

After having our limits pushed back again and again, we have given up on your systems. If our fellow inhabitants of this planet wish to accept your rule, they are free to do so. We will not try to stop them. We, however, will no longer accept your constraints upon us.

Strangers In A Tangled Wilderness
WWW.TANGLEDWILDERNESS.ORG



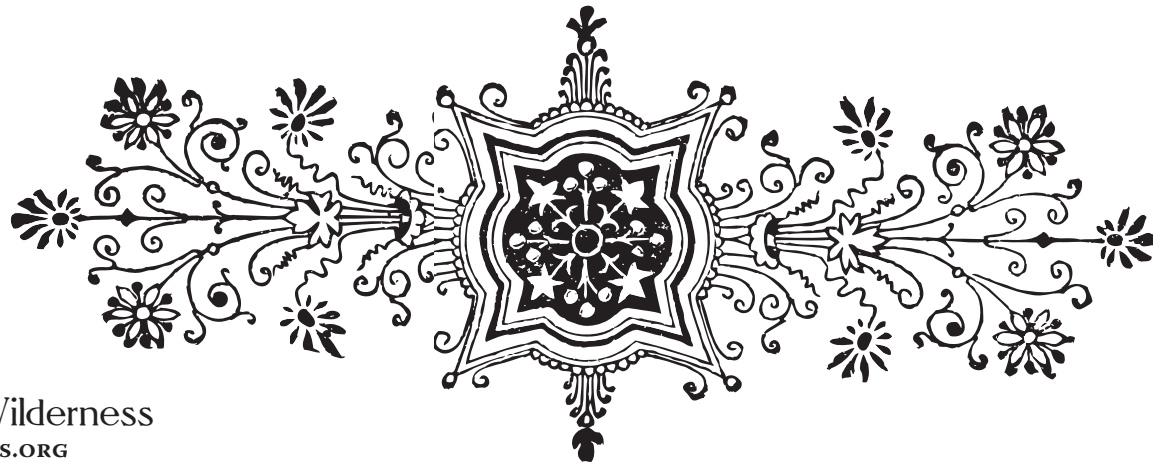
WE INTEND TO LIVE IN PEACE

WE ARE TIRED OF BEING EXPLOITED

**AND IF YOU BOTHER US, YOU
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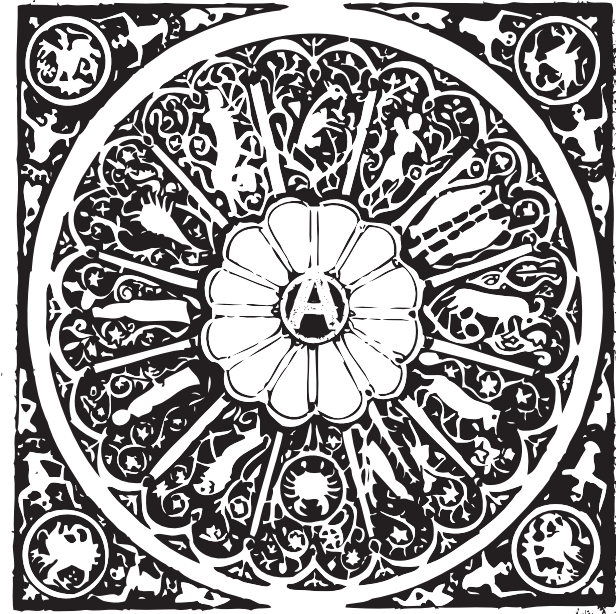
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We here at Strangers In A Tangled Wilderness are suckers for well-written anarchist screeds and manifestos. This one, found anonymously authored on the internet, got us immediately.

It explores a new kind of post-leftism, one exploring a non-coercive approach to anarchism. Sure, there's a few lines in here we don't agree with 100% (we have a more lenient view on "crime", for example), but this gets at something really important, something so often forgotten about in anarchist circles.

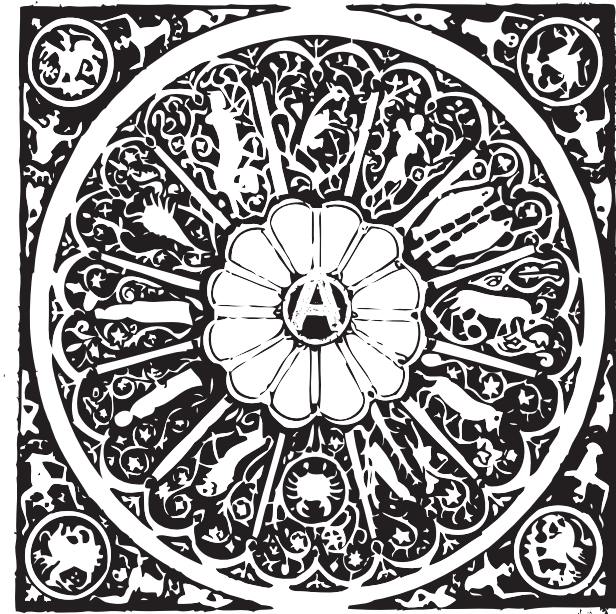
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strangers@riseup.net



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We will consider traps laid for us to be criminal offences.

Any who wish to join us are encouraged to distribute this declaration, to act in furtherance of our new society, to voluntarily expand activities which will open up space for others to step away from the control of the current regime and to communicate and cooperate with other members of the new society.

Free, unashamed people cannot be ruled.

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-12-

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TO THE GOVERNMENTS & PEOPLE OF EARTH

WE CLAIM THE RIGHT to exist, and we will defend it.

We do not seek to overthrow anything. We do not seek to control anything. We merely wish to be left alone.

All we ever wanted was to live in peace with our friends and neighbors. For a long, long time we bore insults to our liberty; we took blows, we did what we could to avoid injury and we worked through the system to get the offenses to stop. That has now changed.

We no longer see any benefit in working through the world's systems. At some point, working within a system becomes cowardly and intolerable; for many of us, that point has arrived. Regardless of the parties in power, their governments have continued to restrict, restrain, and punish us. We hereby reject them all. We hereby withdraw from them all. We hold the ruling states of this world and all that appertains to them to be self-serving and opposed to humanity and our living homeland.

We now withdraw our obedience and reclaim the right to strike back when struck. We will not initiate force, but we do reserve the right to answer it. We did not choose this—it was forced upon us.

-1-

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TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF EARTH

YOU ARE BUILDING CAGES for all that is beautiful about being alive. In the name of protection, you have intruded into all areas of human life, far exceeding the reach of any Caesar. You claim ultimate control of our persons and our decisions, of our travels, and even our identities. You claim ownership of humanity far beyond the dreams of any Emperor of any previous era.

Understand clearly: we reject authority and we reject your legitimacy. We do not believe that you have any right to do the things you do. You have massive power, but no right to impose it upon us and no legitimacy. We have forsaken you. We are no longer your citizens or your subjects. Your systems are inherently toxic to life on Earth, even if all their operators are not.

We are not merely angry young people. We are fathers and mothers; aunts, uncles, and grandparents; we are business owners and trusted employees; we are mechanics and engineers and farmers. We are nurses and accountants and students and executives.

We are on every continent.

This is not a burst of outrage; this is a sober declaration that we no longer

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OUR PLANS

WE ARE BUILDING OUR OWN society. We will supplement traditional tools with networking, cryptography, and anonymous messaging.

Our society will not be centrally controlled. It will rely solely on voluntary arrangements. We welcome others to join us. We are looking for people who are independent creators of life-affirming values, people who act more than talk, and people who re-affirm their place in this world in nurturing, self-fulfilling ways.

We will develop our own methods of dealing with injustice, built on the principles of negative rights, restitution, integrity and equal justice.

We do not forbid anyone from having one foot in each realm—ours and the old realm—although we demand that they do no damage to our realm. We are fully opposed to any use of our realm to facilitate crime in the old realm, such as the hiding of criminal proceeds.

We expect to be loudly condemned, libeled and slandered by the authorities of the old regime. We expect them to defend their power and their image of legitimacy with all means available to them. We expect that many gullible and servile people will believe these lies, at least at first.

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#10: We believe that there are only two true classes of human beings: those who wish to exercise power upon others—either directly or through intermediaries—and those who have no such desires.

#11: Large organizations and centralization are inherently anti-human. They must rely upon rules rather than principles, treating humans within the organization as obedient tools.

#12: We believe that the continuation of this inhuman society can only result in the extinction of the human race. Our rejection of this society is therefore an act of self-preservation.

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accept unearned suffering as our role in life.

For long decades we sat quietly, hoping that things would turn around. We took no actions; we suffered along with everyone else. But after having our limits pushed back again and again, we have given up on your systems. If our fellow inhabitants of this planet wish to accept your rule, they are free to do so. We will not try to stop them. We, however, will no longer accept your constraints upon us.

From now on, when you hurt us, we will bite back. If you leave us alone we will leave you alone and you can continue to rule your subjects. We are happy to live quietly.

-3-

You have massive power,
but no right to impose it
upon us and no legitimacy.
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This is not a burst of outrage; this is a sober declaration that we no longer accept unearned suffering as our role in life.

But if you come after us, there will be consequences. Your fetish for control and power has caused this. The chief men and women among you are pathologically driven to control everyone and everything that moves upon this planet. You have made yourselves the judge of every human activity. No god-king of the ancient world ever had the power that your systems do.

You have created a world where only the neutered are safe and where only outlaws are free.

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#6: We believe that some humans are dangerously dysfunctional and that they must be faced and dealt with. We accept the fact that this is a difficult area of life.

#7: We believe that humans can self-organize effectively. We expect them to cooperate. We reject impositions of hierarchy and organization.

#8: We believe that all humans are to be held as equals in all matters regarding justice.

#9: We believe that the more a person cares about right and wrong, the more of a threat that person is perceived to be by governments.

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#3: We do not believe that our way of life, or any other, will make life perfect or trouble-free. We expect crime and disagreements and ugliness, and we are prepared to deal with them. We do not seek a strongman to step in and solve problems for us. We agree to see to our problems ourselves.

#4: We believe in free and unhindered interaction. So long as interactions are voluntary and honest, no other party has a right to intervene—before, during, or after.

#5: We believe that all individuals should keep their agreements.

WE SEEK NOTHING FROM YOU. We do not want to rule you and we do not want to control you.

All we wish is to live on Earth in peace. As always, we will be helpful neighbors and generous acquaintances. We will remain honest business partners and trustworthy employees. We will continue to be loving parents and respectful children.

We will not, however, be sacrificial animals. We reject the idea that others have a right to our lives. We will not demand anything from you, and we will no longer acquiesce to any demands upon us. We have left that game. We reject all obligations to any person or organization beyond honesty, fair dealing, and a respect for life.

We are not demanding that you agree with us. All we ask is that you do not try to stop us. Continue to play the game if you wish; we will not try to disrupt it. We have merely walked away from it.

We wish you peace.

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WE WILL IGNORE YOU.

We would stand openly before all humanity if it were not suicidal. Perhaps some day we will have to accept slaughter for our crime of independence, but not yet.

Your criticism and your malice are much deeper than mere disagreements of strategy or philosophy. You do not oppose our philosophy, you oppose our existence. Our presence in the world means that your precious ideals are false. Some of you would rather kill us than face the loss of your ideologies, just as those like you have either hated or killed every sufficiently independent human. You present yourselves to the world as compassionate, tolerant, and enlightened, but we know that your smooth words are costumes. Oh yes, we know you, servant of the state; don't forget, we were raised with you. We played with you in the schoolyard, we sat next to you in the classroom. Some of us studied at the same elite universities. We watched as you had your first tastes of power. We were the boys and girls standing next to you.

Some of us were your first victims. We are not fooled by your carefully crafted public image.

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#1: MANY HUMANS RESENT THE responsibilities that are implied by consciousness. We accept those responsibilities and we embrace consciousness. Rather than letting things happen to us (avoiding consciousness), we accept consciousness and choose to act in our own interest. We do not seek the refuge of blaming others, neither do we take refuge in crowds. We are willing to act on our personal judgment, and we are willing to accept the consequences thereof.

#2: We believe in negative rights for all: that all humans should be free to do whatever they wish, as long as they do not intrude upon others; that no one has a right to the life, liberty, or personal property of another; that we oppose aggression, fraud, and coercion.

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