

Inquiry into Organized Resistance

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Ask people to define “anarchy” and most will come up with “chaos,” “violence,” or “disorder.” The myth of the bomb-throwing anarchist bent on destruction is a culturally constructed meaning far removed from the founding principles of this system. In this course, we will take a look at those founding principles from several perspectives – those who participated, those who watched, and those who reflect upon the past. From this, we’ll discuss the way that this myth of chaos has formed over the years and how it is being perpetuated now, leading to a semester-long discussion of how these groups communicated with each other, how they presented themselves to the public, and how the public talks back. We will spend time with the Weather Underground, CrimethInc, and the Haymarket participants. We’ll also take a look at the personification of anarchists in contemporary culture, through films like *Fight Club*, *The Matrix*, *Hackers*, and *Over the Hedge* as well as through the comic strip *Calvin & Hobbes* and graphic novel *V for Vendetta*.