

Anarchist Critique of Radical Democracy

The Impossible Argument, Second Edition

Markus Lundström

In the spring of 2013, a wave of urban riots swept across Sweden after police shot an elderly man in his own home. When community residents from his marginalized city-district demanded an official apology, they were ignored. The anti-police insurgences that followed addressed deep problems of the Swedish welfare state, and the official responses revealed glitches built into democracy itself.

In this updated edition of *Anarchist Critique of Radical Democracy: The Impossible Argument*, sociologist and historian Markus Lundström explores the boundaries of Swedish democracy. He probes in-depth interviews with community residents to explain how the 2013 riots intensified a profound democratic conflict: the social divide between the governors and the governed. Resistance to this divide is then traced through the defiance of governance and approaches to democracy in the history of anarchist thought.

This book offers an original introduction to anarchism. It relates the diversity of anarchist thought to anti-police riots and the radicalization of democracy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Markus Lundström is a political sociologist focused on anarchist, fascist, and social movement studies. He is the author of *The Making of Resistance: Brazil's Landless Movement and Narrative Enactment* (Springer, 2017) and coeditor of *Nordic Fascism: Fragments of an Entangled History* (Routledge, 2022).

ACCOLADES

"The very best and most fruitful interrogations of political life often come from a deep and scrupulous plunge into a single event. So it is with Markus Lundström's brilliant analysis of the battle in the streets of Husby in 2013. The result is a subtle, philosophically informed, and original understanding of the possibilities for enacting the promise of anarchism."

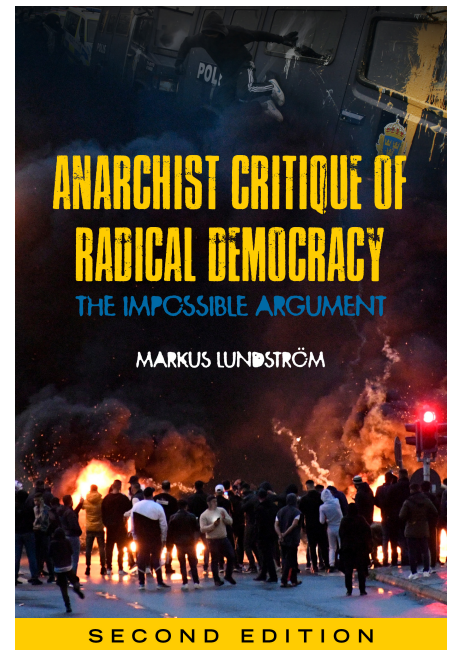
—James C. Scott, author of *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*

"This is movement-based theorizing at its best. Lundström offers a compelling genealogy that details how anarchism might radicalize democracy, or might have to move entirely beyond it. This is an important book for those wondering what comes next, after alterglobalization, after Occupy, for activists in Europe and North America."

—Richard Day, author of *Gramsci Is Dead*

"This book takes seriously tensions within anarchism between making democracy more participatory vs. making a more radical arrangement beyond democracy. Lundström exemplifies these tensions, and appeals to a variety of anarchist writers for the theoretical tools to think this tension productively."

—Kathy Ferguson, author of *Emma Goldman: Political Thinking in the Streets*



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