

# ANTI-MILITARISM & THE STATE

*“The State has always been the patrimony of some privileged class.” -Michael Bakunin.*

## Oppose the State by Opposing Militarism

Militarism is the origin of the State. Monarchies were military dictatorships which originated with working people paying protection money to gangs of soldiers (men-at-arms, mercenaries) for safety against other competing gangs. Gang leaders became warlords, landlords and kings. The organization of the Mafia was based on this system. The modern nation-state was created by revolutions where the merchant classes wanted to stop paying “tribute” to the king, to take control of the state, and use the state for their own profits.

The State was responsible for colonialism, mercantilism, and war profiteering which formed the capital basis for capitalism and the industrial revolution. They created “democracy” for rich men with genocide, slavery, poverty, exploitation, and taxation for the working classes who paid for the wars of the rich with their toil, blood, and privation. The workers died in their revolutions, but were denied the freedoms promised by revolutionary propaganda.

As Anarchists we oppose the *institutions* of the State [The State=Military+Police+Bureaucracy; -Bakunin] which maintain the capitalist system, the socio-economic class system, and plutocracy (rule by the rich disguised as parliamentary democracy). The **Constitution** is a service contract between the State and the ruling class which *steals* our freedom and rations it back as so-called “Civil Rights” [the **U.S. Bill of Rights** (or equivalent) protects the rich from the government, but is compromised when it is inconvenient to protect the working class]. The State imposes the will of the Rich through a system of laws enforced by institutionalized coercion [ultimately insured by military force].

## Oppose Racism and Tyranny by Opposing the State

Capitalists based the modern nation-state on Nationalism which is the economic and territorial ambitions of the rich members of a particular culture. Culture is created by trade in a geographic area where sharing ideas and goods creates a shared language, social mores, and lifestyles. Every nation-state was created by a technologically dominant culture which suppressed, assimilated, or murdered the minority cultures within their territorial ambitions. Nationalism is the promotion of the dominant culture as the *best* culture because it is the culture of the entire nation state. People are indoctrinated in Nationalism from childhood, through education, government propaganda (incl. holiday spectacles), and commercial advertising (capitalist propaganda).

The ambitions of Nationalism [*e.g.*, “manifest destiny”] are pursued by military force, coercion, and corruption. Military force requires the cooperation of the working class as combatants, war industry workers [the military industrial complex], and consumers willing to tolerate privation caused by “military preparedness” [arms build-ups] and wartime levies of resources. Patriotism is the

propaganda campaign used to promote militarism [Patriotism=Jingoism+Xenophobia]. Patriotism appeals to small town ignorance, provincialism, and chauvinism to encourage fear and intolerance of all ideas and people different from the dominant culture. It is used to rationalize police state repression against political dissent and scapegoated ethnic minorities. It is used to con people into giving up their freedom and fighting wars that make their exploiters rich.

Nationalism forms the basis for racism, colonialism, and genocide—especially, when coupled with Totalitarianism [Total+Authoritarian=Totalitarian; -Webster's Dictionary]. Racism was institutionalized in the U.S., following the successful Hispanolia slave revolt against Spain and Napoleon's elite army, to divide the working classes and prevent a unified revolt against the ruling class by European, African and indigenous ethnic (cultural) "minorities"—enabling each to be more easily exploited. Racism is institutionalized through discriminatory laws, reinforced by State and corporate (capitalist) abuse, and defamatory and stereotypical capitalist media portrayals.

Militarism carried to its extreme form [military dictatorship, police state] is the totalitarian aspect/personification of the State which forms the basis for Fascism when exploited by the reactionary ruling class; or Bolshevism when exploited by State Socialists/Marxists [when the military defects against the ruling class]. Third world Nationalism and Theocracy are also forms of Fascism based on military power and often instigated by a coup d'état or insurrection. Third world Nationalism is based on the ambition of ethnic (tribal) culture groups within former colonial territories or whose traditional lands were divided by colonial borders. Theocracy is organized by church or other clergy groups instead of ruling class reactionaries based on attacking the corruption of the ruling classes and promises of egalitarianism and social well-being for the working classes.

### The Social Revolution

Even after a new revolution, the State would put a new ruling class in power to replace the old one as was done in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and others. That is what they do. Concentrated military power creates and defends concentrated political power. Their power must be broken up and democratized to prevent it from malicious purposes. The Anarchist idea of workers militias is based on the Swiss population-at-arms, or the workers militias of the Mediaeval free city, the Paris Commune of 1871 and the 1936 Spanish Civil War [the Anarchist CNT-FAI trade union militias].

The nation-state rationalizes itself by using education to indoctrinate children into the dominant culture. It also uses public education to solicit support for militarism [for military industry, "preparedness", and culture] from children and their parents. High schools have military [JROTC] and police [magnet school] training curriculums funded by the school districts [instead of regular education] to prepare kids to enlist in the military or enroll in the police academy after graduating.

We do not want to surrender children to be murdered in capitalist wars; nor to kill their families and friends on the picket line; nor to repress us when we struggle for freedom, equality, and well-being for all. We do not want the military in our schools. We do not want military recruiters calling us on the phone or visiting our homes. We do not want a military draft. We do not want to depend on war profiteers for our livelihoods. Let's convert these industries to peacetime products not destroyed by war. We demand an end to perpetual war, the "Patriot Act" laws, and police state repression.