Johann Most  
Father of Insurrectionary Anarchism  
(1846 - 1906)

**Description:** After being released from jail, Most came to the United States, beginning an invasion of anarcho-communism in the states. Most was a passionate anarchist, who believed that the state should be ruled by a collective group of all citizens, without any form of government. (From : Black Flag of Anarchy Bio)

**Tags:** anarchist, propaganda of the deed, german, american, socialist, speaker.

**Quotes:**

"Anarchism is a world view, a philosophy of society; indeed the philosophy of society, for whoever considers the world and human life in their profoundest senses and their complete development, and then decides on the societal form of greatest desirability, cannot but decide for anarchism. Every other form is a half-measure and a patchwork." (From : "Anarchist Communism," by Johann Most, 1889.)

"The failure of attempts to attain freedom does not mean the cause is lost. The facts that the struggle for freedom is clearer and stronger than ever before, that today there are different preconditions to achieving the goal, and that we therefore stand nearer anarchy than had been hoped -- proving a development of the desire to wash from the face of the earth what is authoritarian." (From : "Anarchist Communism," by Johann Most, 1889.)

"He who negates present society, and seeks social conditions based on the sharing of property, is a revolutionary whether he calls himself an anarchist or a communist." (From : "Anarchist Communism," by Johann Most, 1889.)

"Private property, guarded by the state, increasingly exploits the poor; and the poor less and less use what they produce. If
the government did not wholeheartedly maintain this swindle, the masses would not suffer it." (From: "Anarchist Communism," by Johann Most, 1889.)
"...the welfare of humanity, which the future can and will bring, lies in communism. It excludes in logical ways all authority and servitude, and therefore equals anarchy. The way to the goal is the social revolution. By energetic, relentless, international action, it will destroy class rule and establish a free society based on cooperative organization of production. Long Live the Social Revolution!" (From: "Anarchist Communism," by Johann Most, 1889.)
"...year in and year out the working people are robbed of everything bar the absolute bare necessities of life..." (From: "Attack is the Best Form of Defense," by Johann Most, Freiheit, September 13, 1884.)

Biography:

Johann Most 1

Johann Most was born on February 5, 1846 in Augsburg, Germany. His childhood was very unpleasant. When Most was quite young his mother died, and he was sent to live with his father, and a stepmother who did not like him. Furthermore, he developed a disease during his childhood which greatly disfigured his face. This caused many of his childhood peers to ridicule his looks. Most has stated himself that his childhood was miserable. Clearly this misery lead to his fanatical actions as an anarchist.

In 1868, Most became a very prominent socialist orator in Vienna. This earned him a seat in the German Parliament. However, after the government passed many anti-socialist laws, Most left the country. Immediately following this, Most became an anarchists with strong leanings towards communism. This led to him receiving 16 months in jail for writing an article asking that someone assassinate Czar Alexander II. This was the first glimpses at what made Most so notorious. The
anarchist defended the use of violence to achieve the necessary end.

After being released from jail, Most came to the United States, beginning an invasion of anarcho-communism in the states. Most was a passionate anarchist, who believed that the state should be ruled by a collective group of all citizens, without any form of government. Due to the fact that he was a great orator and writer he was able to convince many people that using force was the only way to bring down the government in America as well as all over the world. However, after initial success, The Americans began to become skeptical of such use of force, damaging the power of Johann Most. On March 17, 1906 Most died in Cincinnati, Ohio.

From : Anarchy Archives.

**Works :**

Author of *Anarchy Defended by Anarchists* (September 30, 1896)
Author of *Action as Propaganda* (July 25, 1885)
Author of *Anarchist Communism* (November 30, 1888)
Author of *Attack Is The Best Form Of Defense* (September 13, 1884)
Author of *The Beast of Property* (November 30, 1883)
Author of *The God Pestilence* (November 30, 1905)
Author of *The Pittsburg Proclamation* (December 27, 1890)
Author of *The Social Monster* (November 30, 1889)
Author of *When Is The People "Ready" For Freedom?* (November 15, 1884)

**Chronology :**

- **February 05, 1846** : Johann Most's Birth Day.
- **March 17, 1906** : Johann Most's Death Day.

**Links :**

- Anarchy Archives: Johann Most Archive
  [http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/most/most.html](http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/most/most.html)
- Anarchist Library: Johann Most
  [https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/johann-most](https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/johann-most)