

Book Review:

Bratach Dubh: Collected Articles 1
(Elephant Editions/Ardent Press, 2015)

Reviewed By Jennifer Rose

This book consists of a collection of articles which address important contradictions and problems of world complexity concerning anarchism and its internationalist, federalist anti-state position, and that of the Marxist-led National Liberation struggles, of the State separatist solutions opportunistically proposed by a coalition of capitalistic fascists and mafia interests which are serving those of the American.

Bratach Dubh: Collected Articles Vol. 1 includes "Anarchism and the National Liberation Struggle" (1976) by Alfredo Bonanno with an "Introduction" by Jim Weir, Glasgow, June 1976). This presents an anarchist critical analysis of the situation in Sicily, where it is noted that "Anti-Imperialism can mask local corporatism if the struggle is not put in class terms at a micro- as well as a macroscopic level. A separate Sicilian state proposed by right-wing fascists, in alliance with the mafia,

which are the willing servants of U.S. interests through the C.I.A. Similarly, in Ireland and Scotland, complexities of State Separatist proposals, whether Marxist or ethnic nationalist, will be no less an obstacle to revolutionary economic and social change for workers' autonomy and federations of free people, as explained by Bonanno:

"Anarchists refuse the principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat... by a revolutionary minority using the ex-bourgeois State. They ~~explicitly~~ refuse the political dimension of the existing bourgeois State from the very moment in which the revolution begins." (p. 8)

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So, anarchist analysis of the national liberation struggles differ from the Marxist concept in a key way:

"The anarchist programme concerning the national liberation struggle is... clear: it must not go towards constituting an 'intermediate stage' towards the social revolution through the formation of new national states. Anarchists refuse to participate in national liberation fronts, the

participate in class fronts which may or may not be involved in national liberation struggles. The struggle must spread to establish economic, political, and social structures in the liberated territories, based on federalist and libertarian organisations! (pp. 15-16)

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Thus, is reconstructed the Marxist vs. Bakuninist polemics/dialogue, which exposes the irrational/nationalism of the Marxist analyses. Bakunin demands total liberation! He says:

"So long as one single persecuted nation exists, the final and complete triumph of democracy will not be possible anywhere. The oppression of a people or a single individual, is the oppression of all, and it is not possible to violate the liberty of one without violating the liberty of all." (p. 19)

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The other articles in the book are "Contributions to the Revolutionary Struggle Intended to be Discussed, Connected, and sooty put into practice without delay" by Rotgeb (transl. by Fozz Sharkey);

"The Struggle Against Fascism Begins with the Struggle Against Bolshevism" by Otto Rühle; and "Workers' Autonomy". These further hash out the complexities of problems, or contradictions, in anarchist theory.

In "Workers' Autonomy", the Introduction by Jean Weir (Catania 1976), begins:

"The growing contrast between the real workers' movement and their official spokesmen (parties of the Left, trades unions, etc.) is a direct consequence of the latter's failure to fulfill their professed task of freeing the workers from exploitation" (p. 141)

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In conclusion, the book provides a lot of theoretical answers and solutions to these conflicting analyses, and ends with "Workers' Councils, Self-Management and Developments in Proletarian Autonomy" by the Comrades of Kronstadt Editions.

Altogether, a worthwhile read for those anarchists of praxis looking for a way forward — toward anarchist action and insurrection! (A)