Benjamin R. Tucker
American Father of Individualist Anarchism
(1854 - 1939)

Description: An individualist Anarchist, Tucker (1854-1939) was a person of intellect rather than of action, focusing on the development of his ideas and on the publication of books and journals, especially the journal Liberty: Not the Daughter but the Mother of Order... (From: Anarchy Archives)

Tags: individualist, american, anarchist, editor, publisher, massachusetts, writer, freethinker.

Quotes:

"It has ever been the tendency of power to add to itself, to enlarge its sphere, to encroach beyond the limits set for it..." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

"...Anarchism, which may be described as the doctrine that all the affairs of men should be managed by individuals or voluntary associations, and that the State should be abolished." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

"The evil to which this [tariff] monopoly gives rise might more properly be called misusury than usury, because it compels labor to pay, not exactly for the use of capital, but rather for the misuse of capital." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

"If the individual has a right to govern himself, all external government is tyranny. Hence the necessity of abolishing the State." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

"But although, viewing the divine hierarchy as a contradiction of Anarchy, they do not believe in it, the Anarchists none the less firmly believe in the liberty to believe in it. Any denial of religious freedom they squarely oppose." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

"Even in so delicate a matter as that of the relations of the sexes the Anarchists do not shrink from the application of their principle. They acknowledge and defend the right of any man and woman, or any men and women, to love each other for as long or as short a time as they can, will, or may. To them legal marriage and legal divorce are equal absurdities." (From: "State Socialism and Anarchism," by Benjamin R. Tucker, 1888.)

Biography:

Introduced to Anarchism, labor reform, and free love by Ezra Heywood in Massachusetts, Tucker was also particularly influenced by Josiah Warren. An individualist Anarchist, Tucker (1854-1939) was a person of intellect rather than of action, focusing on the development of his ideas and on the publication of books and journals, especially the journal Liberty: Not the Daughter but the Mother of Order (1881-1908). Tucker summarized his philosophy by
stating, "The Anarchists are simply unterrified Jeffersonian Democrats. They believe that 'the best government is that which governs least,' and that which governs least is no government at all. Besides publishing the writings of the leading individualist anarchists and many other radicals, Liberty was probably the earliest American magazine to publish Nietzsche and George Bernard Shaw. Besides Liberty, Tucker operated an ambitious book publishing program. He translated into English and published a long list of radical works, including What is Property?, of Pierre Joseph Proudhon. He also translated and published Bakunin's God and the State, Chernyshevsky's What Is To Be Done? and Tolstoy's The Kreutzer Sonata. He published Max Stirner's The Ego and His Own, as well as works by Oscar Wilde, Herbert Spencer, Emile Zola, John Henry Mackay, and many others. After a disastrous fire in New York City in 1908 destroyed his warehouse and Unique Book Shop, Tucker left the United States for France, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

From : Anarchy Archives.

**Works :**

- Author of Instead Of A Book, By A Man Too Busy To Write One (November 30, 1896)
- Author of Letter to the American Journal of Sociology (April 11, 1936)
- Author of Individual Liberty (November 30, 1907)
- Author of Letter on Translating Stirner (November 30, 1906)
- Author of Letter to Two Worlds Publishing (February 25, 1927)
- Author of My Reasons for Favoring the Allies (December 23, 1914)
- Author of Nietzsche's Responsibility for the War (October 02, 1914)
- Author of On William Morris (January 03, 1935)
- Author of Tolstoyism Gone to Seed (November 25, 1927)
- Author of Why should a nation be more altruistic than I? (November 30, 1906)
- Author of Why Wages Should Absorb Profits (July 16, 1887)
- Author of The Story of a Proletarian Life (November 30, 1923)

**Chronology :**

- **April 17, 1854 :** Benjamin R. Tucker's Birth Day.
- **June 22, 1939 :** Benjamin R. Tucker's Death Day.

**Links :**

- Anarchy Archives: Benjamin Tucker Archive
  [http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/tucker/index.html](http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/tucker/index.html)
- Anarchist Library: Benjamin Tucker
  [https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/benjamin-tucker](https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/benjamin-tucker)
- Wikipedia: Benjamin Tucker