

***The Accumulation of Freedom: Writings on Anarchist Economics* by Deric Shannon, Anthony J. Nocella II, and John Asimakopoulos eds. AK Press, 2012. Pp. 375. \$21.00 (Paperback). ISBN: 9781849350945**

Reviewer: Mark Bray¹

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Over the past decades serious scholars of the history and practice of anarchism have taken important strides toward the refutation of a mountain of erroneous portrayals and interpretations of this chronically misunderstood doctrine. Historians such as Temma Kaplan, George Esenwein, Martha Ackelsberg, and Maxine Molyneux have worked to dispel characterizations of anarchism as ‘atavistic,’ ‘millenarian,’ ‘petit-bourgeois,’ and ‘nihilistic.’² More recently, Michael Schmidt and Lucien van der Walt have built upon this scholarship to demonstrate the chronological and geographical continuities of what they refer to as the “broad anarchist tradition.”³ By focusing on economics, a severely neglected component of anarchist thought, *The Accumulation of Freedom* represents one of the latest contributions to the ongoing development of anarchist studies. It seeks to refute the common

¹ **Mark Bray** is a Ph.D. student in the History Department at Rutgers University. Address correspondence to: Mark Bray, e-mail: markbray@eden.rutgers.edu.

² Temma Kaplan, *Anarchists of Andalusia, 1868-1903* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1977); George Richard Esenwein, *Anarchist Ideology and the Working-Class Movement in Spain, 1868-1898* (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1989); Martha Ackelsberg, *Free Women of Spain: anarchism and the struggle for the emancipation of women* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991); Maxine Molyneux, “No God, No Boss, No Husband: Anarchist Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Argentina” *Latin American Perspectives* 13 (Winter, 1986). For the most well-known example of the ‘millenarian thesis’ see E. J. Hobsbawm, *Primitive Rebels* (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 1959).

³ Michael Schmidt and Lucien van der Walt, *Black Flame: The Revolutionary Class Politics of Anarchism and Syndicalism* (Oakland: AK Press, 2009).