

About Anarchism

Nicolas Walter • Introduction: Natasha Walter

Today the word “anarchism” inspires both fear and fascination. But few people understand what anarchists believe, what anarchists want, and what anarchists do. This incisive book puts forward the case for anarchism as a pragmatic philosophy.

Originally written in 1969 and updated for the twenty-first century, *About Anarchism* is an uncluttered, precise, and urgently necessary expression of practical anarchism. Crafted in deliberately simple prose and without constant reference to other writers or past events, it can be understood without difficulty and without any prior knowledge of political ideology.

As one of the finest short introductions to the basic concepts, theories, and applications of anarchism, *About Anarchism* has been translated into many languages, including French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Polish, and Russian. This new edition includes an updated introduction from Natasha Walter and an expanded biographical sketch of the author, Nicolas Walter, who was a respected writer, journalist, and an active protester against the powers of both the church and the state.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Nicolas Walter (1934–2000) was one of the best-known and mostly widely read anarchist writers of the last half century. His *About Anarchism* has been translated into many languages, including Russian, Greek, Turkish, Chinese, and Japanese. But his immense output was otherwise overwhelmingly journalism for the libertarian press. An edited collection of his writings was published by PM Press in 2011 as *Damned Fools in Utopia: And Other Writings on Anarchism and War Resistance*.

Natasha Walter is the author of two nonfiction books, *The New Feminism* and *Living Dolls*, and her debut novel, *A Quiet Life*, was published in 2016. She has worked as a journalist, columnist, and reviewer for the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, and the *Independent*, and is the founder of the charity Women for Refugee Women.

ACCOLADES

“A clear and incisive introduction to the subject.”
—*New York Times*

“Walter’s anarchism incorporates a wealth of influences and the best of both old and new anarchism. Almost every paragraph in this book contains examples of his subversive thinking, and many of his observations push contemporary anarchists to think harder about the nature of politics.”
—Andrej Grubačić, coauthor of *Living at the Edges of Capitalism: Adventures in Exile and Mutual Aid*

“Nicolas Walter was a writer and lecturer of deep secular humanist and anarchist convictions—his book *About Anarchism* is known round the world.”
—*Guardian*

“Nicolas Walter was one of the most interesting left intellectuals of the second half of the twentieth century in Britain.”
—Professor Richard Taylor, University of Cambridge

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NICOLAS WALTER

INTRODUCTION BY NATASHA WALTER

“A clear and incisive introduction to the subject.” —*NEW YORK TIMES*

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P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org
info@pmpress.org
(510) 658-3906

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