

Anarchist Magic: the Gathering Deck

DESCRIPTION, INSTRUCTIONS

This deck is designed for the Commander (Elder Dragon Highlander) format, and therefore contains 100 cards, including a single commander. Players who desire to use this deck in standard (i.e.: 60-card play) can alter the deck accordingly. Please note, although these cards are not legal in tournament and sanctioned play, they are balanced and fair (i.e.: not "broken"). As such, this deck should be competitive and completely capable of winning against powerful EDH/Commander decks, and shouldn't piss off your friends too much.

The cards in this deck are meant to reflect a broad and encompassing anarchist philosophy. The creatures are all contemporary and historical anarchists. The enchantments, instants, sorceries, and other spells reflect and represent a wide array of anarchist movements, ideas, and literary works (e.g.: Sabotage, Winstanley's True Leveling, Elements of Refusal, etc.). The artifacts are all items commonly used or referenced by anarchists.

All of the cards in the deck have been given a fantasy flare, so, for example, Emma Goldman is now Red Emma of Kovno. Most of the "fantasizing" is drawn from references to people, places, or works of and by anarchists. Most of the flavor text on the cards is quoted from metal bands I like.

A brief note on ideology: yes the deck is Red AND Green. I made it this way on purpose. I am a devout primitivist, but I still support labor struggles and initiatives. Only by respecting each other's differences and working together to accomplish goals- both short term (e.g.: labor organizing) and long term (e.g.: dismantling the fuck out of industrial civilization)- can we hope to build a successful movement. Let the synergy between Red and Green in this deck be a lesson to all anarchists (who play Magic, anyway)...

CARD LIST

Following below is a list of all the cards in this deck. The cards below have brief descriptions of the inspiration for the card, especially when names have been changed or "fantasized". I highly encourage everyone who looks at or uses this deck to do research on the subject matter- anarchist history, y'all!

GENERAL

- *Red Emma of Kovno*: Emma Goldman, aka: Red Emma. Legendary anarchist organizer, lover and friend of Sasha Berkman, member of the NYC anarchist crowd.

LANDS

- *Haymarket Square*: Famous sight of anarchist massacre. See also *Louis Leng's Workshop* and *Haymarket Martyr's Memorial*.
- *WTO Battlefield*: Seattle 1999. Landmark of contemporary anarchist organizing.
- *IWW Wobbly Hall*: This one's for all the reds in the house. Pretty self-explanatory.
- *Sach's Pub of Man-hat'tan*: Sach's Cafe of Manhattan, where Red Emma, Sasha Berkman, Johann Most, and a bunch of other NYC anarchist used to kick it back in the day.
- *Catalonia*: Province of Spain noted for its anarchist presence during the Spanish Civil War and at present.
- *Cascadia*: Bioregion also known the Pacific Northwest, noted for its anarchist presence and especially for its green anarchism.
- *Round River Rendezvous*: The Earth-First rendezvous.
- *Buffalo Field Campaign*: Organization/movement in Montana that works to protect the buffalo.

- *Wild Roots, Feral Futures Encampment*: Wild Roots, Feral Futures is a primitivist gathering that happens once per year in Colorado.
- *Anarchist Bookfair*: Pretty straightforward. Keystone of zinesters everywhere. wOOt.
- *The Free Territory of Ukraine*: The semi-autonomous province established by Makhno and the Black Army. Go study Ukrainian anarchist history. Do it. Now.
- *Temporary Autonomous Zone*: Hakim Bey and his ontological anarchism lends itself perfectly to Magic the Gathering.
- *Christiania*: Famous squatter city in Denmark. Read the zine *Banner Wars* for more information.
- *Chiapas*: Province in Mexico noted for the Zapatista uprisings and autonomous communities.
- *CrimethInc. Convergence*: Pretty self-explanatory. Anyone unfamiliar with CrimethInc., go check out their website.
- *Paris Commune*: The short-lived anarchic freestate of Paris.
- *Squat of Total Squalor*: Who isn't familiar with these? Identical to the *Filthy Punk Hovel*.
- *Filthy Punk Hovel*: Everybody's been to one. Identical to the *Squat of Total Squalor*.
- *Infoshop*: Anarchist dialect for "library". Sometimes synonymous with "trash heap", depending on whether or not it doubles as a free store.
- *Ferrer Academy*: Francisco Ferrer was an anarchist educator and organizer. A number of "Ferrer Schools" were opened in New York state and abroad in honor of his unique brand of unschooling.
- *Smouldering Ruins of Mon'san-to*: Who doesn't want to burn Monsanto factories to the ground? Nobody I know...

CREATURES

- *Red Sasha of Vilnius*: Alexander Berkman. Friend and lover of Emma Goldman, member of the NYC anarchist crowd of the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- *Prince Pyotr Kropotkin*: An anarchist Prince from Russia who denied his princehood in favor of egalitarian society.
- *Proudhon of Besançon*: Pierre Joseph Proudhon, famed for saying "What is property? It is robbery?", often abbreviated to "Property is Theft!".
- *Francisco Ferrer*: Anarchist educator and organizer whose ideas laid the foundations for the unschooling movement.
- *Sacco & Venzetti*: Italian anarchists who allegedly robbed a bank in Braintree, Massachusetts. Executed by the vicious pieces of crap who ran the government at the time for no better reason than their anarchism and Italian heritege.
- *Buenaventura Durruti*: Commander of the "Durruti Column" in the Spanish civil war. Notable for saying "We are not in the least afraid of ruins!".
- *Ashanti*: Ashanti Alston, the "anarchist black panther" in his own words. Notable for his weird nationalist anarchism.
- *Zerzan the Heretic*: John Zerzan, famous green anarchist/primitivist author of *Eugene*. See also *Elements of Refusal* and *Twilight of the Machines*, other cards in the deck.
- *Peregrine of Penn's Wood*: Kevin Tucker of Pennsylvania. Plays in the metal band Peregrine and writes/edits/publishes *Species Traitor* magazine.
- *Starhawk*: Eco-feminist witch/druid anarchist. Advocates traditional European animism/paganism.
- *Wolfi, the Feral Faun*: Wolfi Landstreicher, also known as Feral Faun. Green anarchist writer.
- *Lilith, Chronicleer of Bloodlust*: Writer and editor of *Bloodlust* zine, a feminist anti-civ journal.
- *Waziyatawin*: Indigenous Lakota activist and author from Minnesota. Also a professor, I think.
- *Ned Ludd*: Father of the Luddite movement. Often called a "half-wit" by the dominant culture's propaganda. I call him a freakin' hero.
- *Jacques Ellul*: Anthropologist and pacifist Christian anarchist. His work laid the foundations for a lot of

contemporary primitivism.

- *Nestor Makhno*: Ukrainian anarchist and commander of the Black Army.
- *Bookchin the Dean*: Murray Bookchin, the "Dean of Anarchism". Developed the philosophy of "social ecology", which is another card in the deck.
- *Ursula Le Guin*: Feminist pacifist anarchist and fantasy/sci-fi author.
- *Voltaireine de Cleyre*: Contemporary of Emma Goldman. They hated, then respected and praised one another. Noted individualist anarchist.
- *Hakim Bey*: Wingnut and ontological anarchist. Notable for *Temporary Autonomous Zone* and other works.
- *EZLN (Zapatistas)*: Indigenous Mayans in Chiapas, Mexico. Anarchists, but also Marxists and socialists.

SORCERIES/INSTANTS

- *Bresci's Legacy*: This card and its mechanics are in honor of Gaetano Bresci, the Italian anarchist who assassinated King Umberto I.
- *Arson*: Favored tactic of many an anarchist, especially the ALF and ELF.
- *Sabotage*: Time-honored anarchist tactic.
- *Insurrection*: Though the art is changed, this is an actual magic card. Insurrectionist anarchists everywhere, rejoice!
- *Circle Bomb*: Named after the archtypal black, circular bomb seen in many derisive depictions of cartoon anarchists.
- *Deep Ecology*: A philosophy that often overlaps and interbreeds with Green Anarchism.
- *Twilight of the Machines*: One of John Zerzan's books, and a title too awesome to resist making into a magic spell.
- *Endgame*: Derrick Jensen's foremost work on civilization.
- *Biocentrism*: Fundamentally important to green anarchism.
- *Revitalize Landbase*: The goal of many green anarchists.
- *Riot*: What would contemporary anarchism be without rioting?
- *Hunt & Gather*: In honor of the hunter-gatherer lifeway that many green anarchists seek to relearn.
- *Monkeywrench*: A silly word for sabotage, and a crucial tactic for EFers, ELFers, ALFers, and other anarchists.
- *Winstanley's True Leveling*: Named after Gerrard Winstanley and the True Levelers, also known as the Diggers. An English peasants' movement based around communalism, Christianity, and reclaiming landbases from capitalist swine.
- *Bonanno's Armed Joy*: Bonanno's an Italian insurrectionary anarchist. *Armed Joy* is one of his famous works. "Bonanno's Armed Joy" is a sweet-ass name for a magic card. 2 versions of this card have been provided because I like both pieces of art. Choose whichever one you prefer when putting your deck together.
- *Elements of Refusal*: Another book by John Zerzan, and another superlative name for a Magic card.
- *Social Ecology*: After Murray Bookchin's movement/philosophy.
- *Vandalism*: Self-explanatory.
- *Molotov's Cocktail*: After the molotov cocktail, favored incendiary device of modern malcontents.
- *Beltane/May Day*: One of the sweet dual-cards that recently appeared in MtG. Represents May Day, the anarchist labor holiday, and Beltane, the green anarchist/pagan May Day.

ENCHANTMENTS

- *Worker's Council*: Self-explanatory.
- *Security Culture*: The philosophy and practice of stealth and subterfuge. Shutting the fuck up, in action!
- *Make Total Destroy*: This is a renamed version of a real Magic card called "Gratuitous Violence". In honor of the insurrectionary axiom "Make Total Destroy".

- *General Strike*: A tactic of the labor movement, proposing that if everybody strikes at once, industry is forced to a standstill, and thus the capitalist bosses/owners are forced to comply to demands.
- *Fire to the Prisons*: An insurrectionary anarchist periodical.
- *Earth Liberation Front*: Radical environmental movement. ‘Nuff said.
- *Permaculture*: An idea that sometimes becomes intertwined with green anarchism.
- *Decolonize*: A fundamental ideological building block of anti-civilized sentiment.
- *Deep Green Resistance*: The movement spearheaded by Derrick Jensen, Lierre Kieth, and Aric McBey. Similar to the ELF, but with overt anti-civ ideals.
- *Rewild*: A concept that’s crucial to primitivism.
- *Black Bloc*: A mass mobilization tactic often seen at silly, liberal, symbolic protests.
- *Solidarity*: The idea of oneness between dissidents of different groups/ilks.
- *Propaganda by the Deed*: A philosophy put forth by many old-school anarchists. Berkman’s assassination attempt on Henry Clay Frick is a primary example.

ARTIFACTS & EQUIPMENT

- *Kalashnikov’s Firestaff*: The amazing, versatile, indestructable AK-47. Favored weapon of many an anarchist and “terrorist”.
- *Princip’s Firewand*: The pistol that Princip used to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Sophie.
- *Czolgosz’s Firewand*: The pistol that Leon Czolgosz used to shoot President McKinley.
- *Black Hoodie of Shadows*: The archtypal black hoodie, a universal accessory among modern anarchists.
- *Louis Leng’s Workshop*: Louis Leng was among the Haymarket anarchists. He also happened to construct a bomb factory in his basement. Genius! Got captured and was slated for execution, until he blew off his lower jaw in jail and died after an excruciating 10 hours.
- *Haymarket Martyr’s Memorial*: This is based on a real Magic card called “Akroma’s Memorial”, which does pretty much the same thing as this card. The Haymarket Memorial is somewhere in Chicago.
- *Zine Library*: A collection of zines, and a sweet website by the same name.
- *Black Flag*: The rallying point of anarchists everywhere. Also, a horrible 80s bro-punk band.
- *Cloak and Dagger*: This is another pre-existing Magic card that I’ve changed to suit this deck.

ACTUAL UN-ALTERED MAGIC CARDS IN THIS DECK

- *Stomping Ground*
- *Taiga*
- *Command Tower*
- *6 Mountains*
- *7 Forests*