

# Mutual Aid

## An Illuminated Factor of Evolution

**Peter Kropotkin • Illustrator: N.O. Bonzo • Postscript: GATS**

**Introduction: David Graeber & Andrej Grubačić**

**Foreword: Ruth Kinna • Afterword: Allan Antliff**

One hundred years after his death, Peter Kropotkin is still one of the most inspirational figures of the anarchist movement. It is often forgotten that Kropotkin was also a world-renowned geographer whose seminal critique of the hypothesis of competition promoted by Social Darwinism helped revolutionize modern evolutionary theory. An admirer of Darwin, he used his observations of life in Siberia as the basis for his 1902 collection of essays *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*. Kropotkin demonstrated that mutually beneficial cooperation and reciprocity—in both individuals and as a species—plays a far more important role in the animal kingdom and human societies than does individualized competitive struggle. Kropotkin carefully crafted his theory making the science accessible. His account of nature rejected Rousseau's romantic depictions and ethical socialist ideas that cooperation was motivated by the notion of "universal love." His understanding of the dynamics of social evolution shows us that the power of cooperation—whether it is bison defending themselves against a predator or workers unionizing against their boss. His message is clear: solidarity is strength!

Every page of this new edition of *Mutual Aid* has been beautifully illustrated by one of anarchism's most celebrated artists, N.O. Bonzo. *Mutual Aid* features original artwork by GATS and insightful commentary by David Graeber, Ruth Kinna, Andrej Grubačić, and Allan Antliff.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Peter Kropotkin** (1842–1921) was the foremost theorist of the anarchist movement. Born a Russian Prince, he rejected his title to become a revolutionary, seeking a society based on freedom, equality, and solidarity. New editions of his classic works *Words of a Rebel* and *The Great French Revolution, 1789–1793* will be published by PM Press to commemorate his life and work on the centennial of his death.

**N.O. Bonzo** is an anarchist illustrator, printmaker, and muralist based out of Portland, OR. They are the creator of *Off with Their Heads: An Antifascist Coloring Book*.

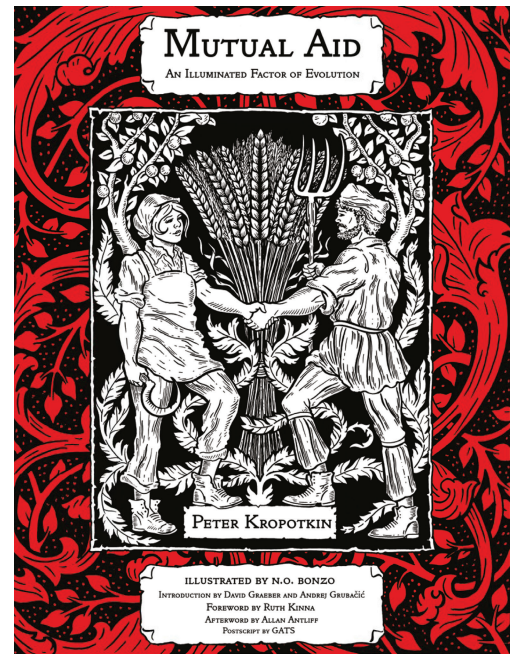
**David Graeber**, taught anthropology at the London School of Economics. He was the international best-selling author of *Debt: The First 5,000 Years* and *Bullshit Jobs: A Theory*.

**Andrej Grubačić** is a dissident from the Balkans. A radical historian and sociologist, he is the author of *Wobblies and Zapatistas* and *Don't Mourn, Balkanize!* A fellow traveler of Zapatista-inspired direct-action movements, in particular Peoples' Global Action, and a cofounder of Global Balkans Network and *Balkan Z Magazine*, he is associate professor in cultural anthropology at California Institute of Integral Studies.

**Ruth Kinna** works at Loughborough University in the UK. She is the author of *Kropotkin: Reviewing the Classical Anarchist Tradition* (2016) and writes on historical and contemporary anarchist politics. She is editor of the peer-review journal *Anarchist Studies*.

**Allan Antliff**, professor, University of Victoria, is author of *Anarchist Modernism: Art, Politics, and the First American Avant-Garde* (University of Chicago, 2001); *Anarchy and Art: From the Paris Commune to the Fall of the Berlin Wall* (Arsenal Pulp, 2007); *Joseph Beuys* (Phaidon, 2014); and editor of *Only a Beginning* (Arsenal Pulp, 2004), a documentary anthology of anarchist writings and activism in Canada.

Oakland-based artist **GATS** (Graffiti Against the System) is an internationally renowned graffiti artist with work reaching as far as Palestine, the Philippines, and Rome. He is best known for his iconic mask imagery, the intricate insignias that fill them, and his liberatory political messaging accompanying many of his pieces.



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