

“Research of this high quality reminds us that we have much more to do before we start throwing around too many generalizations about where we are now as anarchists and what needs to be done to allow anarchy to flourish and grow. There is still much for us all to learn. Time to get on with it.”—*From the Introduction by Barry Pateman*

A HISTORY OF THE FRENCH ANARCHIST MOVEMENT, 1917 to 1945

by David Berry, with an introduction by Barry Pateman

David Berry's *History of the French Anarchist Movement* is the first English-language evaluation of the development of the French anarchist movement between the world wars. Utilizing an impressive array of archival sources and personal interviews, Berry's original research explores the debates and growing pains of a large, working-class movement facing great obstacles. Focusing on the organized wings of the movement—the anarcho-communist and syndicalist groups—it offers a ringside seat to the legacy of the First International, the upheaval of the Russian Revolution and subsequent Bolshevik treachery, as well as the fight against fascism.

A History of the French Anarchist Movement details the dilemmas facing anarchism at a crucial moment in the movement's history, a time characterized by serious questioning of “traditional” anarchist theory and practice. On the basis of his careful investigation of the anarchist movement's press and other publications, as well as a variety of other archival sources, Berry concludes that the French anarchist movement was not as isolated as other scholars have proposed, and gives detailed evidence to suggest that the movement really hit its stride in the 1930s.

Berry's book examines this key era in the movement's history, a moment when leading French militants sought to clarify anarchist ideas on the nature of twentieth-century revolutions, to challenge the rejection of organization, and to integrate anarchism more fully into the broader socialist and trade union movements. In fact, the French anarchists proved capable of organizing large and efficient campaigns and their analyses of developments on the left and in the trade union movement were often more prescient than those of the socialists and communists. Berry takes seriously the anarchists' attempts to come to terms with the challenges of revolution and to respond positively to them in a distinctly libertarian socialist way.

A seminal study of the history of anarchism, anarchists, and anarchy in twentieth-century France.

“An impressive work, attentive to detail, abundantly well-documented and clearly addressing some key dilemmas of anarchist organizations.”—*Anarchist Studies*

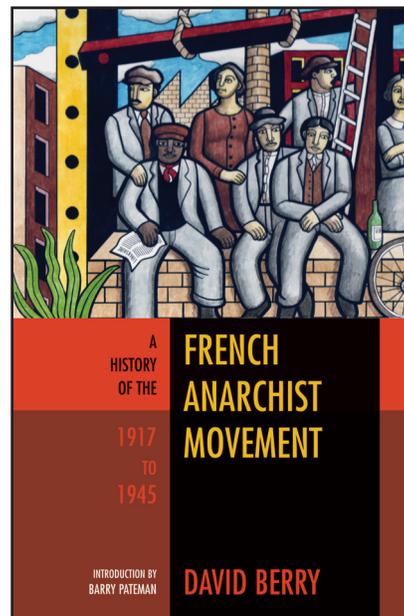
“Berry has done an amazing job of poring through the speeches, the newspapers, the reports of meetings of all the various strands of the anarchist movement to develop a coherent story of changing anarchist ideology in the 1920s and 1930s.”—*H-France Review*

“We should applaud a study which has no equivalent in French and which does not fear bringing to light the hesitations and the U-turns, but also the lucidity and the courage of many militants.”—*Réfractives*

“Highly recommended.”—*Choice*

“An extremely valuable resource ... Berry's history is meticulously researched and finely documented. It is a work that, while rooted in specific movements in a specific period in time speaks to contemporary and indeed ongoing concerns facing anarchists in the complexly and rapidly developing era of neoliberal globalization.”—*Social Anarchism*

Dave Berry has been active on the Left in one way or another for over 30 years, most recently in the local branch of his union. He teaches French and politics at Loughborough University. A founding member of the Anarchist Studies Network, he is also reviews editor of the journal *Anarchist Studies*.



A HISTORY OF THE FRENCH ANARCHIST MOVEMENT, 1917 to 1945

ISBN: 978-1-904859-82-6

March 2009

6" X 9", 394 pages

\$21.95

ANARCHISM/EUROPEAN HISTORY



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