 V.3

I define Anarchism as the ideal of dismantling social structures of domination; and creating new, direct democratic communities, based on mutual aid and individual freedom.

With this definition in mind, what is an anarchist critique of the G20 meeting coming to Brisbane 2014?

Well, we know the old statement "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely".

The purpose of any political party is to maintain or increase its own power over (i.e. domination of) the nation state. Control of the State means increased ability to achieve a personal or political agenda. Increase their votes, increase their influence, increase their control. Various systems of the liberal-democratic State attempt to mitigate this issue through processes of 'separation of powers'.

However the drive for domination is always there, because the corrupting influence of power is always there. The game then becomes to find ways and means around these 'checks and balances'. The ways to bend the rules can always be found. Hard won popular reforms can always be undone by the State.

The purpose of the Capitalist is to constantly accumulate greater private wealth. This then equates to greater Market Power. This process inevitably leads to domination, or manipulative control of the Market ... resulting in an entrenched Ruling Class that fears losing what they have gained.

Power and the resulting structures of domination can be thought of like a pie that everyone wants a piece of. Those that have the pie, drop different sized crumbs to keep the working class hungry and dependant. The anarchist says "Bugger that, we don't want a slice of the pie, we want the entire bakery; AND we will share it with everyone who needs it".

Most of the real decisions are made before the actual G20, at “Advisory Meetings” like the B20, which is the meeting of the representatives of our planet’s richest 20 corporations.

The purpose of G20 then, is to co-ordinate the management and development of International Capital by this planet’s wealthiest 20 nation states.

Various people will bang on about how the G20 is advancing a ‘neo-liberal/economic rationalist’ economic agenda. This is an over-simplistic statement that is missing the point, and it is also not entirely accurate.

Let’s remember firstly there is a Ruling Class, and this Ruling Class also has its own internal conflicts to resolve, and differences of agenda. The Ruling Class will use whatever economic theory best suits the goal of maintaining and expanding private control of power and capital.

The end goal is always the same ... to maintain the current system of private control of wealth and Capital, and to maintain Power. By any means necessary, be it deception, concession, inclusion or overt State violence.

## **THE REAL FOCUS OF G20**

More than anything, the G20 is all about the ‘Spectacle of Power’ ... or perhaps ‘The Theatre of Power’.

The G20 is an opportunity for the host State to show off its ability to repress local dissent, and protect Capital from the democratic tendencies of its local people.

The Queensland Government has a \$370 million dollar budget to protect the shop front windows of International Capital ... and to make sure the other Heads of State don’t get close to the ordinary people. The actual security costs now (Nov 2014) are estimated at \$400 million.

This budget includes paying the wages of 5000 police, including the 1500 cops imported from other Australian states and New Zealand, black hawk helicopters, spin doctors and snipers.

\$370 million is the cost of building a new public hospital. Or funding enough housing co-operatives to abolish homelessness, with change left-over for public schools.

Remember the Queensland government has recently (early 2014) sold the land of two, good quality, inner city public schools of Fortitude Valley and Spring Hill, to private property developers. They say (the Qld government) need the money to fix the budget.

They also say the G20 will boost the local economy by about \$100 million in spending. This number is not based on any modelling or factual analysis. It was plucked out of the air. Even so, it would make more financial sense to NOT host the G20, spend that \$400 million to pay of the debt, and keep the public schools open instead right?

Power and control is why our government has done this. It is a performance ... ‘The Spectacle’ ... ‘The Theatre’ ... to demonstrate to International Capital, that local State authorities have the capacity and willingness to repress any form of free, democratic resistance or dissent from the local population. Because this makes Queensland a safe place to invest in \*wink, wink, nudge, nudge\*.

It is also meant to spread a subtle form of fear in the local population; while at the same time spreading a confusion about the very nature of the meaning of “democracy”.

This is done via introducing concepts such as “legal protest” and “protester violence”, getting a permit for public assembly. Concepts in which civil disobedience is only tolerated by the Ruling Class when it is managed by the State. And don’t think ‘voting Labor’ would have made a difference, Labor has been voting with the N.L.P. on this one.

This way the Ruling Class can strip our public assets, and our labour, for as much profit as possible, with the least amount of public resistance.

## **ANARCHIST VIOLENCE AT G20?**

Every bully blames their victim for their violence or abuse.

Violence begins with domination. The State structure dominates our communities. The existence of almost every nation state is a story of war, violent conflict and colonialism. Police and armies are used to repress and subdue colonised or local populations. Lands stolen, resources exploited for private profit, people’s lives spent working for subsistence or debt.

Individuals repeat the violence they’ve learned, onto each other in our community ... to dominate or exploit another, just to survive in this system created by Capitalists.

The State says it will then protect us from this violence. And this way violence of the bully is used to maintain their own power. If community or protester violence doesn’t exist, they will invent it, or provoke it.

On the term ‘anarchist violence’, it is a Spectacle term. It is used by the Ruling Class to throw mud at that victim who might have the gall to stand up against their bullying – and disobey their orders.

The government doesn't want a population that feels strong and united enough to stand up in solidarity, stare them in the eye and say "No fucking more".

"Anarchist Violence" is a term also thrown around by various people with reformist agendas. In jargon terms, we now talk about 'Radical Liberalism', 'Socialism', 'The Greens' and reformist minor political parties, state funded NGO's (Non-Government Organisations), and most Trade Unions. They don't want to destroy the processes of State domination, but rather capture it or manipulate it, for their own agenda. They want a piece of the pie.

## THE METHODS OF SOCIAL REVOLUTION

The actual history of anarchist politics in Australia is one of non-violent blockades, education and agitation activities.

Educate, Agitate and Organise! It works. There have been many successes that have forced the State to concede. We just don't always need to wave a black flag (classic anarchist symbol) to win. We just need to tell the truth, refuse to co-operate, and support those around us who resist.

Next time you are enjoying the forests in Northern N.S.W. (like Protester Falls), or Fraser Island, remember they only exist because countless people blockaded their bulldozers until they gave up.

Non-violence does not mean being submissive and passive to the State. It means physically getting in the way to protect that which the State or Capitalism would destroy. Creating situations of resistance to the State, to publicly demonstrate where the real violence comes from. That it is their violence that is intrinsic to the very nature of the System.

This argument is an old one, one which Brisbane Anarchists in the past presented in the pamphlet "You Can't Blow Up a Social Relationship" in 1979. It was written in response to the "Sydney Hilton Bombings of 1978". A situation in which A.S.I.O., and N.S.W. Special Branch were facing the prospect of being shut-down as irrelevant state security organisations. A bomb went off in a bin, and then a bunch of vegetarian hippies in 'Aranda Marga' were made into the patsy for this first and only "terrorist bombing" in Australia at C.H.O.G.M. (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting).

You can download this work at <https://libcom.org/library/you-cant-blow-up-social-relationship>

Well placed Union strikes have forced Australian governments to back down on countless reactionary proposals in our history, and had forced higher living standards with shorter working hours. The decline in working class solidarity over the past 20 years, has resulted in a decline in working class standards of living. Longer hours, less pay, more expensive rent, more expensive public transport, privatised health care etc.

However worrying about your own individually perceived scarcity or poverty is also form of social control based on fear. Working class solidarity is how you beat them.

For example, the "Industrial Workers of the World" (IWW) were central in defeating conscription during World War One. Their ideas and techniques substantially influenced the great General Strike in Brisbane in 1912. They advocated One Big Union where the working class united knows no colour, nation or religion. Where the economy is control directly and democratically by the working class through direct democratic worker assemblies, with no political parties and no government.

Anarchist politics has always said that the 'means become the ends'. This says that how we organise today, will create the culture and social structures of the future. If we use violence now, we will create a violent future. Let's also be practical, you need to defend yourself against the violence of others, to protect what we have built.

To paraphrase Emma Goldman (a famous anarcho-feminist of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), the need to use violence is reduced by effective organising and public education. And this has been the core of Australian anarchist actions to resist the State for over a century.

The anarchist wants a new, direct-democratic system, a new future of mutual aid, equality, ecological balance and individual freedom. We must dismantle the old, while building the new. The G20 is just a Spectacle. The real fight is to change the structures that control our daily life.

The first step is to read and discuss. Learn about the actions and ideas of anarchists that existed in the past. Look for it because that history is rich, dynamic (often oral) and not taught in schools. Mainstream media will only tell you about what to consume (advertising) and slander anything that challenges their system.

## IN SOLIDARITY AND LIBERTY

written by some B.A.S.T.A.R.D.

*a Brisbane Anarchist Spanking The Arse of Representative Democracy ;)*

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