

WHY ANARCHA-FEMINISM?

When we talk about feminism, we talk about movements that aim to create gender equality in a society that prioritizes men's perspective, voice, and power. **This system of social dominance, known as patriarchy, creates impossible circumstances that affect society as a whole.** Men are boxed into categories such as "provider" and "protector," forced to hold back human emotion, prove themselves through violence, and pressured out of learning life skills that are crucial for survival, such as cooking and cleaning. Women are perceived as weaker, less intelligent, and thus given less respect, and often subject to extreme violence at the hands of entitled men. This is why we see countless movements fighting against sexual assault, seeking to end domestic violence, and aiming to provide women with better opportunities. Furthermore, everyone who exists beyond these very strict and unrealistic gender expectations is subject to ridicule, harassment, and even death. **Feminism is important because patriarchy limits the freedom of absolutely everyone in society.**



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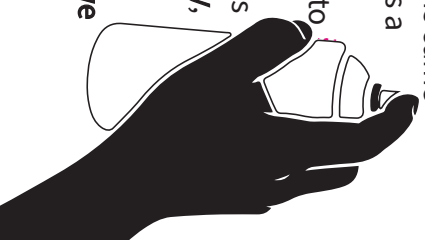
Some feminists choose to put their faith in voting and government-funded organizations. The problem, however, is that these solutions are slow and limiting, as they require waiting and hoping that those in power will make noteworthy change. Other feminists, often called **anarcha-feminists, prioritize liberation and autonomy.** This means that they are interested in complete freedom from the systems in place and take it upon themselves to maintain control over their own lives and decisions. Anarcha-feminists think and act for themselves and their communities, constantly searching for effective ways to solve their own problems and support those around them, without having to bend or adapt to the loopholes set by politicians or leaders. Issues such as justice after an assault, affordable childcare, or homelessness get resolved because they creatively organize themselves and take responsibility of taking care of each other. **They know that there are many issues to be solved and that taking matters into their own hands is more effective and fulfilling.**



WHAT IS ANARCHA-FEMINISM & WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

Lessons from Latin America

To talk about gender equality, here or in Latin America, we must first talk about **colonization**, the process of forcibly taking over an area and controlling its people. Spain's forced occupation of the Americas brought about racist systems of enslavement, extreme violence, and death. Additionally, with Spain's many imposed traditions came **patriarchy**, a system that gives men social dominance. As a result, those who had long lived in Latin America were simultaneously controlled by a racist system and forced to face dangerous gender expectations that never existed before the colonizer's arrival. Of course, countless groups have long fought back in a constant search for **autonomy**, the freedom of self-determination. Today, racial and gender dominance continue to plague the world around us. **Thankfully, we can turn to history for inspiration as we consider how we can resist them and find liberation.**



PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

In response to the patriarchal and colonial system's attempt to isolate, disempower, and manipulate, anarcha-feminists in Latin America have taken creative and fearless approaches to resistance. **Open this document to find examples of how anarcha-feminists in Latin America have created safer spaces, taken power and mobilized through art, published independent newsletters, interrupted the education system, and even taken control over government buildings.**

You'll see examples of movements intended to unite, regain power, and create alternative worlds. You'll see that many of the actions that these anarcha-feminists have taken could realistically be done with a couple of friends, some discussion about logistics, consistency, and a little bit of courage. Our region attempts to disempower us every day, by telling us how to act, what to wear, and who to be. Situations of control and violence are commonplace-- even here, even now. **We can learn from the autonomous projects of anarcha-feminists in Latin America, and we too can create alternative worlds.**

@love_and_disorder_



THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, WE CAN FIND EXAMPLES OF HOW ISSUES OF INJUSTICE AND VIOLENCE WERE SOLVED CREATIVELY BY ANARCHA-FEMINISTS.

LA VOZ DE LA MUJER (THE VOICE OF THE WOMAN)

In 1896, the anarchist-communist newspaper La Voz de La Mujer began circulating in Argentina, providing women with a network of discussion un-censored by patriarchy or the government. La Voz de la Mujer offered working-class women an opportunity to connect and remain informed about their shared struggles as economic changes in the country pushed more women into the workforce. Women were increasingly faced with double labor: that in their homes and that in their jobs. La Voz de La Mujer created a structure in which women could find support in each other rather than remain in marriages that lacked balance, fulfillment, and were often abusive.

"We have decided to raise our voice in the social concert and demand our part in the pleasures of the banquet of life. We decided to allow our voice to be heard, no longer in the form of sorrow or begging, but in vibrant and energetic demand. Everything is for everyone."

(Our Intentions, Issue 1 - Jan 8, 1896)

#NIUNAMENOS (#NOTONELESS)

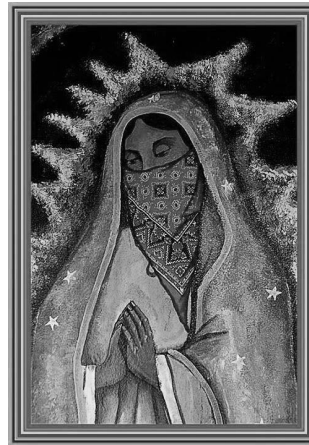
This powerful movement sparked in response to the long legacy of **femicides**, the intentional killing of women and girls motivated by gender, across Latin America. Feminists took to the streets in El Salvador, Brazil, Peru, and many other Latin American countries demanding action against gender-based violence. Mexico saw an immense wave of anarcha-feminists angered by the government's consistent lack of action. For years they have been uniting to take matters into their own hands, organizing workshops, and creating art, seeking justice for those lost, and prevention of future gender-based violence. The work of anarcha-feminists across Latin America has since furthered the conversation around feminism and resistance tactics. Pictured below is an image of a government building anarcha-feminists took over and turned into a shelter. It reads, **"We don't forgive or**



LA VIRGEN DE LOS DESEOS (THE VIRGIN OF DESIRES)

Located in Bolivia, this space continues the anarchist tradition of autonomous spaces for unity and exchange of ideas. It is home to the anarcha-feminist artist collective, self-proclaimed street agitators Mujeres Creando (Women Creating), and is also home to their radio project called Radio Deseo, which combines the love for music with social discussion that resists machismo and colonization.

The space seeks to create a place free of violence and racism and also functions as a restaurant that preserves and promotes ancestral recipes.



EDUCACIÓN NO SEXISTA (ANTI-SEXIST EDUCATION)

Frustrated with gender discrimination in their classrooms and textbooks, students across Chile have urged for education that promotes equality and creates a society that values respect and diversity. La Alzada, a collective of anarcho-feminist students, approached the issue directly and organized anti-sexism trainings, declaring that education should be liberatory and secular. Their trainings discussed the creation of an educational model that goes against gender mistreatment and takes into consideration gender diversity and the struggles of the working class.

"Stereotypes, taboos, and prejudice persist regarding how to handle the topic, as well as the persistence of machista attitudes and the submission of women, the exclusion of other types of sexuality, and the refusal to approach the topic in public spaces. It is necessary to approach sexuality from a secular and liberatory perspective, to abandon the idea -which still exists- that the main objective of sex must be for reproduction."

(Anti-Sexist Education Bulletin, 2014)