

“From the epic of Spartacus through to the day-to-day rejection of capitalism across every continent, the class struggle is replayed on a small scale and, sometimes on a larger one. Such is the ongoing contribution that the battlers have to offer: a past to learn about and be inspired by with an eye to improvisation in today’s world.”—*From the Introduction*

# ANARCHISM AND WORKERS’ SELF-MANAGEMENT IN REVOLUTIONARY SPAIN

BY FRANK MINTZ, TRANSLATED BY PAUL SHARKEY

This is the first English translation of Frank Mintz’s seminal study of the economic experiments put into place during the Spanish Revolution to both sustain civil society during the war and, more importantly, act as the material basis for a new society. These plans weren’t developed by professional economists but grew out of a political movement that put working people at the fore and believed that the collectivized workplace would be the cornerstone of economic life. Includes a prologue by Chris Ealham, author of *Anarchism and the City*.

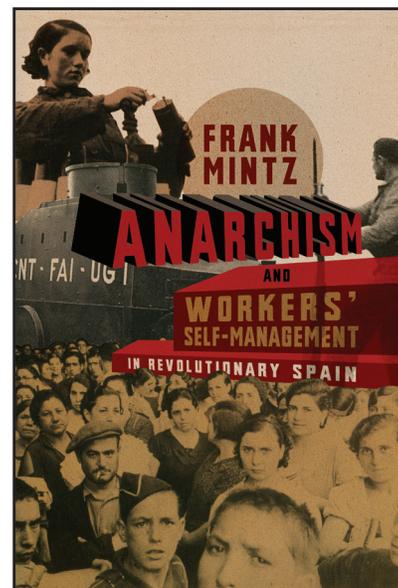
In seven chapters, “Introducing the Anarcho-Syndicalist Movement, The CNT,” “Catalonia as a Model,” “A Brief Survey of Self-Management in Other Regions of Spain,” “Organizing Self-Management Across the Nation,” “Management Under Attack,” “Self-Management’s Outcomes,” and “Conclusions about Self-Management in 1936-1939 and Broad Reflections” Mintz, rather than delving into the facts and figures of Spanish anarcho-syndicalism, explains how and why it came to be so strong—the reasons for the endurance of anarchist trade unionism (or, from the 1930s onward, anarcho-syndicalism) in Spain, seen through the eyes of outsiders and insiders.

*Anarchism and Workers’ Self-Management* takes us through the trials and tribulations of a struggle toward worker’s control and shows us how, despite the roadblocks of leadership infighting, self-management was able to emerge among the rank and file, and how in factories, mills, workshops, transportation services, public services, and utilities, the workers, their revolutionary committees, and their syndicates reorganized and administered production, distribution, and public services without capitalists, high salaried managers, or the authority of the state.

Ultimately, while there has been a lot of literature written about this moment in history, people are still thirsting for more analysis of the ways in which the Spanish Revolution succeeded in holding state power hostage for a short time, yet ultimately failed to bring about a radically new world. The vast appendices provide additional information for those seeking the facts and figures. These additional documents round out the telling of this inspiring and complicated revolutionary history.

**Frank Mintz** is an author and translator living in Paris, France. Now a retired Spanish teacher, Mintz stays busy publishing, translating, and playing a role in the National Confederation of Labour (CNT-France).

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