

How Anarchism Began Trending

Summary:

Twitter, Instagram & other online platforms host numerous Anarchist groups across the US. Between May 26th and June 1st, collectives subvirally passed on tactics for [Anarchist](#) [“Direct Action”](#) to the masses for use. These techniques have developed over the last 20+ years primarily in Europe and the Pacific Northwest. They have influenced and been influenced by pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong and the Middle East.

The wholesale use of the labels of Marxist / Communist and Antifa distract from the real ideological force at work. Anarchism specifically seeks to dissolve hierarchy and coercive authority. For Pacific Northwest Insurrectionary Anarchists responsible for sustained disruption in the social justice movement, this means abolishing all police and prisons.

Here are identifying key phrases on digital flyers that reveal anarchist black bloc alignment:

Wear black

Diversity of tactics

Abolish the police

No cops. No prisons. Total abolition.

Direct Action march

FTP March

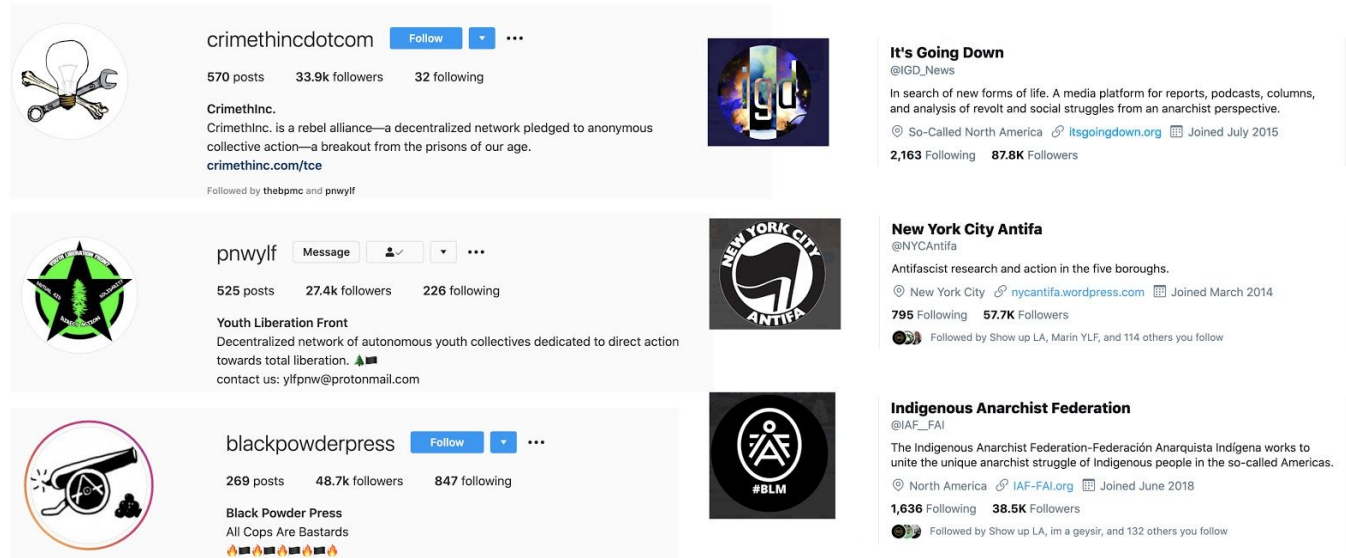
Solidarity march

No peace police

Be water. Spread fire.

No good cops. No bad protesters.

In May, *CrimethInc* & the *Youth Liberation Front*, active in Portland & Seattle, and others promoted dress code, protocol, techniques & talking points for widespread consumption.



Aside from Instagram (left) CrimethInc & PNWYLF maintain accounts on Twitter (right)

Update: Facebook blocked both group's accounts mid August along with It'sGoingDown.org

Anarchist actions by small autonomous "affinity groups" have been active in swaying BLM protests into disarray. By May 30th, Federal Protective Services in Philadelphia documented Anarchists allegedly discussing [burning down the Federal Reserve Bank](#). Actions persist regularly in Portland including counter-action against right wing political rallies.

Collective Anarchist action such as the occupation of the park in front of the White House organized by a Canadian group has failed to gain momentum outside of Black Lives Matter.



As of the first week of September, only one tent was pitched outside of the White House and it was unclear if it was connected to the AdBusters campaign.

Direct Action tactics have been well documented along the Northwest corridor in Seattle, Portland Sacramento & beyond with a strong presence in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, NYC and many other US cities like Washington DC.

Anarchism, as an umbrella philosophy, welcomes autonomous disruptors from across the political spectrum.

Anarchist intent is continued disruption of “the system” until police & prisons are abolished.

Analysis:

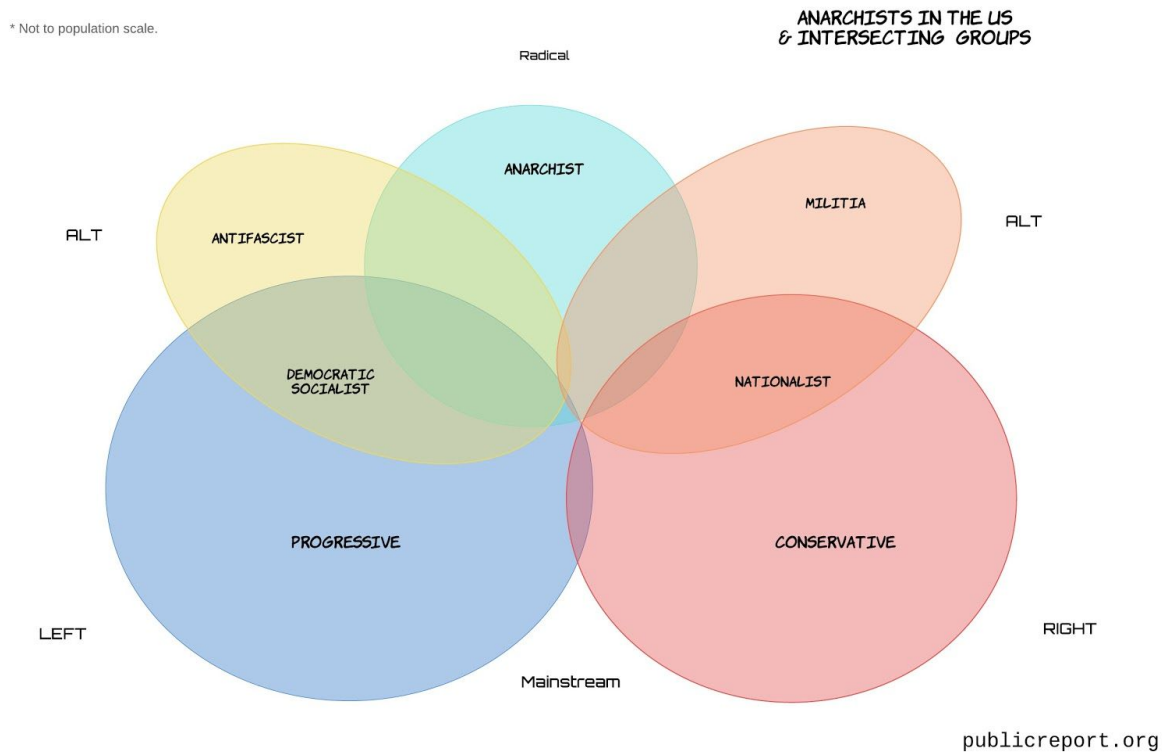
Anarchist action is distinct from Antifacist action in which counter-demonstrators clash with the right wing to actively counterprotest their rallies:

Mainstream call to action rallies, with #BLM meeting #BacktheBlue, have lots of yelling.

You will find cussing, name calling & rude gestures; even street fights.

Each side views the other as Nazi Supremacists or as Marxist Communists.

We paint with a broad brush. The basic ideological landscape of the US is more complex. If we make distinctions, we face a landscape that perhaps looks more like this.



This impression is meant to simply communicate how Anarchist “Direct Action” or the climate of active rebellion is not confined to one political field. The diagram is not to scale.

Who among identifying groups are those intentionally provoking disorder?

It varies region to region & group to group but the driving force is the radical Left.

Certain subgroups find themselves active in the climate of anarchy while others oppose it. For example the growing Patriot movement on the right, unified under MAGA, opposes the disorder, while we have seen some militia from the Libertarian right cosign the uprising.

As for Anarchism, there are several schools of thought in Anarchism.

Consider these 3 in the US.

Mainstream Anarchism (left wing) intersects with music, film, art & comics in pop culture and holds intellectual reverence to its historic ideals aligning on the left with Antifascism.

Insurrectionary Anarchism ([fringe left](#)) maintains a strong presence in the Northwest and via *CrimethInc* holds itself to instigating revolutionary absolutes ie. abolish all police & prisons. Employs black bloc tactics to disrupt the system.

National Anarchism ([fringe right](#)) is a racist iteration of the political philosophy that was a minor presence over the last decade in Idaho & the San Francisco Bay Area where “entryism” was espoused, the technique of infiltrating another group to convert its followers.

Note: The comfort narrative from the mainstream has been that a right wing iteration has been responsible for provoking chaos. We have found no evidence of this on the ground. The Proud Boys are referenced most often. They are anti - Anarchist (commonly labeled Antifa) but not white supremacists, nor is there evidence that they have worked under the cover of protests. Rather, it is the Anarchist - Antifascists consistently showing up at right wing rallies which results in confrontations with the Proud Boys.

Thus, our current situation appears to involve the first two categories. Media outlets since the end of May have gravitated towards a benign pop culture interpretation of anarchism. Meanwhile in the streets, the more extreme version has been developing with strident fanaticism, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

As for the right wing iteration, we have not seen evidence in 4 months of a cohesive effort. However, we should not rule out the possibility of elements in existence in the US or that decentralized groups on the left remain open to infiltration.

Dr. Peter Simi of Chapman University has called infiltration, “one of the many tricks white supremacists love to play in terms of shape shifting.” He told us, “It’s in the DNA and they have been doing it as long as the KKK has existed so there’s lots of precedent for it.”

From the Libertarian right, Anarchist solidarity has been evidenced as half the militia from Kenosha were there in support of BLM but the mob didn't realize it.

A granular look at Portland however will show clear demarcations between Leftist radicals and right wing Proud Boy street fighters.

Online these folks all cross paths regularly. The three contemporary versions of anarchism permeate on reddit, 4 chan and other servers and have had a role in the chaos following George Floyd's death. Under the Pan-Anarchist principle of "Direct Action," autonomous acts of disruption by groups or individuals are welcomed to smash the current order. It's a unifying intention allowing all to partake as long as they're against the status quo.

In the streets, it's all the same.



Faces of Anarchy: Mainstream Anarchist thought moves through pop culture & spans racial lines (left). Northwest Post-Left or Leftist Anarchists (middle) harassing a conservative, view their predominant "whiteness" as a sore subject. Right wing Anarchists may embrace it.

Anarchists do not affiliate neatly into right or left. Northwest Anarchists in Discord chats have acknowledged the designation "Leftist" but are equally derisive of liberals as they are conservatives. Log onto twitter to see today's Post-Left youth bashing Biden and Trump with equal vigor.

The correct term for the extreme side of the ideology is Insurrectionary Anarchists.

Even those who revere American made Anarcho-Pacifism, are derided today by the Northwest Anarchists as “Peace Police.” It’s a derisive term for those who work to keep a protest peaceful. Anarcho Pacifism is the school of thought under which Henry David Thoreau wrote *Civil Disobedience*, inspiring Gandhi & in turn Martin Luther King Jr.

Anarchists at their core seek ultimately to abolish hierarchy and in these last months we have seen them welcome synonymous Antifascist minded groups and autonomous rioters under their umbrella. The most dogmatic Anarchism opposes reform of any kind. It’s the entire system the Anarchist wishes to bring down, whether it is Capitalist or Communist.

So while the early August US Senate Judiciary hearing on the issue of “Stopping Anarchist Violence” was chock full of finger pointing and attempts to score political points, an understanding of the intersecting ideologies & circumstances sustaining disorder in the United States was absent. All of this is irrelevant to the Anarchist.

“We don’t care who is fucking shit up, as long as they’re fucking shit up,” a self indentifying Anarchist wrote online after following an inquiry about possible right wing infiltrators at BLM protests in Minnesota. Anarchy it would seem is the point, as is the anonymity of all.

Only in outlier cases like that of shooter Steven Carillo who killed a federal officer in Oakland and a Sheriff’s Deputy in Santa Clara, does the perp go so far as to scrawl his affiliation in blood. Carillo’s [“Boogaloo” act](#) descends from a far right Anti-Government tradition and appears to be steeped in the culture of fringe conspiracy and / or fantasies of starting the next civil war.

Though at an opposite political pole from Anarchist idealists & Revolutionary theorists (and universally condemned by Leftists), Carillo’s murderous deed may be viewed by some as

an act of Anarchy nevertheless as it was realized only under the cover of a destabilized social climate.

That fanaticism takes a different form in Portland where kids ages 15-25 have been recruited by the Youth Liberation Front and maintained a pattern of harassment and aggression against both Law enforcement and Nationalist or Patriot identifying citizens. At their most coherent, they are acting in the name of Antifascism against those they believe to be white supremacists.

The Northwest YLF brought "Direct Action" to a fever pitch in Portland at the Federal Courthouse. The government responded with an iron fist.

As in Minneapolis, activists were eager to expose the nation's militaristic itch.



Photo brag from CrimethInc: AutoZone was first to burn in Minneapolis on May 27th.

Shellshocked confusion from the DHS is understandable. To those who have not followed the rise of modern Anarchism in street art, films, graphic novels, activism & counter culture-

including its online integration with protest culture internationally- these mostly young men dressed in cartoonish masks & ninja outfits must seem alien.

It started in Germany during a recession in the late 80s. The black bloc was born, an Anarchic method of anonymizing oneself at protests so acts of dissent might be committed free from criminality. The practice migrated to Seattle at the WTO riots of 1999. By the late 2000s black bloc tactics would be permeating sub culturally across the nation.

The Anarchist movement is preached worldwide via [“Crimethinc. The Ex-Worker”](#), a collective formed by 1996. They published a modern Anarchist Cookbook “Recipe for Disasters” and other works by 2003. They joined twitter in 2008. At Occupy Wall Street in 2011, the masks came out. Alan Moore, the English Anarchist and comic book auteur (*Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*) was involved with the publication of “Occupy Comics” romanticizing the Anarchist struggle in the wake of the New York action. Then came Ferguson.



Ferguson (right): “Who Watches the Watchmen” originally a Latin axiom regarding the problem of keeping checks on those in power. (center) The ubiquitous Guy Fawkes mask.

At the 2014 Ferguson riots, Anarchists took to the streets within the Community.



Graffiti on the gas pump at the burnt QT in Ferguson, celebrating eight decades of uprisings.

Ferguson in 2014

(above) Photos from St. Louis in 2014 recur often as a humble brag on CrimethInc's home page. This shows graffiti on a Ferguson gas pump claiming BLM uprising connection to other insurrections dating back to Spanish Anarchists opposing Franco in 1936.

CrimethInc will always have plausible deniability of direct involvement. They are the messengers of an idea they insist, which can never be defeated now that it is out in the ether. In their view they are mere scribes of the struggle which dates back to the 1800s.

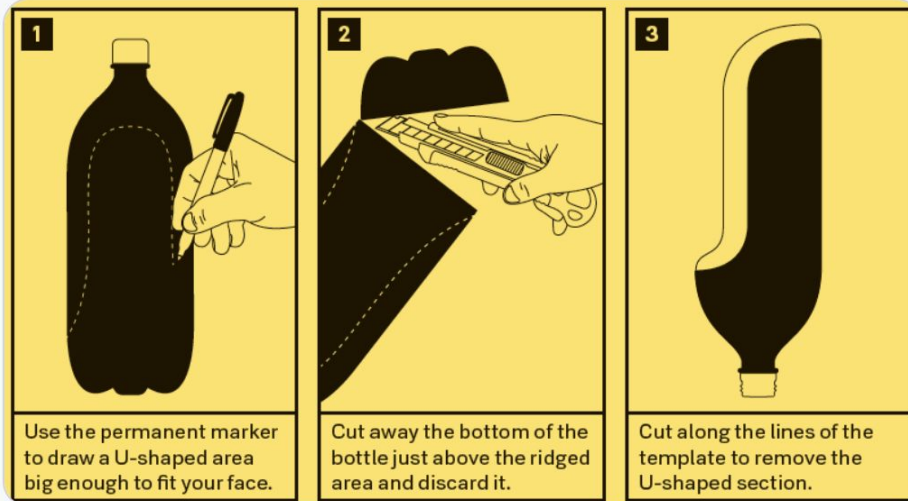
In agile doublespeak, CrimethInc dispels “outside agitator” myths at riots under the rationale that Anarchists are a part of any community movement fighting oppression rather than outsiders looking in.

Enter Trump. After 2016, loosely networked collectives of Antifascists began mobilizing online to counteract white supremacy uprising leading up to Charlottesville. But if we consider twitter accounts for Antifascist, Antifa or other Autonomous Anarchist groups, most did not exist back in 2014 during Ferguson. We have yet to find tweets about Eric Gardner or Michael Brown from any radical twitter pages outside of Black Community in 2014, except from CrimethInc & Adbusters.



Adbusters @Adbusters · Nov 24, 2014

Here's a simple DIY tear-gas mask how-to if you're going to or already at a [#ferguson](#) protest. [vam.ac.uk/__data/assets/...](#)



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A 2014 tweet. The Vancouver based collective held an organizing role in Occupy WS. Comparatively CrimethInc held a more active role in Ferguson 2014.



CrimethInc. @crimethinc · Aug 14, 2014

New bail fund for protesters arrested in **#ferguson** for taking a stand against police violence:

secure.pirya.com/donate/mS25KFC...



↻ 12

♡ 10



CrimethInc. @crimethinc · Aug 12, 2014

Please donate to this bail fund for arrestees from the demonstrations against police violence in **Ferguson**:

antistatestl.noblogs.org/post/2014/08/1...



↻ 14

♡ 6



CrimethInc. @crimethinc · Aug 12, 2014

We salute the courage of those who risked their freedom in **Ferguson** to oppose the murderous police. antistatestl.noblogs.org/post/2014/08/1...



↻ 8

♡ 10



CrimethInc. @crimethinc · Aug 21, 2014

Comrades report from the streets of **Ferguson** on the dynamics inside the resistance:

antistatestl.noblogs.org/post/2014/08/2...



💬 2

↻ 50

♡ 32



New alliances were made May 26th 2020, the first day of the George Floyd protests in Minneapolis.

What we still see on Twitter is only a snapshot. Direct messaging and private online Discord, Signal or Telegram app chats make it easy these days for like minded collectives to share techniques, ideas and intentions privately. Purists to the portrayal of a 100% street revolution will argue techniques are applied organically with parallel thinking, rather than widespread coordination.

Crimethinc would later post observations in a post mortem Minneapolis including a breakdown of the most effective “ballistics” and use of “peaceful protesters as shields.”

CrimethInc often also extols tactics of looting and burning down businesses to divert police resources in [*“The Siege of the Third Precinct in Minneapolis, an Account & Analysis.”*](#) In this excerpt CrimethInc gives a rare direct address to rebels about using end to end encryption apps like Telegram. It reads, *“On the whole...”*

whole, much of the crowd was not practicing the greatest security to access the Telegram channel. We advise rebels to set up the Telegram app on burner phones in order to stay informed while preventing police stingrays (false cell phone towers) from gleaning their personal information.

Peaceful Protestors

The non-violent tactics of peaceful protesters served two familiar aims and one unusual one:

- They created a spectacle of legitimacy, which was intensified as police violence escalated.
- They created a front line that blocked police attempts to advance when they deployed outside of the Precinct.
- In addition, in an unexpected turn of affairs, the peaceful protestors shielded those who employed projectiles.

It is significant to note that Anarchist methods could not be employed without a population of active participants reaching critical mass. On May 26th, that mass began to form.

Up until that point, CrimethInc had been tweeting in 2020 almost exclusively about COVID and rent strikes with marginal engagement. Then, in a moment of perceived support for the Anarchist cause, on May 13th, CrimethInc announced #RIPCapitalism was trending.



It would be a prelude to #ACAB* trending 2 weeks later on May 27th.

* All Cops Are Bastards as seen in graffiti

From here to page 20 is a duplication of the **Overview** timeline.

This is how Tactical Anarchy entered the fray.

May 27th

Second day of Minneapolis protests: Anarchist website [CrimethInc](https://crimethinc.com) begins tweeting black bloc dress code tips for protesters.

Several that day participate in riot actions breaking windows at the 3rd precinct dressed in all black. Several men carry umbrellas, a suggested accessory to shield rioters from overhead cameras.

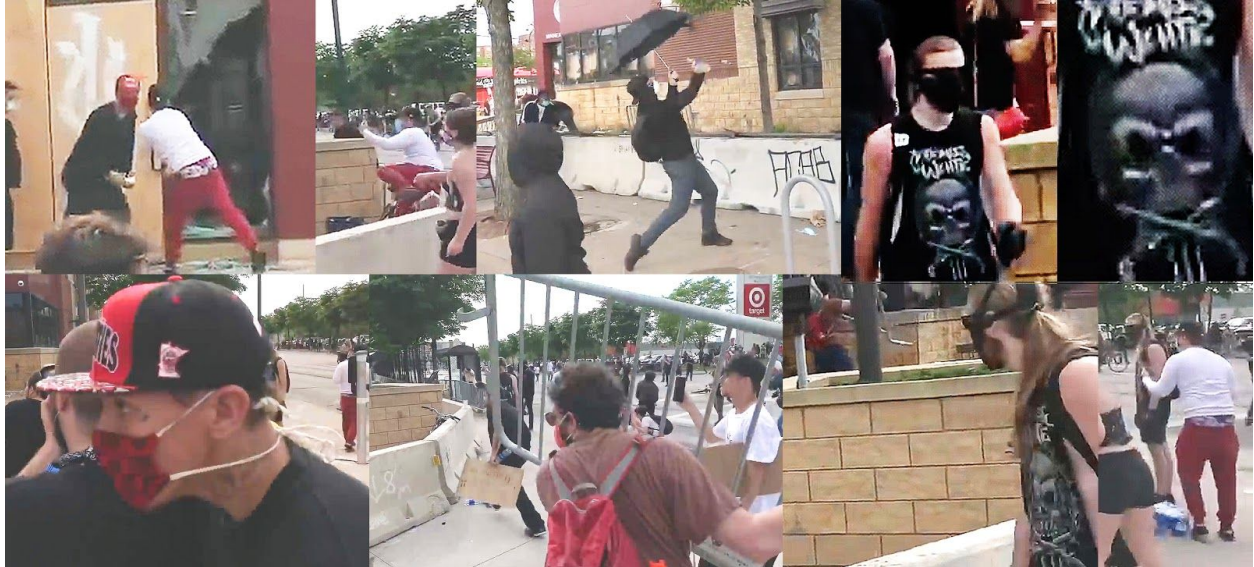
[Rioter 1, “Umbrella Man”](#) is caught on tape smashing out the AutoZone windows. Police write in an affidavit that until the AutoZone burned, protests had been “relatively peaceful.”



In weeks to come more advanced tactics such as “ballistics” and using “peaceful protesters” as shields are shared via CrimethInc with its following.

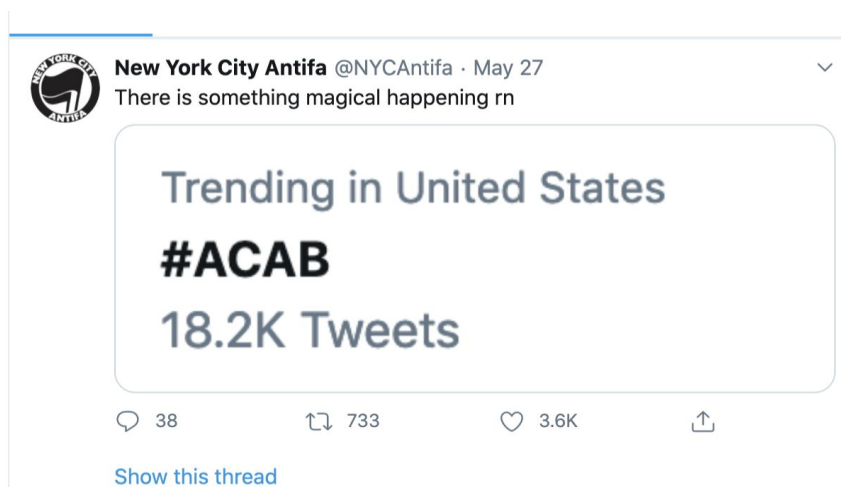
A group coordinates the first attack on the precinct on the 27th an hour before AutoZone burns.

Like those that will repeat their course of action at the precinct the next evening, they’re not Black.



[Chapter 3](#), *The Public Report* details how men in Minneapolis dropped off water bottle ↑ bundles to be used as projectiles, metal barriers, & stopped a BLM peace activist from calming the crowd. This Anarchist's custom skull logo is a Three Percenter militia insignia.

On the 27th CrimethInc also shares its “Break Windows” article from Furgeson 2014 justifying vandalism and looting as acts of protest. Other groups communicate horizontally including NYC Antifa (50k+ followers presently).



The MLK quote from *60 Minutes* “A riot is the language of the unheard” begins to be passed around on social media omitting King’s conclusion in the clip “I hope we can avoid riots because riots are self defeating and socially destructive.”

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BLACK BLOC TACTICS

allow demonstrators to take action
without fear of immediate identification.
If you choose to wear a mask, do it right:

* COVER UP

It's not enough to cover half your face. Even if you get away, the police may use photos or video to charge you later. Cover your hair, face, arms, and hands. Cloth gloves are best. Take out piercings. Make sure there are no identifying features on your clothes, shoes, or backpack. If you bring any materials with you, wipe them down with rubbing alcohol first to get the prints off. Don't bring anything you don't need.

* STAY TIGHT

If possible, come to the demonstration with a small group of people you trust. Choose your crew based on shared intentions, not just friendship. You are there to have each other's back in the street and follow up if one of you gets arrested or hurt. Strangers need to protect each other too. Stay physically close, not spread out, so that if police try to enter the crowd, you can "accidentally" get in their way. The front of the march might need to slow down while the back catches up. Stay moving, though: a tight, mobile crowd is difficult to surround or disperse.

* PLAN YOUR EXIT

Always wear "civilian clothes" under your hoodie so that you can de-bloc and blend in with a crowd or smoothly walk away. Keep an eye out for danger zones and escape routes. If things heat up, stay calm and act decisively. Commit to your exit when you decide you're done. Sometimes you have to sprint and hide; sometimes, you just step onto the sidewalk and remove your mask. You can de-bloc in the middle of a friendly crowd if you're sure you are well screened.

* KEEP IT QUIET

Bragging and storytelling are natural, but they're easy to use against us. If you have to talk, choose someone trustworthy who was with you in the streets. Don't post anything on Facebook that you wouldn't show a cop. The same goes for Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr. Remember that police will read your texts and call-log if they arrest you.

* NEVER, EVER SNITCH

If you are arrested, invoke your right to remain absolutely silent. Name, address, and no more.

Aside from twitter, CrimethInc literature is available on Amazon or passed around free online in memes or pdf format.

The Northwest based "Youth Liberation Front" gives this advice to its Gen Z followers not to get caught up filming illegal acts, a talking point that persists today.



PNW Youth Liberation Front @PNWYLF · May 27

YOUR CAMERA IS A COP



Vitalist International @VitalistInt · May 27

Do not take pics of ppl making or throwing molotovs
Do not take pics of ppl making or throwing molotovs
Do not take pics of ppl making or throwing molotovs
Do not take pics of ppl making or throwing molotovs
Do not take pics of ppl making or throwing molotovs

[Show this thread](#)

2

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257

May 28 CrimethInc, after the AutoZone & Target ransacking, calls for solidarity.
An effort is made to cross promote events nationwide.



CrimethInc. @crimethinc · May 28

We are assembling a list of solidarity demonstrations around the world in support of the [#Minneapolis](#) uprising and in remembrance of [#GeorgeFloyd](#).

crimethinc.com/2020/05/28/min...

Please respond by posting any demonstrations that you are aware of here!
Thank you!

[#icantbreathe](#)



12

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143

↑

CrimethInc on May 28th composes a [Solidarity List](#). CNN Center, Atlanta is included.

Many smaller groups of 1-3k across the country follow CrimethInc on Twitter.
CrimethInc follows nobody.

This shows plausible deniability.

Individuals would have to make connections outside of CrimethInc, connecting with alternate twitter accounts or on other platforms.

On their twitter page bio, Crimethinc indicates “many cells” are involved but never reveals who they are.



Yet on the May 28th list, CrimethInc confirms that the Pacific Northwest Youth Liberation Front has “announced” Portland’s action to Occupy the Justice Center.

CrimethInc is already using its past experience in Furgeson preemptively to dispel the characterization of Anarchists as “outside agitators” tweeting this take on observations made by CNN:



The 3rd precinct goes up in flames. CrimethInc declares the social contract obsolete.



May 29th

Coordination continues. Tweets show back and forth between Antifa Atlanta and Community in Atlanta, confirming the date of the CNN Center protest of May 29th.

Community engagement continues to network alliances between CrimethInc and like minded groups.



Images of the CNN Center's destruction roll out nationwide. Most see the images of the BLM and Mexican flag hoisted atop the letters.

Little attention is given to the men who broke the first windows.



Two men break the first complete window pane. One of the men wears a tank top & mask.



The other doesn't.

[The floodgates open VIDEO](#)

Other groups, like the mostly white Youth Liberation Front in the Northwest, are being questioned as to whether or not they are coordinating with Black community groups.

Their story is somewhat inconsistent.



An hour after the CNN Center Riot on May 29th, Trevor Noah in a viral video seen 9 million times on *The Daily Show* Youtube account, reiterates the talking point that the “social contract” is obsolete which Crimethinc tweeted a day before.



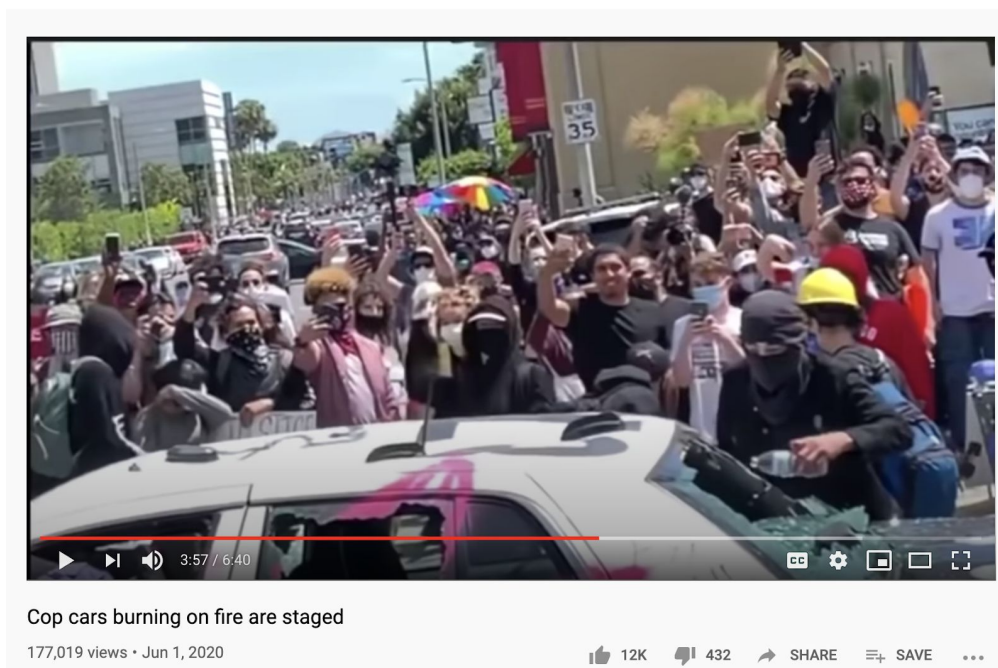
This point will later be reiterated & referenced famously by Kimberly Jones in a Community generated viral video that same weekend. It is viewed 2 million times on Youtube alone.

May 30th

Early AM Saturday May 30th, the Youth Liberation Front re-enforces dress code.



On Saturday the 30th, rioting is widespread nationwide with clear examples of Anarchist tactics coordinated near protests, like this instance outside CBS Television City in LA.



Observer breaks down LA Tactical Anarchist direct action (2:55) [VIDEO](#)



May 31st Santa Monica - [Direct Action](#) is practiced by a man wearing a fake security jacket & others dressed head to toe in black as they monitor the Vans Store looting without partaking in the looting itself. One man wears an ["I Love Bingo"](#) mask. The mask was popularized virally in ["Billy Bounce,"](#) a surreal urban dance Youtube video.

Stories explaining the benevolence of Anarchism are placed a few days later, such as the Washington Post's "Stop blaming everything bad on Anarchists" in which the writer claims, ["Anarchism isn't really about chaos & violence."](#) A previous work on Anarchism by the same author is republished in the pages of [Teen Vogue](#) on June 3rd.

The articles focus on popular mainstream Anarchism. Neither Post-Left Anarchism nor Nationalist Anarchism are distinguished. Anarchist street tactics are left unexposed.

Destruction continues in the Northwest and Atlanta after the shooting death of Rayshard Brooks by police on June 12. Portland famously is given the designation of "hot spot." The Northwest Youth Liberation Front in the opening days of conflict shared this depiction of the "yellow helmet" look (with accessories) as worn by protesters against Communist China in Hong Kong.



Youth Liberation Front recruiting flyer at a high school in 2019 provokes debate by using the hammer & sickle (left). (Right) suggested protest riot gear posted to followers in 2020.



Both Portland Police & the YFL tweeted the above graphic. It was shared among Anarchist Groups but also said by police to have originated at Hong Kong protests.

Following the showdown with the Federal Government, the YLF became even more fanatical with vandalism actions, entering neighborhoods and infamously splashing paint on an older woman in a walker. A militia in Portland began to form mid August but does not take to the streets. The Proud boys, Patriot Prayer and other MAGA aligned groups rather take to the streets in weekly rallies.

This is all scheduled to come to a head on September 26th when the Proud Boys rally in Portland.

Brawls continued in Kalamazoo, Colorado, Georgia, Portland & Seattle involving black bloc Antifacist groups & Nationalist / Patriots. A Chicago officer involved shooting in August led to more rioting and looting, including an indiscriminate attack on a Ronald McDonald House caring for sick children. The tactics are called “reparations” by BLM Community organizer Ariel Atkins on August 10th.

It is not a position that has been endorsed or commented on by Black Lives Matter through twitter, facebook, instagram or its official website despite our repeated request for comment.

The characterization Atkins gives is, however, aligned with CrimethInc’s Anarchist position. “The whole idea of criminality is based on racism,” Atkins told NPR “Winning has come through revolts. Winning has come through riots.”

Weekend showdowns continue across party lines at rallies among the politically or emotionally engaged. The nation divides under #BLM or #Backtheblue. By the first week of August, the PNWYLF begins holding marches of their own against police precincts in Portland independent of BLM.

Community rallies persist demanding meaningful charges against officers in the case of Breonna Taylor's killing in Kentucky. A new active Black militia known as the NFAC (Not Fucking Around Coalition) returned to Louisville on Sept. 5th for the Kentucky Derby.

Despite an abundance of weaponry, there were no incidents of gunfire like in Kenosha.

By Rochester, the protest community had adopted all the trappings of the Portland Anarchists with only the voice of elders seemingly holding the peace. Washington DC has already seen weekly Saturday night marches. Will it grow?

Is the country ready? Does it understand the credo of disorder that was so pervasive at the end of May? Do we make distinctions anymore as to who we are yelling at? Or why?

Any effort to de-escalate is labeled "Peace policing" by many Anarchists and even some in the mainstream. Reformers are regarded with enmity. CrimethInc writes, "Whatever their motivations, proponents of social peace use both physical and rhetorical means to achieve this; sometimes, *they're more dangerous than the cops.*"

The point is posted ubiquitously on social media.

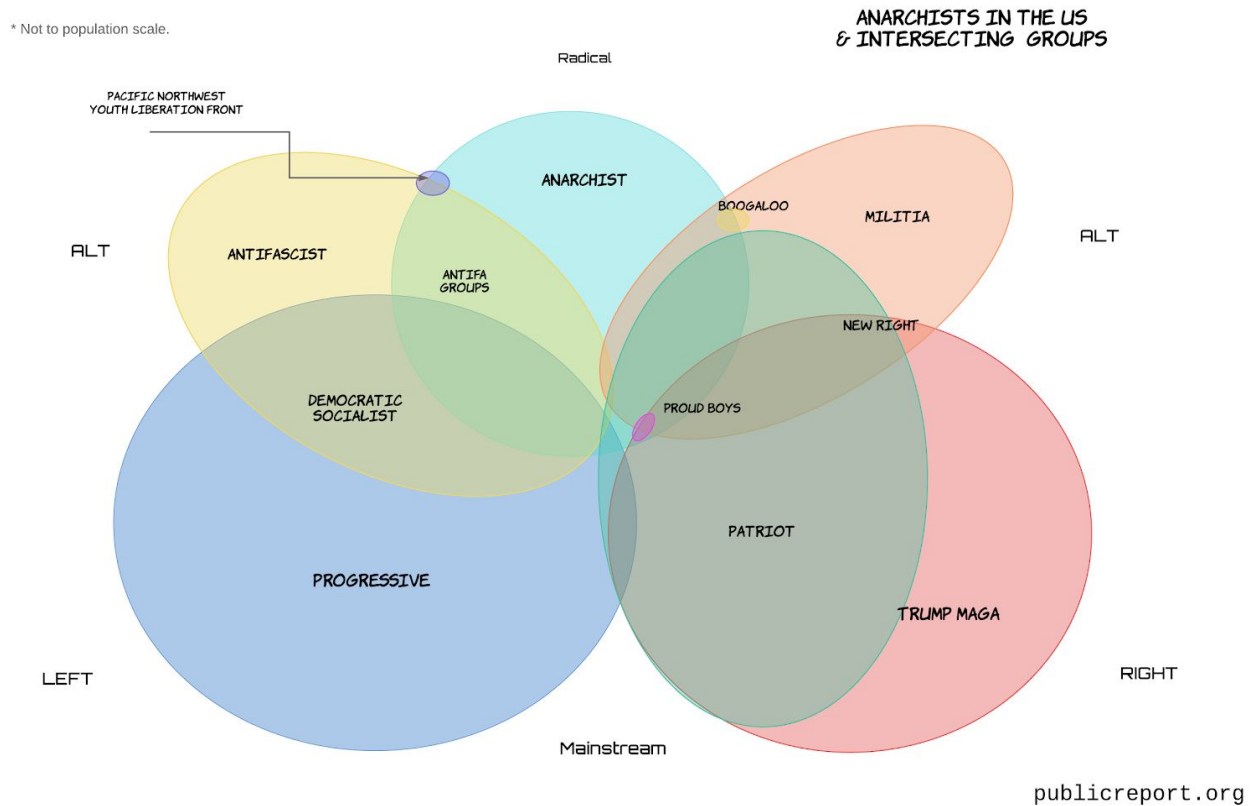
Despite the Anarchist movement's broad history, diversity of thought is not encouraged among Post-left Anarcho Insurrectionists. Political conflict is characterized in absolutes.

What if we looked closer? Would we see a united revolution at play?

Couldn't this energy from the streets be channeled towards progress, if not for pervasive misunderstanding and media cluelessness...

Or do we see a fractured spectrum of beliefs in the US, periodically trending towards anarchy as emotional fires are stoked in a climate of fear & anger?

Do we see a jumbled, fractured landscape with the most extreme voices in a far off corner commanding the spotlight? Would it look something like this?



The above diagram is meant to engender discussion, not taken as a definitive pronouncement.

For a detailed breakdown of the Anarchist actions in Minneapolis:

Uprising Part 3 - [Umbrella Men](#)

Afterword:

This is Anarchy. And this is how those that brought it to the streets of America organize:

Decentralized network

Horizontally organized

Autonomous Direct Actions

Who is practicing it? Many collectives across the country are brought together under a wide variety of political beliefs, primarily Antifascist and Anarchist.

There are three primary conflicts to consider where Direct Action has been embraced in one form or another to different degrees.

- Black Lives Matter uprising against racism and systematic social inequality
- Antifascist uprising against the new right (fka white nationalism- alt right) & perceived white supremacist culture
- Anarchist revolt against a Capitalist system to smash & abolish all hierarchy / sustain "Direct Action"

All are not mutually exclusive. The degrees to which these conflicts are expressed vary region to region and blindly welcome (or inadvertently perpetuate) Nationalist Anarchist actions as well. Here are 3 pervasive roles you can detect in videos capturing the start of a riotous Direct Action.

1. Smasher
Crowbar, skateboard or sledge hammer wielding. Opens businesses. Or vandalizes.
2. Spotter
Assumes Lookout detail, looks for cops, media or any establishment types filming
3. Burner
Pyro operations or Ballistics. Those throwing Molotov cocktails, lighting industrial mortar style fireworks or other devices, or just burning stuff

There are multiple other duties including intel, tagging, wielding laser pointers (light mages), etc.

Mission Statement: [The Public Report](#) undertook this project primarily to educate with no motivation to undercut protest or justify nationwide ultra-militarized law enforcement tactics.

The goal is to raise our collective IQ regarding Tactical Anarchy, who uses it, and how it works.

If you believe in the cause, then it's activism. If you don't, it's destruction perpetuating violence.

At its best it raises the voices of the unheard.

At its worst it destabilizes society, victimizes innocents and brings out the worst.

At its most tyrannical, it engenders confusion through doublespeak and targets perceived detractors in an effort to distort the truth.

Footnote: This report investigates Anarchist tactics. It should not be conflated universally with the Black Lives Matter call to action. Anarchist actions have been taken autonomously, yet consistently under the cover of protest using BLM's banner. We have observed described tactics enveloping the movement. After 3 months of inquiry, BLM has yet to comment.

HERE'S HOW WE #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

FIRST. Demand that lawmakers support reparations for all families of those killed and survivors of police violence.

SECOND. Demand that every State, city and municipality spend LESS on law enforcement and incarceration. Period.

FINALLY. Demand investment into Black communities. It is not enough to defund the police, we need to put in place systems to uplift and protect Black communities.

THAT MEANS DIVESTING FROM:	POLICE IN SCHOOLS	CRIMINALIZING MENTAL HEALTH	MILITARY WEAPONS AGAINST CITIZENS
AND INVESTING IN:	TEACHERS & COUNSELORS	MENTAL HEALTH & RESTORATIVE SERVICES	COMMUNITY-LED HARM REDUCTION

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

[Blacklivesmatter.com](https://blacklivesmatter.com)

Anarchists strive to abolish all police and prisons by any means.

BLM's official platform of divestment differs in focus and rhetoric.