

R. A. Childs, "No Government"

Market Anarchy Zine Series #56 • Jul. – Sep. 2014

“IT IS MY CONTENTION THAT ‘LIMITED GOVERNMENT’ IS a floating abstraction which has never been concretized by anyone; that a limited government must either initiate force or cease being a government; that the very concept of limited government is an unsuccessful attempt to integrate two mutually contradictory elements: statism and voluntarism. Hence, if this can be shown, epistemological clarity and moral consistency demands the rejection of the institution of government totally, resulting in free market anarchism, or a purely voluntary society.

“NO ONE CAN EVADE THE FACT THAT, HISTORICALLY, the state is a bloodthirsty monster, responsible for more violence, bloodshed and hatred than any other institution known to man. Your approach to the matter is not yet radical, not yet fundamental: it is *the existence of the state itself which must be challenged* by the new radicals. . . . There are only two alternatives, in reality: political rule, or archy, which means: the condition of social existence wherein some men use aggression to dominate or rule another, and anarchy, which is the absence of the initiation of force, the absence of the initiation of force, the absence of political rule, the absence of the state. We shall replace the state with the free market, and men shall for the first time in their history be able to walk and live without fear. . . .”

The “Market Anarchy” zine series was created to republish & showcase articles that highlight our relation to the revolutionary left and explain Market Anarchist theory in general terms.

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Auburn, Ala.

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MARKET ANARCHY

**NO GOVERNMENT**  
against the ‘minimal state’

*Roy A. Childs*

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**Also available from ALL:**

**“Spontaneous Order: Five Theses on Freed-Market Social Movements and Self-Regulating Anarchy,” Sheldon Richman, Charles Johnson & David D’Amato (2011).** Essays on the social and economic possibilities for social *order* without imposed social *control* – for spontaneous order and people-powered social movements against capitalism, racism, and ecocide within an anarchic freed market. **16pp. \$1.50.**

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**“Objectivism and the State: An Open Letter to Ayn Rand”** was first published in 1969 in the Society for Individual Liberty’s newsletter, *The Individualist*. It was widely reprinted, and later republished with many of Childs’s other essays in *Liberty Against Power* (1994); in the early 1990s, it gained a second wave of influence when it was widely distributed over Usenet and the World Wide Web.

**Roy A. Childs, Jr.** (1949–1994) was a New York essayist, activist and critic. As a teenager, he published two essays — “The Contradiction in Objectivism” and “An Open Letter to Ayn Rand” — which became incredibly influential in creating a “free market anarchist” tendency within the emerging libertarian movement in the U.S. Influenced by the teaching of Robert LeFevre, he was involved in the Rampart College Freedom School, the Society for Individual Liberty, publications including *The Individualist* and *Libertarian Review*.

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