

Book Review: Mark Bray, *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*. Winchester, UK: Zero Books, 2013. ISBN: 978-1782791263 (Paperback). 342 Pages. \$18.75.

Reviewed by Deric Shannon¹

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In *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*, Mark Bray accomplishes a few important tasks for critical students of social movements—including participants and scholars. The (arguably) largest and most important task he performs is his investigation and central focus on the *anarchism* of Occupy Wall Street. This is important for a couple of reasons.

First, as Bray carefully outlines, “[t]he mainstream consensus was that Occupy Wall Street (OWS) was a liberal response to Obama’s failure to do more to soften the blows of the economic crisis” (2). This same analysis—rooted in a liberal ideological hope for an ideologically liberal alternative to the conservative Democratic Party in the U.S.—can also be found in many scholarly portrayals of OWS. But, according to Bray, this was and is wishful thinking. Rather, “[a]t its core, Occupy Wall Street was an anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian movement run by organizers with predominantly anarchist and anarchistic politics” (2-3). And he should know—Bray was a core org. (In fact, I saw him doing an interview with CNN during the May Day march in New York City in 2012 on a television that I passed in a restaurant while I marched through the streets in support.) He did interviews for OWS “with every local and national affiliate of all major TV networks, all the CNNs, NBC cable stations, Fox News, BBC, RT, Al Jazeera all the TV, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time Magazine*, etc. Also local and national radio, Radio

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