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*Equalizing the Information War Front*



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## *Anarchism in America*

Anarchism in America is actually a documentary on the subject that appears to have been shot a couple of decades ago or more. At any rate, it is an interesting delving into the subject at hand, if not a comprehensive one.

The variety of anarchism that gets the most attention here seems to be more labor oriented and socialist in nature than the brand of anarchism with which I am sympathetic (anarcho-capitalist), but the core view of man as able to take care of himself without the unnecessary and unwanted interference from a government whose authority is not morally justified just because it is the government.

The documentary takes a peek at some classic anarchist thinkers and interviews a few contemporary thinkers. Some of these people aren't - just to look at them - the sort of person you'd expect to be aligned with anarchy.

The movie is both an informative exploration of a political ideal but also - to those of us viewers looking back from the present - a slice of modern history.

Anarchism in America helps reveal that anarchy is more than just a bunch of punks with molotov cocktails, that it is a legitimate ideal with heart, an idea of community and a goal of peaceable (and free) living. A brief interview with the public sort of bit shows how uninformed many people were (and probably still are) about anarchism.

A second feature here is less accessible (due to its esoteric nature) but is an interesting peek at what is likely one of anarchism's less visited corners of existence. In this case, a Yiddish anarchist labor-aligned newspaper is the focus.

I think of the second film here, The Free Voice of Labor, as a bonus feature, an extra nugget (from the same filmmakers as Anarchism in America), for those who

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want to dig deeper.

A recommended DVD

**Added:** Thursday, May 25, 2006

**Reviewer:** [Grand Guignol](#)

**Score:** ★★ ★

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