

The notion of the enlightened, intellectual jazz musician is dead. Charlie Parker had a "complex mind," Coltrane was spiritually perfected, all of the AACM musicians were downright geniuses, and Sun Ra, and Cecil Taylor... but what musicians today reflect this tradition? The average ja...



Sep 15

# Cynicism, the Decline of Music and of "Jazz" Culture

The dominance of participatory forms of mass media and its now unavoidable infusion into daily life via advanced technology in the current age has produced a general social malaise of jaded cynicism, detached irony, and rootless hedonism. It is quickly becoming impossible for...



Aug 2

#### **Nietzsche: Political or Apolitical Philosopher?**

Preliminary Notes on Losurdo — (Some informal ramblings) — The current and ongoing consensus on Nietzsche's philosophy vis-à-vis its political implications have long been that it offers many positive insights for those on the political Left. This was made possible by the...



**Jul 13** 

### **George Russell's Forgotten Theory of Jazz Music**

The 70th anniversary of the publication of George Russell's 1953 book The Lydian Chromatic Concept of Tonal Organization seems to have come around in complete silence. This silence is not at all new. Russell's book was once widely influential — Coltrane, Miles, and Bill Evans...



Jun 14

# Marx's Theory of Value as the Basis for Social Critique

And an elucidation on "social domination" — Open up any book in defense of markets¹ by a libertarian or someone adjacent and you might find the common set of arguments: that the market arises naturally and spontaneously out of human actions, that it exhibits the proper s...



#### Methodological foundations of a critical theory of capitalism

Knowing the empirical facts does not suffice. This is because communism does not materialize merely at the level of the empirical, but as thought and movement it materializes in the realm of social possibility, which glides along the path of the historical. A critique of capitalism...

Capitalism 2 min read

Jun 1

#### Roger Scruton's Critique of Marx's Theory of Value

The late Roger Scruton was arguably one of the most significant traditionalist-conservative intellectuals in recent British academic history, and his book, Thinkers of the New Left, has somewhat fascinated me for some time. Whereas the recent 2015 reprint of the book is much...



May 30

# Contemporary "Theory" and its Discontents — Nietzsche and the Problem of Literary Decadence

A note for crass individuals of either side — this is not an attempt to discredit Postmodern theory, and certainly not Baudrillard, whom I verily owe great respect and credit to...



May 24

# A Review of "How to Philosophize with a Hammer and Sickle" by Jonas Čeika

I was inspired to write this because of a review of the same book by a fantastic medium writer now under the alias Amar Mujezinovic. Jonas Čeika, better known as the youtuber "CCK...



#### Mark Fisher and the Inquiry into Rationality

One of the most vexing writings of Mark Fisher which has haunted me now for a period of years, is a single short blogpost from his k-punk blog dated to February 17, 2005, entitled: WE DOGMATISTS (link). It is a bizarre mix of damning wisdom, unhinged madness, and utter...



May 8

# Why does communism produce according to want?

Among the most commonly repeated communist slogans is the slogan which runs along the lines of "communism produces according to human needs and wants." It is so often repeated and in such a way that it appears to be assumed by many to be an intuitively desirable politica...



May 4

#### The end of history?

The fundamental realization to which all theoretical production in the relam of value-theory and the critique of political economy must return, that must be confronted and to which it must find a resolution, is the realization that the capitalist mode of production is historically...



May 3

#### On Immanence and Social Mediation

Guy Debord famously wrote in The Decline and Fall of the Spectacle-Commodity Economy: "Looting is a natural response to the unnatural and inhuman society of commodity abundance. It instantly undermines the commodity as such, and it also exposes what the commodity...



#### Comments on the tragedy of use-value

It has been a grave mistake, wherever present, to conceptualize the social functions of the commodity-form as being in the first sense a transhistorically innocuous use-value, and in the second sense a historically specific form of domination which we call value. There are, of...



Apr 26

# A Critique of Søren Mau from the Standpoint of Metabolic Rift Theory

One of the positions undertaken by Søren Mau in his work Mute Compulsion is of staunch ahumanism (see Mau, 78–91 and 98) [1]....



Apr 18

#### Critique as a flat circle

The libertarian model of the laissez-faire, essentially optimized capitalist economy is not the enemy and opposite of the supposed Marxian model of capitalism as exploitation, crisis, and social domination. It is in fact quite the opposite: the Marxian anti-capitalist conception is...



Apr 9

The most vulgar and yet conceptually sharp understanding of communism is a conception of the "conscious" overtaking of economy — in other words, of the abolition of the "unconscious" economic processes that characterize modernity. There is strength and weakness to this...

Communism 3 min read

Mar 28

#### **Outline of a work on Mass Culture**

Mass culture is a mirror of capitalist social logic — a mediated form of social interdependence. When looked at from the perspective of social interdependence, it appears as the innocuous and self-evident result of its own interpersonal social properties; when looked at from the...

2 min read

Mar 26

#### Marx, capitalism from the standpoint of communism

Marx's social ontology of capitalism exists on the edge of possibility, and can only be understood from this standpoint. ...

Marxism 2 min read

Feb 13

# **Subjective Valuation through Social Determination**

According to a pure subjective theory of value, even the problem of money can be resolved into a self-evident consideration of individual valuations of objects in exchange. An individual exchanges \$5 for sandwich, clearly because they value the sandwich more than the \$5. But thi...

Exchange 2 min read

### The Fundamental Relation of Capitalist Modernity is Labor as a Self-Mediation

"[D]efinite social relations are just as much produced by men as linen, flax, etc." (Marx, Poverty of Philosophy); in conditions of commodity production, these relations of production are thei...

Feb 4

On Crisis Theory

The long-standing Marxological debate on crisis theory — (1) on the theoretical validity of proclamations on tendential movements in the ratio of constant to variable capital (Heinrich, Mau contra Grossman), (2) on the determinism of the workers' movement (Mattick), or (3) on...

Crisis 1 min read

Feb 2

On Theory

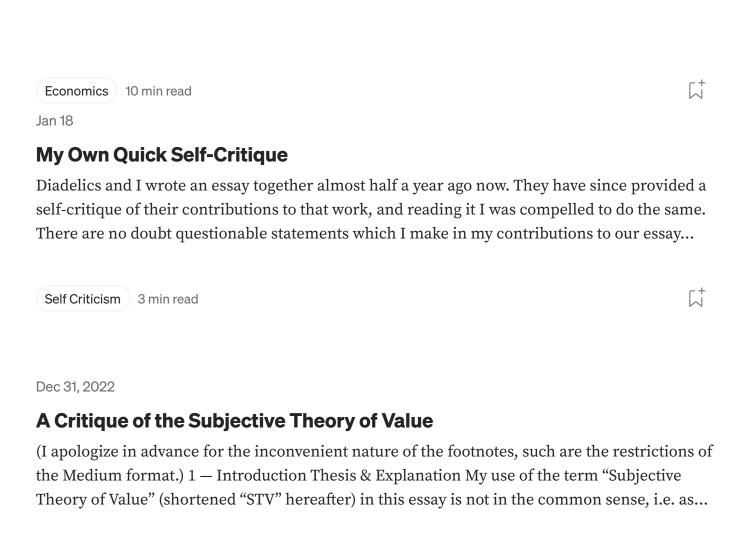
The point is not to understand Marx. Millions have already attempted to do so in various ways, nothing has necessarily come of it. The point is to enact change, to radically transform what appears to be an oppressive society — in a word, to do communism. The point of theory...

Jan 23

2 min read

# The Poverty of the "Economic Calculation Problem"

The "Economic Calculation Problem" (shortened "ECP" hereafter), first posited by Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises in his 1920 book, Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth, has generally remained a point of contention in ongoing discussions about...



Economics 20 min read

Dec 26, 2022

# Thomas Sowell and the Poverty of the Subjective Theory of Value

While some larger projects are still in the works, I wanted to share a rather humorous passage from a bourgeois economist I came across and discuss it in the general context of the impoverished Subjective Theory of Value. The passage is from Thomas Sowell's Basic...



Nov 9, 2022

#### Robert Kurz and Wertkritik on the Critique of Labor

Wertkritik (usually translated as "Value criticism" or "Critique of value") was a marginalized school of Marxian critical theory which emerged in the 1980s partly out of the "anti-German" movement and partly out of disillusionment with "K-Gruppen" (German communist parties). ... Labor 13 min read Nov 3, 2022 Why Labor Is the Substance of Value [ Alternate title: "Böhm-Bawerk Does Not Understand Marx" ] This article will address the deep misunderstandings expressed by Böhm-Bawerk in his attempt to critique Marx's method in Capital, as well as a general critique of anti-substantialist theories of value, particularly in... Marxism 20 min read Oct 13, 2022 A SYSTEMATIC CRITIQUE OF MARKET ECONOMIES [Initially printed elsewhere for counter-informative purposes, with the intent of being highly accessible and entirely foundational. Reproduced here for interest.] This essay presents a systematic critique of market economies. The word "market economy" here refers to the... Economics 9 min read Oct 5, 2022 The only goal of the intellectuals should be to make intellectuals obsolete. The only goal of the intellectuals should be to make intellectuals obsolete.

1 min read

V

Oct 4, 2022

What is left of Marx in the 21st century? An endless plethora of non-Marxists have, for the past half-century, all triumphantly declared: "Nothing." Communism is dead, exploitation is no longer relevant, classes have withered away, and the labor theory of value has been relegated ...



Sep 24, 2022

#### **Theses On Class Struggle**

I — The Personal & Political Class struggle cannot be understood at the level of the personal. Only in a non-objective and apologetic framework can its crimes be considered the result of exceptional circumstances that simply reoccur without reason. Even those exceptional...



Sep 22, 2022

### **Marx's Monetary Theory of Value**

A continuation of "Marx and the 'Labor Theory of Value." The basic thesis here is that Marx's theory of value is a monetary theory of value, and moreover, that it is the only major theory of this kind. Whereas some Marxists portray money as simply a particularly common commodit...



Sep 17, 2022

#### Marx and the "Labor Theory of Value"

The first thing that should be said about Marx's theory of value is that it is not a "labor theory of value." Marx never once used the term self-descriptively, referring only sparsely to a "theory of value." The "labor theory of value," instead, features much more prominently in the writings...

#### The Gaze, Hierarchy & Power

1 — On Hierarchy Sartre's theory of "the look" (also translated as "the gaze") describes the way in which we perceive ourselves both as subjects of our perceptive experience and objects in the perceptive experience of another subject. ...

Sartre 2 min read

Sep 10, 2022

# Preliminary Comments on Moishe Postone's "Time, Labor, and Social Domination"

Postone's Time, Labor, and Social Domination is an incredibly enticing project because it offers a wholesale reply to the dilemma posed by Baudrillard in The Mirror of Production, which is:...

Moishe Postone 3 min read

Sep 8, 2022

# Notes on the Proletariat as Revolutionary Subject, 9/9/22

Marxists have generally appeared only as quasi-populists, in an unsure territory between it and elitism. Whilst ostensibly asserting what should be a popular will, materially they find popular support in one place and impotence or refusal in another (D&G: "Why do men fight for their...



Sep 2, 2022

### Further Notes on post-Marxism, 9/2/22

1 As Endnotes elucidated in The Moving Contradiction, capitalism is defined by a set of contradictions which exist almost in no particular order and which all imply and reproduce each other dialectically. What this makes clear is that no particular contradiction of capitalis...

Communism 3 min read

Aug 30, 2022

### Notes on post-Marxism, 8/30/22

On the one side are traditional Marxists, with the view that 1 adds 1 to make 2; on the other side are post-Marxists, with the view that 2 divides into 1 and 1. Same principle, thoroughly oppositional perspectives. The value-form, the commodity, labor, capital, class struggle, etc. a...



Aug 27, 2022

#### Why Communize?

Our new age of capital — call it neoliberalism, consumer capitalism, whatever — makes it necessary to develop new modes of struggle. While much of the world (the "third world") still contains material conditions ripe for the communism of the past — call it workerism, or...



Aug 17, 2022

#### On the treachery of productivity

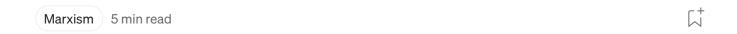
(Part 4 of a polemic on value) Introduction "It goes without saying that in the capitalist mode of production, it is not the case that products are innocently created and only arrive on the market a posteriori; rather, every process of production is from the outset oriented toward the...

Productivity 9 min read

Aug 17, 2022

#### Abolition of Value is the only way to kill a State

(Part 3 of a polemic on value) "Men can be distinguished from animals by consciousness, by religion or anything else you like. They themselves begin to distinguish themselves from animals as soon as they begin to produce their means of subsistence, a step which is...



Aug 16, 2022

#### Enough with the Proletariat, enough with labor, enough with the State

(Part 2 of a polemic on value) Now, at the advent of post-scarcity, at the glimmering moment of clarity in a world gone mad, there is still talk of "proletarian society," "class lines," "pro-labor republics"? Trade unions, councils, "workers' states," syndicates, co-ops, and every movemen...



Aug 15, 2022

#### Fuck your "labor-tokens", down with Value!

(Part 1 of a polemic on value) Among the lesser quoted aspects of Marx's work is his admittance to the fact that his theory of "lower-stage communism" was yet bourgeois. Guided by the principle, "The same amount of labor which he has given to society in one form, he receives...



Aug 14, 2022

#### Capital's Division of Social Life

Capital — the accumulation of "dead labor" — in its first steps, had to create the category of "labor" altogether to generalize it across the global population. By cutting into social relations to enforce its all-encompassing value-form, it created the largest divide between economic an...



#### **Politics as Consumer Item in Leftism**

The political left is haunted by the fact that it has generated little of new, fundamental ideas. Socially progressive ideas trek along, but for genuinely revolutionary ideas or tactics, the left remains stuck in the 20th century. All of its debates, its aesthetics, its theory, and its...



Aug 9, 2022

#### Notes, 8/9/22

Žižek, in an interview with Vice, humorously paints the image of a sort of postmodern boss, trying to making small talk with obscenities to make himself appear as a kind of friend to his workers. This is the same image portrayed in the film Sorry to Bother You. For the...



Aug 7, 2022

#### On Colonialism

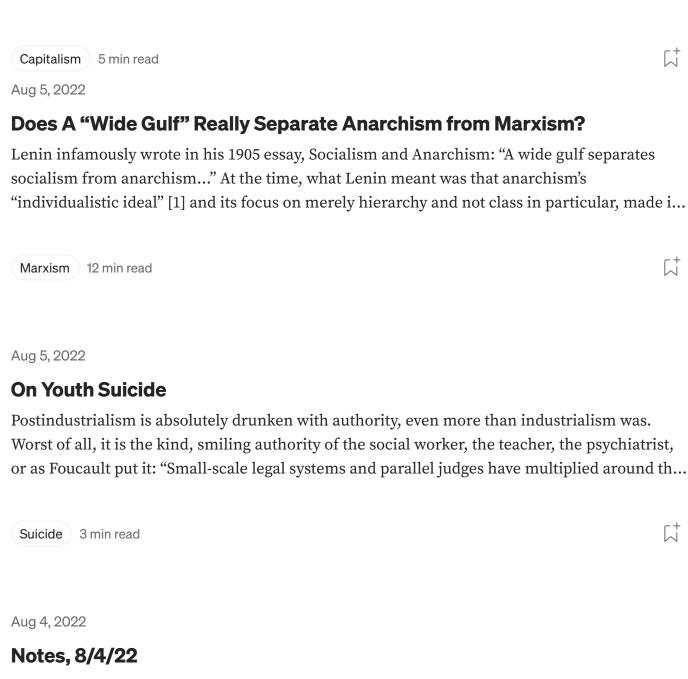
From what I've seen, there is not really such a thing as a particularly barbaric people or a particularly benevolent one. In general, though there may be sects or small tribes which are more or less "ethical" than others, at a decent scale, it all kind of evens out. What...



Aug 6, 2022

### **Theory of the Zone**

1. In our society of commodity abundance, we have grown accustomed to its logic. Not merely through ideology, but also through our human instinct to justify that which needs not justification — in short, our acceptance of the familiar. We begin to believe in its bizarre logic ...



"Everyone agrees. It's about to explode. It is acknowledged, with a serious and self-important look, in the corridors of the Assembly, just as yesterday it was repeated in the cafes. There is a certain pleasure in calculating the risks. Already, we are presented with a detailed menu of...

3 min read

Aug 4, 2022

# The End of History — Communism

Co-written with a good friend of mine, check it out on their page https://medium.com/@diadelics/the-end-of-history-communism-29290f4b985



Aug 1, 2022

#### The Essence of Ideological Media

On the one hand, I greatly regret seeing the movie Her (2013) dir. by Spike Jonze, because it is an utter waste of time to see and has nothing to say on its own merit, but on the other hand, it gave me inspiration...





Jul 27, 2022

#### Marxism and the Individual: A Progressive and Reactionary View

This is a critique of common views of the individual as a philosophical entity from within Marxism. It discusses the relation of Fascism to Liberalism to Marxism through the discussion of the individual as it is viewed across these theories. It is divided in two parts: first, on the...



Jul 27, 2022

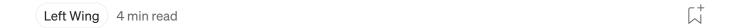
#### Simulacra and Simulation and Conservatism

The difference between socialist and conservative diatribes about modern society, I observed, diverges in this way: the whinings of the socialist exist merely as philosophical until one steps out into the world and sees them come alive; the whinings of the conservative die as soon as...



#### **Against "Post-Leftism"**

What makes Bob Black's essay, The Abolition of Work, so frustrating is not that it calls for the abolition of work, but that it believes this to be a revolutionary idea to end all revolutionary ideas. Both this essay and Black's whole career was spent lambasting traditional anarchists,...



Jul 23, 2022

## **Elucidation on the Spectacle and Freedom in Capitalism**

1 — The Spectacle The general social and subsequently philosophic trend of leftist and leftistadjacent thought can be summed up in the concept of the Spectacle. From the nihilism of Baudrillard, the schizophrenia of Deleuze and Guattari, the totalitarianism in Marcuse, and t...



Jul 22, 2022

#### **Revolutionary Jazz**

"Instead of seeking to overcome capital, we should focus on what capital must always obstruct: the collective capacity to produce, care and enjoy." — Mark Fisher, Acid Communism My thesis here is a simple one: jazz music contains all the elements of revolutionary affirmation. The w...



Jul 16, 2022

#### 15 More Aphorisms

A non-chronological continuation of "8 Aphorisms." -1. Complex terminology. Do not be weary of men who use complex terminology; be weary of men who reject ideas on the basis of complex terminology. ...



Among many other aspects of Marxism, the theory of communist determinism has been often misrepresented for cheap potshots. The general misunderstanding is that Marxism contains incoherency with regards to the realization of communism as being simultaneously inevitabl...



Jul 12, 2022

#### Postscript on Moralism as Capitalist Realism

In a past essay of mine, I described the behavior of moralizers — those who allot much time and effort to moralizing about what individuals should and should not do and denouncing those that contradict their teachings. ...



Jul 10, 2022

### **Society of Infantalization**

(Aka "Postindustrialism — an Infantile Disorder?") It is at work everywhere — in the school, the workplace, the media, and even the family. It is a new era of capital, in total contradistinction to the last, and which makes the old seem like folklore. I. Non-Production 1 — In societies...



Jun 25, 2022

#### **Against Atheism**

Inspired by Nikoli O'Dwyer's excellent article "Atheism is Overrated." Possibly since Feuerbach's theses on Christianity, it has gradually up to now become a sort of fad to take potshots against religion and plunge into atheism. Many of the arguments penned by the German Atheists...

K

Jun 20, 2022

### Against Individualism and Collectivism: A polemic for freedom in Leftism

In the quest for freedom, both individualism and collectivism become obsolete, their ideological and subsequently vacuous nature revealed. There is no dichotomy between the tw...



Jun 14, 2022

#### **A Revolutionary Leftist Theoretical Program**

The purpose of this short text is to outline a theoretical program which may offer guidance to revolutionary leftist movements — particularly anti-authoritarian ones — with the goal of solving issues within the mentality of many such groups today. It is not something to be...



Jun 6, 2022

#### Why Are We Still Working?: A Critique of Contemporary Leninism

The traditional Marxist doxa will have it that the proletariat are never provided enough labor positions, a factor of their poverty; subsequently, one of the major projects of the USSR was guaranteeing employment to all citizens. In capitalism, employment is among the costs that, ...



Jun 1, 2022

# For Zapffe

One night in long bygone times... (Zapffe) Man rose out of warm and bubbling waters and into the open air, that is, he stepped outside of his own head and peered at himself. He studied his thoughts, observed his appearance, and laid his spirit's functions bare. He was freeing himsel...



May 30, 2022

### There is No Libertarian Right Wing

To refrain from perverting the term "libertarianism" further, I will use the term "propertarian," or some variant of "laissez-faire capitalist" when I speak of the so-called "right-wing libertarians." 1 — Friendly t...



Libertarianism 14 min read

May 20, 2022

#### 8 Aphorisms

A Semi-Tribute to Nietzsche — 1. Revolutionary movements. Revolutionary action can begin only when a movement ceases to concern itself merely with reaction, and develops a consciousness of its own which can be thought of wholly outside of the current order; when it...

Nietzsche 3 min read

May 17, 2022

#### **An Introduction to Anti-Politics**

1 — Alienated Science One of the greatest successes of neoliberalism in dominating the minds of its subjects has been its ability to separate politics from everyday life. The causes of this phenomenon may have something to do with the extreme specialization of labor under...

Politics 4 min read

#### A Materialist Look at "Anarcho-Nihilism"

What is so fascinating about "anarcho-nihilism" is that — despite it being a chronological possibility — there does not seem to be a single "anarcho-nihilist" writer past their 20s. Moreover, there is not a single one of them who writes in a serious manner in regards to...

Anarchism 2 min read

May 16, 2022

#### In Defense of "Natural Law"

Today many anarchists seem quite averse to the prospect of "natural law." This may be largely because of the term's heavy use by propertarians (i.e. free-market capitalists). Propertarians use the term often in order to justify their notions of private property — often the case as...

Anarchism 3 min read

May 15, 2022

#### **Morality**

(A semi-tribute to Renzo Novatore) — Morality is the heavenly pedestal which the most wicked men climb onto in order to forget the pain of being a corporeal man; Morality is the drug which deludes good men into causing unbelievable suffering in the world; Morality is the shield...

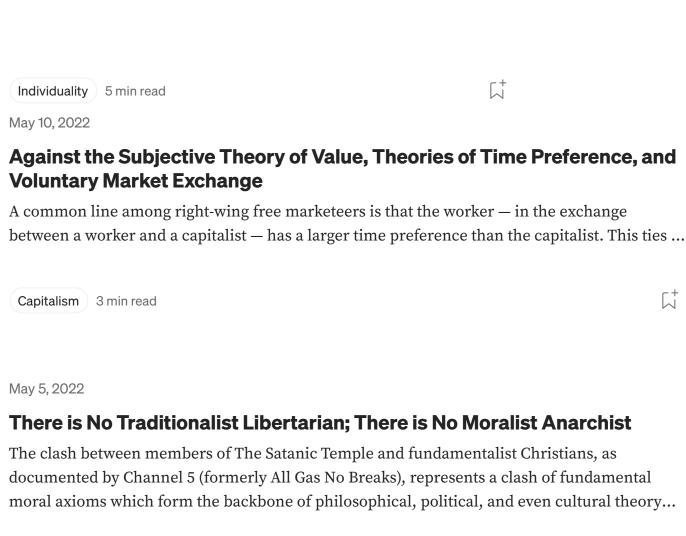
Morality 1 min read

May 13, 2022

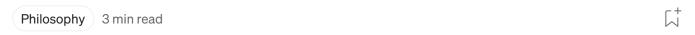
#### "Individualism" Kills Individuality

To start, I want to share an anecdote to demonstrate my point. My Anecdote I grew up in middle-class suburbia — among the last of their kind, as families without upper-class jobs in the US increasingly cann...





documented by Channel 5 (formerly All Gas No Breaks), represents a clash of fundamental



May 5, 2022

# The State of Individuality Under Capitalism and **Socialism**

It is often remarked by dull right-wing free-market thinkers (and those hapless others who listen to them) that capitalism — defined for our...



C

Socialism	9 min read

May 4, 2022

Moralism: Religion, Reactionary Politics, and Authoritarianism

Radical human expressions of negative moralism — that is, of moral exclamations at things perceived to be negative based upon those things' transgression of underlying moral principles — are not true altruistic expressions whose true intention and motivation is to set things right...



Apr 29, 2022

# A Critique of Philosophical Pessimism

Philosophical pessimism is the belief that — particularly as a being capable of consciousness — being dead is preferable to being alive. It is thus logical that a crucial trope in the realm of philosophical pessimism is its tirade against human consciousness. ...



Mar 23, 2022

#### A Lifestyle of Rebellion Will Destroy Freedom

On April 11, 2006, Mark Fisher wrote on his blog k-punk: "What many students most want from college, although they would never admit it, is an authority structure. There is a demand for an authority which they can then reject; they want to be told what to do, so they...



Mar 21, 2022

#### **Social Anarchism and Freedom**

One of the fundamental perversions at the heart of the theory of social anarchism is its erroneous conception of freedom. This conception is often shared by numerous others across the political landscape, so it ...



Anarchism 5 min read

#### **Marxism as Capitalist Realism**

I could state forthright that most people's grasp of marxism is unbelievably terrible (at least in the US), but this could be easily explained away. US education is terrible, marxism is not taught anywhere, most people don't care nor think about it, etc. But what I find unique about...



Mar 21, 2022

#### Critique of State-Socialist Achievements

One can, with ease, offer critiques of the supposed successes of international state-socialist revolutions by pointing out the horrific actions imposed by the heads of these socialist nations and the force ...



Socialism 4 min read

Mar 14, 2022

#### An Individualist On Socialism

It should first be addressed a common objection to the individualist framework, which is the claim that many ills of present-day society are caused by heightened individualism. It is this individualism, it is said, which is the root cause of exploitation in the world. To some, the...



Mar 12, 2022

#### The Poverty of Egoism

The essay Egoism, by John Beverly Robinson, although very admirable in its individualist proposals of liberty and anti-idealism, remains erroneous in its understanding of the individual and how he comes into being. ...



# $\Box$

### **Quotations on Morality**

"The moment anyone started to talk to Marx about morality, he would roar with laughter." — Karl Vörlander "All moral codes are the inventions of human beings who want what they believe to be 'right' to be accepted by all to whom the code is meant to apply. An individual...



Mar 4, 2022

#### The Relevance of Capitalist Realism

There are two things which from what I can see have now been generally accepted by the broader societies of the United States and Europe (or the "west" for short). In fact, most people from these...



Capitalism 4 min read

Feb 1, 2022

# The True Meaning of "Libertarian"

The term "libertarian" has been rhetorically beaten and twisted to unrecognizable proportions. I have seen far-right ideologues and race nationalists refer to themselves as "libertarians", the most authoritarian communists proclaim their ideas "liberatory", Pinochet-admiring...



Oct 12, 2021

# "Corporate Communism" and How Conservatives Use Doublethink to Uphold Capitalism

A current talking point among American Conservatives is a phenomenon which they call "corporate communism". The term,...



,		c+
Conservatives	4 min read	

### Blue is Bad for Women: NTB Wants Everyone to Vote Red

An article by Christian-conservative news source Not The Bee (abbreviated NTB hereafter) from today pointed out the unusually small percentage of women who voted Republican in the 2016 election. The article empathizes with female voters who were turned away from the Republic...

Republican Party 4 min read

Jul 28, 2021

# How a Trans Woman Merely Existing Sent Conservatives in a Tailspin

An article by the Christian-conservative news source Not The Bee (abbreviated NTB hereafter) from a few days ago complained at lengt...



Politics 3 min read