Marie Louise Berneri
Anarchist Author, Journalist, and Popularizer of Modern Psychology
(1918 - 1949)

Description: In April 1945 she was one of the four editors of War Commentary who were tried for incitement to disaffection, but she was acquitted on a legal technicality (a wife cannot conspire with her husband), and when her three comrades were imprisoned she took on the main responsibility for maintaining the paper into the postwar period. (From: Freedom Press)

Tags: anarchist, activist, author, italian, psychologist, anti-bolshevik, spanish civil war.

Quotes:
"Towards 1648 a movement sprang up, of the “true levelers” or “Diggers,” which went beyond the demands of even the most extreme of the Levelers. They saw that nothing, short of direct action, would give back to the peasants the lands they had lost, and eventually they even challenged the right of a few to private property in the land." (From: "Utopias of the English Revolution," by Marie Louise Berneri.)

"Thomas More, and most Utopian writers after him, had abolished private property because they feared its corrupting influence and saw in it the greatest danger to the unity of the state." (From: "Utopias of the English Revolution," by Marie Louise Berneri.)

"For when oppression lies upon brethren by brethren, that is no Commonwealth’s government, but the kingly government still; and the mystery of iniquity hath taken that peace-maker’s name to be a cloak to hide his covetousness, pride, and oppression under." (From: "Utopias of the English Revolution," by Marie Louise Berneri.)

Biography:
Marie Louise Berneri (1918-1949) born in Arezzo, Italy, the elder daughter of Camillo and Giovanna Berneri. Her father was a very popular and at times controversial figure in the Italian anarchist movement of the 1920s, and he and his family went into exile in 1926 for resisting Mussolini. Maria Luisa Berneri took on the french version of her name and went to study psychology at the Sorbonne in the mid-1930s. She soon became involved in the anarchist movement and produced the short-lived paper Revision, with Luis Mercier Vega. At the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War her father went to Spain, fought on the Aragon front, moved to Barcelona, and edited the prestigious Italian-language revolutionary anarchist paper Guerra di Classe. Marie went twice to Barcelona, the second time after her father's assassination by Communists in May, 1937. She subsequently moved to England and took an active part in the production of the English anarchist paper Freedom. Projects Berneri worked on included Spain and the World, Revolt! (the successor to Spain and the World) and being part of one of the small groups which started War Commentary.

Her wide contacts in and knowledge of the international movement gave her great authority among anarchists, but her libertarian principles and personal modesty prevented her from misusing it. In April 1945 she was one of the four editors of War Commentary who were tried for incitement to disaffection, but she was acquitted on a legal technicality (a wife cannot
conspire with her husband), and when her three comrades were imprisoned she took on the main responsibility for maintaining the paper into the postwar period. After her death in 1949 from a viral infection, several of her works were published posthumously by Freedom Press; *Neither East Nor West* and *Journey Through Utopia*, as well as various contributions to Freedom Press periodicals.

(Freedom Press, 1986)

From: Published by Freedom Press, 1986.

**Works:**
Author of *Utopias of the English Revolution* (December 31, 1969)
Author of *Wilhelm Reich and the Sexual Revolution* (November 30, 1944)
Author of *The Emergence of the New Anarchism* (November 30, 1969)

**Chronology:**
- **March 01, 1918**: Marie Louise Berneri's Birth Day.
- **April 13, 1949**: Marie Louise Berneri's Death Day.

**Links:**
- **Anarchy Archives: Marie Louise Berneri Archive**
  http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/berneri/berneri.html
- **Anarchist Library: Marie Louise Berneri**
  https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/marie-louise-berneri
- **Wikipedia: Marie-Louise Berneri**
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-Louise_Berneri

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