

(BOOK REVIEW)
**LIBERTARIAN ANARCHY: AGAINST THE STATE:
A CRITICAL REVIEW**

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Book: *Libertarian Anarchy: Against the State* (2012) by Gerard Casey. London. Continuum International Publishing Group.

ABSTRACT

This paper is a review of the book *Libertarian Anarchy: Against the State* by Gerard Casey. The work gains importance in the wake of increasing state presence in the modern day. Anarchical arguments—though not useful in constructing proper alternatives—nevertheless help us to understand the anatomy of the state helping us to evaluate its relevance or irrelevance from time to time. The role of the state has been on rise continuously. State has become a paternal organization of all the organizations. The numbers of aspects into which the state has entered leaves us wondering whether there is anything that is outside the state. State dictates the version of religion that individuals have to follow, it decides the moral codes by making them subordinate to the state laws, it decides the level of freedoms available to the individuals through constitutions and conventions, it decides the level of income that an individual can earn in a given context by structuring the economy, it decides the direction in which you need to walk or drive—and it decides our speed also, it decides the type of education that an individual can have, it decides the type of research that an individual can carry, it certifies the legality of our profession etc. While all these aspects are introduced by the state to facilitate interaction among the individuals in a given society, state also does things that make us question whether the state is there for the individuals or the individuals are there for the state. State decides many (almost all) things on its own on behalf of the people. State wages wars against other states; it protects a particular form of state from its own people, it makes friendship with other states on behalf of its people, it develops a particular ideology and imposes it on its people, it gives property rights to the people—and it confiscates their property whenever the need arises, it allows inequality and competition—and it brings equality and nationalization by force, it guards the freedom of individual to enter or not to enter into a contract—and yet imposes conscription on them. There are many things that the state does ‘on-behalf’ of the people with their ‘consent’, and yet people are not allowed to take back their consent on occasions. The modern state makes it impossible to understand who is consenting and who is dissenting to its actions—and it goes on functioning by hook or crook—by using ‘legitimate’ force that is derived from people through ‘representation’ or ‘trusteeship’. Casey’s book *Libertarian Anarchy: Against the State* explores the difference between the type of state that the people are presumed to have consented or willed for—and the nature of that state that they are experiencing.

KEYWORDS: Constitution, Libertarian Anarchy, Monopoly of Violence, Paternal State, Posterity, Social-Contract, State, Taxation.

References

Casey, G. (2012). *Libertarian Anarchy: Against the State*. London. Continuum International Publishing Group.