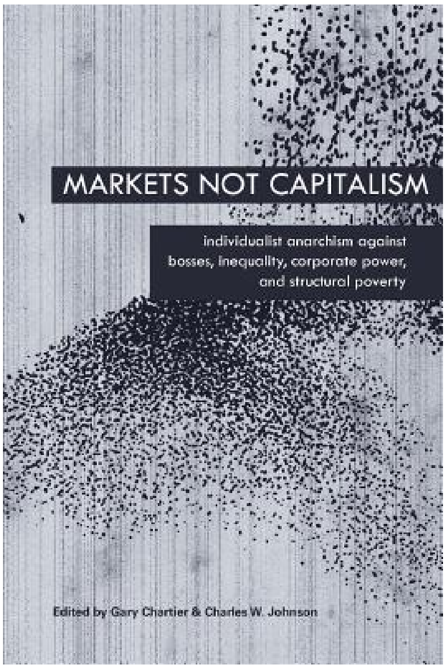

Markets Not Capitalism: Individualist Anarchism Against Bosses, Inequality, Corporate Power, and Structural Poverty

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'Markets Not Capitalism' explores the gap between radically freed markets and the capitalist-controlled markets that prevail today. The contributors argue that structural poverty can be abolished by liberating market exchange from state capitalist privilege, as well as helping working people to take control of their labour.

Markets Not Capitalism: Individualist Anarchism Against Bosses, Inequality, Corporate Power, and Structural Poverty Details

Date	:	Published December 1st 2011 by Minor Compositions (first published 2011)
ISBN	:	9781570272424
Author	:	Gary Chartier (Editor) , Charles W. Johnson
Format	:	Paperback 428 pages
Genre	:	Economics, Politics, Nonfiction, Philosophy

From Reader Review Markets Not Capitalism: Individualist Anarchism Against Bosses, Inequality, Corporate Power, and Structural Poverty for online ebook

Sasha says

“Markets Not Capitalism: Individualist Anarchism Against Bosses, Inequality, Corporate Power and Strucutral Povery” edited by Gary Chartier and Charles W. Johnson (link to the text/audiobook at the bottom of this review) provides an introduction, overview and argument for market anarchism and a discussion of related topics. The book is a collection of 48 essays by writers ranging from 19th century French mutualist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon and American feminist Voltarine de Cleyre to 20th and 21st century writers like the economist Murray Rothbard and “Bleeding Heart Libertarian” Roderick Long.

While reading this book, I tried to keep my mind toward the perspective of a person who was unfamiliar to the topic in order to gauge how the book would serve as an introduction to market anarchism and some of the debates contained within this movement. To this end, the editors have done a phenomenal job of balancing their argument for readers who are new to the subject and for those who are familiar with the more esoteric aspects of the libertarian/anarchist philosophy.

There are, mainly in the first section, a few points where the terminology or context of a particular discussion might be lost on new readers but to them I say: power through! Parts II through VIII are where the interesting subjects come up and they are greatly enriched by the distinctions made in Part I (even if one doesn't fully comprehend them at the time).

Since the book is a collection of essays, it is difficult to provide a normal review so here are a few points of interest:

- The quintessential essay in this book is “Markets Freed from Capitalism” by Charles W. Johnson which defines three types of capitalism and how they diverge from a freed market based on voluntary interactions between individuals. This chapter outlines the argument and the distinctions that underlie much of the later chapters.

-“Big Business and the Rise of American Statism” by Roy Childs Jr. provides a historical overview of how big business and the State have reinforced and benefited one another at the expense of the people. This provides evidence and context to the claim in the initial essay of the book (“Freed Markets” by William Gillis) that truly free markets have not existed historically and should be seen as the goal of anarchism.

-“Socialist Ends, Market Means” by Gary Chartier (Ch. 14) discusses how a decentralized power structure based on voluntary interactions leads to the goal of equality.

- Part III discusses various aspects of property: it’s origins, the role of fairness, a critique of intellectual property and an argument for public property in an anarchist society.

- Part IV focuses on labor solidarity, the problems caused by regulation, and critiques of corporatism. An argument is also made, contrary to many anarcho-“capitalists” even though supported by Rothbardian philosophy, that in a society based on voluntary interactions, the structure of production would be chosen by those involved in them.

- Part VI discusses how, in a freed market, competition would diffuse wealth and dissolve fortunes; also, the role of the State in creating structural poverty and inequality.

- Part VIII discusses a variety of topics ranging from anti-racism, environmentalism and community organization within the anarchist movement and provides an excellent introduction to these topics.

Here is a link to the audiobook (~16 hours), PDF and hardcopy of the text: http://c4ss.org/content/12802

Lucian says

Either no one bothered to proofread the manuscript before sending it to print, or the proofreader had the reading level of a fourth grader. Seriously, I've never encountered so many blatant typos in a published piece of work probably in my entire life. It's embarrassing.

Also, William Gillis: "Whence" literally means "from where." So when you put "From Whence" in your title, you do not sound more erudite. You just sound idiotic.

Other than that, pretty solid collection of essays; a good primer for those interested in left-libertarianism and good ammunition for those debating vulgar libertarians and statists alike.

Dave Burns says

There is now an authorized free audiobook version online at http://www.porctherapy.com/2012/09/19...

Michael says

Excellent presentation of freed-market and mutualistic economic and political theory. This series of short, clear essays from a variety of writers. dating from the late 1800s through the present day touches on everything from the development of the theories themselves to the solutions they propose to a number of problems. Eye-opening perspectives and a challenging and empathetic focus on non-coercive responses to often systemic non-equalities in a range of economic spheres.

Ailith Twinning says

At the end of the day I just kinda think these people are nuts. An interesting nuts, like Ayn Rand. But still nuts.

It just feels like they want to take away the things that have kept Capitalism from killing the world outright, and this is a good thing because. . . no satisfactory answer was given, basically it just runs off into the woods with these ideas of what should happen and seems to think that means those things *will* happen.

Moreover, I'm in the post-capitalist-futurist camp that thinks the next century will bring such radical change that we will end up in a non-scarcity economy, in which capitalism does not even have a place -- let alone present the best tools for dealing with our needs. So maybe I'm just dismissive.

Craig says

Interesting, original perspectives. Series of short essays/opinion pieces allows for lots of range, but found some arguments were not fully developed.

Mikehendo says

Quite possibly the best book in market anarchism that I've read yet! So much better than the straw men offered up by Molyneux.

Mattheus Guttenberg says

People usually associate libertarianism as a creature of the Right. Lower taxes, gun freedom, ending regulation, and so on. But the essays in Markets Not Capitalism make quite a strong case that libertarianism is just as concerned with typically "Left" issues: racial discrimination, the problems of big business, wealth inequality, "wage slavery," environmentalism, and more. With authors ranging from Benjamin Tucker to Murray Rothbard, this book is a great antidote for the "corporate apologetics" style of libertarianism so prominent in the movement today.

Bevans says

I tried, but it seems to be written primarily for people who are already on board with the philosophy being espoused. There's a lot of jargon and unconventional (though probably correct) use of political/economic terms that I couldn't get past.

I'm not rating it, since I didn't finish it.

Amjad Al Taleb says

The reason I gave this book an average rating is that it was my first book on anarchism, anyway some of the arguments in these essays seemed to lack a comprehensive understanding of society!
Even though criticizing big government is legitimate one cannot negate the need for a welfare state especially in today's america. Anarchism describes a utopian society with disregards to historical burdens and outside interactions, the arguments in this book could not convince me... not fully.

Nat Natural says

Great if you're a pro-capitalist honestly wanting to get into the mindset of the left. This book is probably the best way to relate.

Behzad says

This is a collection of essays on variety of topics and the position which market anarchists take. Some essays are very well selected but within some parts essays had substantial overlap making it not entertaining to read all essays. The collection however is valuable as a reference for interested people to investigate free market perspective.