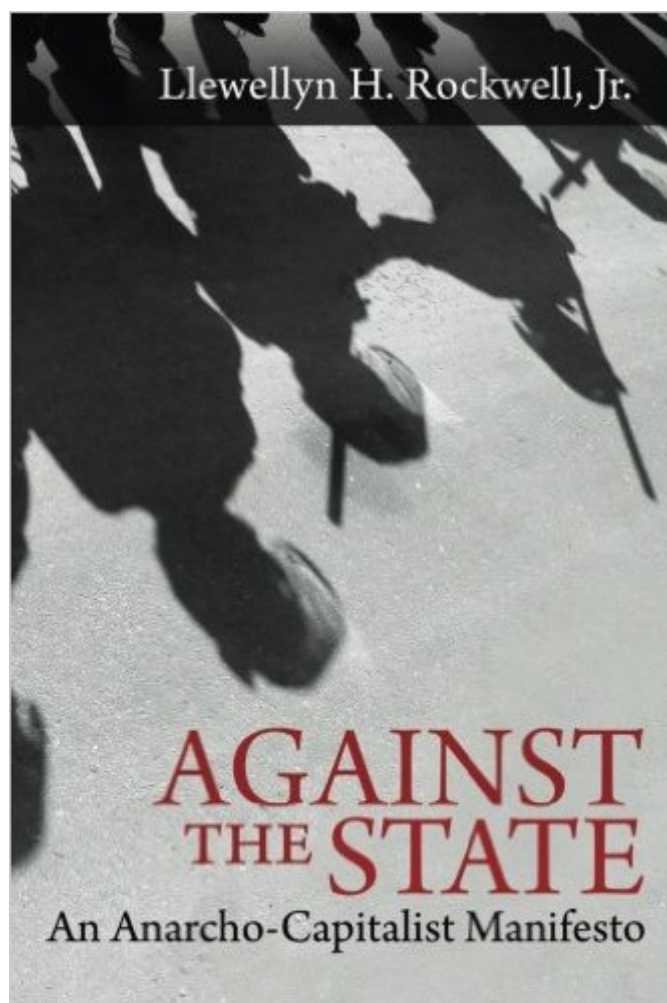


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Against The State: An Anarcho-Capitalist Manifesto



Synopsis

Against the State: An Anarcho-Capitalist Manifesto diagnoses what is wrong with the American political system and tells us what we need to fix things. The cure is a radical one because, as the book incontrovertibly shows, the many problems that confront us today are no accident. They stem from the nature of government itself. Only peaceful cooperation based on the free market can rescue us from our present plight. Against the State is written by Lew Rockwell, the founder of the Mises Institute and LewRockwell.com, and the closest friend and associate of Murray Rothbard, the leading theorist of anarcho-capitalism. Rockwell applies Rothbard's combination of individualist anarchism and Austrian economics to contemporary America. The book shows how the government is based on war, both against foreign nations and against the American people themselves, through massive invasions of our liberties. Fueled by an out-of-control banking system, the American State has become in essence fascist. We cannot escape our predicament through limited government: the government is incapable of controlling itself. Only a purely private social order can save us, and Rockwell succinctly sets out how an anarcho-capitalist order would work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a short book considering the subject matter. There is no doubt that Lew could have filled thousands of pages on this topic, but the genius of this work is the distilling down to this size, it is basically concentrated wisdom. This is the book that will have statist quaking in their boots. There is not a single major statist argument that Lew does not shred and scatter to the winds while at the same time showing them to be empty of any logic and reason. This book starts with the U.S. war machine and Lew handily carpet bombs the pro war side into so much rubble. The book is a great

resource for quotes and Lew leans heavily on work from all the greats, Rothbard, Mises, Higgs and of course indomitable Ron Paul with Lew adding his own observations and conclusions. If you ever wished you could have a good resource to help you win debates or to change minds, this is the one. Buy several and give them as gifts, Lew's writing style is concise and accessible to anyone and one by one he destroys the statist's arguments for why we even need a state. It is hard to imagine anyone reading this book and not wanting to force themselves to reexamine their assumptions about what they think is the proper role of any state. The answer will surprise many. All states become parasitic and oppressive even the ones started with the best intentions (See the USA as Exhibit A). This book is an Anarchists manifesto and maybe one of the most important books of the century simply because the case is distilled down to its essence and presented in a simple logical format. You have to read this to truly appreciate it.

This book is quite short and interesting, as well as a great value considering a price under five dollars. I am biased towards the underlying philosophy, so my rating is skewed in that direction. The book does hold a bit of a middle ground in that it does not delve quite deeply enough into the Non-Aggression Principle or the basics underlying Austrian Economic theory to be a great primer for those with no previous experience in libertarian literature; nor does it expand greatly on libertarian thought for readers fluent in Rothbard. A quick read through some of the reviews and comments is proof positive in this point that many after reading the book still lacked even a fundamental understanding of the Non-Aggression Principle, wrongly asserting that a belief in this principle somehow requires a belief in the inherent morality of individuals (instead of libertarianism's opposite contention which is that because men are not angels then we cannot expect them not to abuse the authority given to them to legitimize violence and coercion when done in service to the state). That being said, this book does cover a large swath efficiently in a very small package. The use of "Manifesto" in the subtitle could be misleading if the reader expects a thorough conceptual formulation as found in Murray Rothbard's "Libertarian Manifesto", being as "Against the State" is really a collection of expounded essays that cover several topics in an attempt to demonstrate the validity of anarcho-capitalism as a societal alternative (and more so the culpability of the nation state in the murder and suffering of millions). At times Rockwell's tone seems much harsher than that of his mentor's, but overall Rockwell has a fine writing style all to his own.

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