

Anti-colonial Anarchism, Or Anarchistic Anti-Colonialism: The Similarities in the Revolutionary Theories of Frantz Fanon and Mikhail Bakunin

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This paper will attempt to explore the similarities in the revolutionary theories of Mikhail Bakunin and Frantz Fanon. Particular attention will be paid to their shared focus on the peasantry as a revolutionary force, violence as a mode of revolution, and skepticism of bourgeois appropriation of revolutionary fervor and success. This is not to argue that Frantz Fanon was an anarchist (he was clearly embedded within the Marxist tradition), but to explore how anarchism and anti-colonial struggles speak to one another. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2012 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

KEYWORDS: Anti-Colonialism, Revolution, Anarchism.

Speaking in very different social spheres, what exactly could a Russian anarchist writing in the mid-19th century have in relation with an anti-colonial psychiatrist writing in the mid-20th century? The similarity could be understood simply by looking at their revolutionary intent. When we examine Mikhail Bakunin and Frantz Fanon's revolutionary theories, we see very stark overlapping thoughts regardless of the different time and place in which they were writing. This leads me to believe that anarchism and anti-colonial struggles speak to one another. By looking at them together, I think we can better understand revolutionary change outside of the urban working class and top down revolutions, which have often-lead revolutionary debate.

I want to explore these similarities by looking at Frantz Fanon's theory of colonial overthrow, in tandem with Mikhail Bakunin's thoughts on social revolution. I will do this paying particular attention to the

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