



Benedict Anderson, *Under Three Flags: Anarchism and the Anti-Colonial Imagination*

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Benedict Anderson is the author of *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, which is now considered a classic. *Under Three Flags: Anarchism and the Anti-Colonial Imagination* reveals what lies beyond the thoughts posed in this classic. Anderson says that nationalism, which emerged in world history as a movement to counter empires, in fact shares the same roots as anarchism. The anarchistic methodology of “propaganda through action” on the one hand leads to acts of terrorism, of trying to correct social injustices through bloodshed, while on the other hand culminates in novels that serve as “propaganda” encouraging “action.” Anarchism, which has no resolute principle is propagated not through ideology but through translation, and is practiced not by a party system but by the individual. By carefully following the footsteps of three Filipinos who traveled between Asia and Europe, Anderson offers an in-depth illustration of the development of anarchism at the end of the 19th century. *Under Three Flags* presents in great detail the solidarity amongst individuals and the ideological connections formed beyond nationalism, and in so doing raises an important question. Anderson leaves much room for further discussion, for example, on what it means to go beyond nationalism in the context of globalism in the 21st century.



Source:

- Benedict Anderson, *Under Three Flags: Anarchism and the Anti-colonial Imagination* (London: Verso, 2005).

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