

Chapter 1 : Hammer & Sickle | Batman Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

*The hammer and sickle is a symbol of proletarian solidarity that was first adopted - as Russian: Молот и серп, translit. serp i mǎlot: "sickle and hammer" - during the Russian Revolution.*

It has long been a symbol of the power of the common people working with their hands as compared to the elite – this is the basis of its popularity in the communist sphere. Here, in this post, we will have a detailed look into the hammer and sickle symbol and the meaning and symbolism behind it. The Origins of the Hammer and Sickle Emblem The image of the hammer and sickle as we know it today was formally created in , as an entry for a competition organized by Vladimir Lenin to find an emblem for the Soviet state. The original design was completed by a Russian artist named Yevgeny Kamzolkin. In the complete design, it was superimposed upon a globe illuminated from below by the rays of a golden sun. On either side of the globe was a wreath of grain and at the very top, a red, five-pointed star. It is said that the original design also carried a sword but that Lenin rejected it for the violent connotations it would have conveyed. The pharaohs are shown with their arms crossed and held one object held in each hand, creating an appearance very similar in style to the Communist one with which we are familiar. While there is no formal literature that has officially investigated this particular concept, it may be conjectured that the shape of the hammer alluded to the phallus while the curve of the sickle readily availed itself to an association with the female. This interpretation has carried over to other countries, too, and a tableau commissioned by the Communist Party in the Indian state of Kerala features the sickle held by a woman and the hammer, by a man. Besides the obvious interpretations of the hammer and sickle as the male phallus and womanly curves respectively, the use of both tools themselves in the history of human civilization has also played a part in this gender association. The History of the Hammer The use of a hammer to represent the male force is not a novel concept because hammers are readily associated with building, construction and war. They were the tool of the blacksmith who fashioned with them every other implement for domestic use, as well as defensive armor and offensive weapons like swords, spearheads and also the dreaded war hammer. War hammers were a weapon wielded on the battlefield by warriors in ancient times. In close combat, they could cause massive damage as a bludgeon even to heavily-armored opponents because they did not need to penetrate to inflict disabling or even fatal injuries. A war hammer played no favorites on the field of combat – it could be used just as effectively on horses to unseat their riders. The most famous of all combat hammers, particularly as a result of the recent avalanche of movies featuring the comic book character, Thor, is his magical war hammer, Mjollnir. In a less destructive sense, the hammer was the tool of builders. The Masons use the hammer and chisel to represent both construction and, symbolically, the manifestation of goals. In Western society, it is also linked to justice and the gavel we find in courtrooms across the world can trace its origins to that belief. While the menfolk still largely did the hardest parts like tilling and plowing the land, the relatively less rigorous tasks of harvesting crops and clearing land of unwanted plants fell to the women. Both these tasks were most easily performed with a sickle. However, the sickle, even when wielded by a female, does not necessarily have to be a representation of domesticity. It is most famously wielded by a female entity in an entirely different context by the Hindu goddess, Kali. Kali is the female aspect of Shiva the Destroyer, one of the three gods of the Hindu Trinity. Depictions of Kali show her with a garland of severed heads and a skirt of severed arms. In one of her many arms is a sickle, in another, the head of a demon. In fact, she is actually the goddess of Justice, meting out punishment to the wicked. The Hammer and Sickle in Popular Culture Today The hammer and sickle are gradually falling out of fashion both in Russia and the rest of the world, and several Communist entities have opted in recent years to drop the image from their own emblems. The average college student on their self-professed anti-establishment rant usually fails to get that memo. The symbol is still common in Russia, and a stylized version has never been removed from the logo the state carrier, Aeroflot.

**Chapter 2 : HAMMER AND SICKLE - Definition and synonyms of hammer and sickle in the English dictionary**

*Comment: Spine creases, wear to binding and pages from reading. May contain limited notes, underlining or highlighting that does affect the text. Possible ex library copy, that may have the markings and stickers associated from the library.*

Worker symbolism[ edit ] Farm and worker instruments and tools have long been used as symbols for proletarian struggle. The combination of hammer and sickle symbolised the combination of farmers and construction workers. One example of use prior to its political instrumentalisation by the Soviet Union is found in Chilean currency circulating since 1960. In Ireland, the symbol of the plough remains in use. James Connolly , co-founder of the Irish Citizen Army with Jack White , said the significance of the banner was that a free Ireland would control its own destiny from the plough to the stars. A sword is forged into the plough to symbolise the end of war with the establishment of a Socialist International. The winning design was a hammer and sickle on top of a globe in rays of the sun, surrounded by a wreath of grain and under a five-pointed star, with the inscription " proletariats of the world, unite! It originally featured a sword, but Lenin strongly objected, disliking the violent connotations. Serp i Molot transliteration of Russian: Meaning[ edit ] At the time of creation, the hammer and sickle stood for worker-peasant alliance, with the hammer a traditional symbol of the industrial proletariat who dominated the proletariat of Russia and the sickle a traditional symbol for the peasantry, but the meaning has since broadened to a globally recognizable symbol for Marxism , Marxist parties , or socialist states. In addition, the Russian city of Oryol also uses the hammer and sickle on its flag. The former Soviet now Russian national airline, Aeroflot , continues to use the hammer and sickle in its symbol. The hammer and sickle can be found as a logo on most ushanka hats, usually the Soviet-styled ones The de facto government of Transnistria uses with minor modifications the flag and the emblem of the former Moldavian SSR , which includes the hammer and sickle. The flag can also appear without the hammer and sickle in some circumstances, for example on Transnistrian-issued license plates. Communist parties[ edit ] Three out of the five currently ruling Communist parties use a hammer and sickle as the party symbol: All of these use the yellow-on-red colour scheme. In Laos and Vietnam, the hammer and sickle party flags can often be seen flying side-by-side with their respective national flags. Variations[ edit ] Many symbols having similar structures and messages to the original have been designed. For example, the Angolan flag shows a segment of a cog , crossed by a machete and crowned with a socialist star while the flag of Mozambique features an AK crossed by a hoe. In the logo of the Communist Party USA , a circle is formed by a half cog and a semicircular sickle-blade. The logo of the Communist Party of Turkey consists of half a cog wheel crossed by a hammer, with a star on the top. Tools represented in other designs include: The Far Eastern Republic of Russia used an anchor crossed over a spade or pickaxe, symbolising the union of the fishermen and miners. The Fourth International , founded by Leon Trotsky , uses a hammer and sickle symbol on which the number 4 is superimposed. The hammer and sickle in the Fourth International symbol are the opposite of other hammer and sickle symbols in that the head of the hammer is on the right side and the sickle end tip on the left. Similarly, the Communist Party of Israel uses a dove over the hammer and sickle as its symbol. The flag of the Guadeloupe Communist Party uses a sickle, turned to look like a majuscule G , to represent Guadeloupe. The flag of Burma from 1948 featured a bushel of rice superimposed on a cogwheel. The flag of Chama Cha Mapinduzi CCM, Party of the Revolution in Swahili , currently the ruling political party of Tanzania , has a slightly different symbol with a hammer and a hoe jembe instead of a sickle to represent the most common farm tool in Africa. The National Bolshevik Party used the hammer and sickle in their flag, but colored black instead of gold and in a design similar to the Nazi flag , a brighter red flag than the USSR, with a black hammer and sickle on a white disk in the center. Art[ edit ] The hammer and sickle has long been a common theme in socialist realism, but it has also seen some depiction in non-Marxist popular culture. Andy Warhol who created many drawings and photographs of the hammer and sickle is the most famous example of this.

**Chapter 3 : Aryeh Eliav - Wikipedia**

*Between Hammer & Sickle has 4 ratings and 2 reviews. Fiona said: One believes a lie heard a thousand times more readily than a fact one has never heard.*

At the time of its creation, the hammer stood for the industrial working class and the sickle for the peasantry – combined they stood for the worker-peasant alliance for socialism. The hammer and sickle and by extension the scythe symbols are a sickle used to harvest grain crops and the type or style of hammer, used to make a razor sharp edge on the sickles and scythes. After World War I from which Russia withdrew in the year and the Russian Civil War, the hammer and sickle became more widely used as a symbol for peaceful labor within the Soviet Union and for international proletarian unity. It was taken up by many communist movements around the world, some with local variations. Today, even after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the hammer and sickle remains commonplace in Russia and other former union republics, but its display is prohibited in some other former Communist countries as well as in countries where Communism is banned by law.

**History** The Chilean peso used the hammer and sickle symbol between and Worker symbolism Farm and worker instruments and tools have long been used as symbols for proletarian struggle. The combination of hammer and sickle symbolised the combination of farmers and construction workers. One example of use prior to its political instrumentalisation by the Soviet Union is found in Chilean currency circulating since In Ireland, the symbol of the plough remains in use. James Connolly, co-founder of the Irish Citizen Army with Jack White, said the significance of the banner was that a free Ireland would control its own destiny from the plough to the stars. A sword is forged into the plough to symbolise the end of war with the establishment of a Socialist International. The winning design was a hammer and sickle on top of a globe in rays of the sun, surrounded by a wreath of grain and under a five-pointed star, with the inscription "proletariats of the world, unite! It originally featured a sword, but Lenin strongly objected, disliking the violent connotations. Serp i Molot transliteration of Russian: The first State Emblem of the Soviet Union –

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majuscule G , to represent Guadeloupe. The flag of Burma from 1948 featured a bushel of rice superimposed on a cogwheel. The flag of Chama Cha Mapinduzi CCM, Party of the Revolution in Swahili , currently the ruling political party of Tanzania , has a slightly different symbol with a hammer and a hoe jembe instead of a sickle to represent the most common farm tool in Africa. The National Bolshevik Party used the hammer and sickle in their flag, but colored black instead of gold and in a design similar to the Nazi flag , a brighter red flag than the USSR, with a black hammer and sickle on a white disk in the center. Art The hammer and sickle has long been a common theme in socialist realism, but it has also seen some depiction in non-Marxist popular culture. Andy Warhol who created many drawings and photographs of the hammer and sickle is the most famous example of this. Georgia ,<sup>[8]</sup> Hungary ,<sup>[9]</sup> Latvia ,<sup>[10]</sup> Lithuania ,<sup>[11]</sup> Moldova 1 October 1991<sup>[12]</sup> and Ukraine <sup>[13]</sup><sup>[14]</sup><sup>[15]</sup> have banned communist symbols including this one. A similar law was considered in Estonia , but it eventually failed in a parliamentary committee. The foreign ministers of Lithuania , Latvia , Bulgaria , Hungary , Romania and the Czech Republic called for a European Union -wide ban on communist symbols in , urging the European Union "to criminalize the approval, denial or belittling of communist crimes" and stating that "the denial of such crimes should be treated the same way as the denial of the Holocaust and must be banned by law". The court also pointed to a judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in which Hungary was found guilty of violation of article 10 , the right to freedom of expression. In Poland , dissemination of items which are "mediums of fascist, communist or other totalitarian symbolism" was criminalized in 1998. However, the Constitutional Tribunal found this sanction to be unconstitutional in 2001. A ban on the Hammer and sickle and other Communist symbols is currently also being considered in Brazil , the bill was introduced in 2008 but it has yet to be voted in Congress.

Chapter 4 : Between Hammer and Sickle - Arie L. Eliav - Google Books

*Between the Hammer and the Sickle [Simon Vickers] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. After negotiating with the Soviet authorities for one and a half years, Simon Vickers, together with three others.*

The history of its origin is full of secrets and mysteries. Freemasonry, Hinduism, and ancient Aryan and Slavic mythology are all found in the two crossed implements on the Soviet emblem. The hammer and sickle that decorated the coat of arms of the USSR is probably the most recognizable symbol both of Soviet power and of the ideology of the state it represented, as well as the entire history of the country. The origin of the Soviet coat of arms is ambiguous. Several variants were initially worked out: The hammer was chosen for its traditional association with workers in European countries. In April the final version of the emblem was approved – a design by the Moscow artist Yevgeny Kamzolkin. In summer the Fifth Session of Soviets officially adopted the symbol. It is interesting to note that Kamzolkin was not even a communist and, furthermore, he was a deeply religious man from a wealthy family. The artist was a member of the mystical artistic Society of Leonardo da Vinci for more than 10 years and perfectly understood the meaning of the symbols. These items signified a clearly defined goal chisel and its firm manifestation hammer. In European religious symbology, the hammer is associated with aggressive male force, physical the hammer of the blacksmith Hephaestus in Greece as well as deadly. The thunder gods Svarog Slavic and Thor Norse wielded it in their hands. In China and India it is the symbol of the destructive triumph of the forces of evil. It is now difficult to say what meanings Kamzolkin insinuated into his drawing. Was he solely carrying out the order to create an image for the alliance of peasants and workers, or did he infuse into this symbol his attitude towards revolutionary power, choosing symbols for death, war, and the triumph of evil? The Russian philosopher Alexei Losev gave the following assessment of the crest: How will it end? From Byzantium to present-day Russia, the double-headed eagle still soars In various religions, the sickle is interpreted as a symbol of death. In Christianity, the sheaves and the harvest are equated with the human souls that the Harvester, i. It is interesting to note that during the Middle Ages death was depicted not with a scythe but specifically with a sickle. The pagan pantheons of various Indo-European and Slavic peoples feature a goddess called Mara or Morana, who traditionally held a sickle in her left hand. In Hinduism the goddess of death Kali, sister of Shiva, holds a sickle in her left hand. Curiously, the eagle on the coat of arms of revolutionary Austria also holds a sickle in its left claw and the sickle is likewise placed on that side on the Soviet crest. One of the largest steelmaking and metallurgical factories in Moscow, which had belonged to the French merchant Jules Goujon prior to the revolution, was renamed the Hammer and Sickle plant. The medal was awarded to heroes of socialist labor and knights of the Order of Lenin and was considered the highest medal in the USSR. It was awarded to a total of 19, people.

**Chapter 5 : Mystical emblem: The secrets of the hammer and sickle - Russia Beyond**

*DocsTeach is a product of the National Archives education division. Our mission is to engage, educate, and inspire all learners to discover and explore the records of the American people preserved by the National Archives.*

They are a team of Soviet superheroes that answered to Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. They have fought against the Outsiders, and were defeated in their own battleground. However, the political prisoner they came to liberate, dies. They attempted to break Zoya Trigorin out of Soviet custody. The mission failed and she was killed, leading to the arrest of Nemesis by Russian authorities. At the prison, the battle winds down. Batman and Flag, however, will not stop trading blows. They are pulled apart, and Flag collapses, while Batman storms away. Nightshade opens a dimensional hole, so that the Squad can disappear before they are seen by anyone else in the USSR. In Catwoman 47 , She wants to tear them apart from the inside, even if it means dealing with every baddie from Captain Cold and the Cheetah to the powered protectors of the proletariat, Hammer and Sickle! In Catwoman 48 , Some of the nastiest villains have laid siege to the East End, and Catwoman is the only thing keeping them from running riot! But while the forces of mayhem look for more blood to spill. In Catwoman 63 , This takes Catwoman out of the familiar confines of Gotham and straight into the heart of Metropolis! In Catwoman 64 , to save Holly from a murder rap, Catwoman has traveled to Metropolis. Hammer and Sickle are still planning their battle with Catwoman, as they are not giving up without a fight. Hammer and Sickle are now awaiting the return of their recent foe. In Catwoman 66 , Catwoman acts as a distraction, allowing Lenahan to knock Blitzkrieg unconscious once more. Their victory is short lived as two new villains, a man holding a giant sledge hammer and a woman with the Soviet communist symbol shaved in her head, show up immediately after. The woman, named Sickle, uses her weapon of the same name to swiftly decapitate Lenahan. Hammer and Sickle finally fight Catwoman, and both of them get one Catwoman at a time. In Catwoman 68 , Violence and the chaos hit home for Catwoman, as Hammer and Sickle are the only villains left that Catwoman has to face. With supervillains and the Gotham police hunting for both Selina and her replacement, Holly. In Catwoman 71 , Selina Kyle has to say goodbye to the most important person in her life! And when all that was caring in Selina is gone, Catwoman will be at her most unexpected, her most unpredictable and her most dangerous. After facing through a nightmare of her recent foes, such as Hammer and Sickle, literally, she is ready to go back as Catwoman. Salvation Run Edit In Salvation Run 1 , An explosion heralds the arrival of a new group of criminals, such as Hammer and Sickle, and the next morning the Rogues go back to find them and explain the danger. Some of the new arrivals primarily the Joker do not believe them, but when a burrowing monster attacks Girder, they save him, proving their case. Still, the villains complain of the fact that Checkmate promised them a dull prison world - and we see that they are being spied upon by two mysterious beings, who reveal that Checkmate had not been lying to them. A party composed of Metallo, Tar Pit, Meanstreak, Iron Cross, Hellhound, Skorpio, Rag Doll, Manticore and the Body Doubles are out fighting the mysterious native robot beasts, and Hellhound is mortally wounded by a tail blade slashing across his chest. On their way back, they run into a hunting party of four "Lion-Lizards," and the Body Doubles throw the delirious Hellhound to them so the rest of the group can escape back to camp, revealing that had been their original intention in bringing him. In Salvation Run 3 , The villains, along with Hammer and Sickle, are already fighting heavily amongst themselves, with very few mediators. Lex Luthor announces to the group that he, Doctor Sivana, Professor Ivo and General Immortus have devised a way to get them off the rock. His camp distrusts them because of the role they played in the Salvation deportation, but to show he trusts them, Luthor hires Deadshot and Bane on as his personal security detail, offering them 1 million dollars apiece when they get back to earth. Hammer and Sickle decide whether group they go to, that they will be together. He is attacked by Bolt, angry at the lack of food their camp has, but the minor insurrection is stopped by Kid Karnevil. In Salvation Run 5 , Catwoman is discovered sneaking around in trees, bringing suspicion upon herself as a "good guy" spy. To prove her innocence and shift the heat, she outs "Blockbuster" as Martian Manhunter, having seen him change earlier. Upon the discovery of the villains on this planet, Desaad plans to weed out the less powerful villains and train the better ones for an

unclear goal by allowing a massive horde of Parademons in invading Salvation. In Salvation Run 6 , back in the main camp, Luthor and the Joker prepare to finally have a fistfight between them, an all-out brawl to determine which one will retain supremacy. The fight is long and bloody, and although Luthor arguably gets in more hits, the Joker finally wins due to his bizarre complete tolerance for pain. Like the other villains, both Hammer and Sickle watch as the new leader will soon be announced.

Chapter 6 : Hammer + Sickle LE14 - halfwheel

*Between The Hammer And The Sickle has 9 ratings and 4 reviews. Dann said: Less a book about cycling and more a first-hand report of how terrible the Russ.*

Is profanity losing its punch? Chocolate molten delight with creme anglaise is a simple yet elegant make-ahead dessert Last week the Marxist quasi-dictator of Bolivia, Evo Morales, presented Pope Francis with a gift: The Vatican announced that the pope had not been informed in advance about the gift. And some commentators said photos of the pope and Morales show that the pope was actually offended. That was a false "probably wishful" interpretation. The pope himself later announced that he was keeping the hammer and sickle crucifix and taking it home, saying, "I understand this work. The Roman Catholic Church is currently led by a man whose social, political and economic views have been shaped by Leftism more than by any other religious or moral system. It also reconfirms what is probably the single most important development one needs to understand in order to make sense of the contemporary world: The most dynamic religion of the past hundred years has been Leftism not Christianity or Islam or any other traditional religion. Indeed, regarding traditional religions, Leftism has influenced them particularly Christianity and Judaism far more than they have influenced the Left. In terms of evil committed, what is the difference between the hammer and sickle and the swastika? Would the pope receive, let alone keep, a fascist, racist or Nazi sculpture with a crucified Christ on it? Yet the hammer and sickle represents more human suffering than all of them combined. The number of people enslaved and murdered under the hammer and sickle dwarfs the number of people enslaved and murdered by any other doctrine in history. To make things worse, Francis received this gift from a man Morales wearing a picture of Che Guevara on his jacket. Is that, too, not worthy of condemnation by the Vatican? Guevara devoted his life to undermining human liberty and to killing innocents in the name of Communism. Would the pope have accepted it? Would he have brought it home? First, in a literal sense, that is exactly what Communists have done wherever they have assumed power: Second, in a figurative sense, the gift represents the melange of Christianity and Marxism, precisely what much of the church, again especially in Latin America, and especially this pope stand for. My heart breaks for the millions of Catholics who feel that their beloved church is being led over a moral and religious cliff by a Leftist pope and innumerable other Leftists among cardinals, bishops and parish priests. Though I am not a Catholic, my heart breaks, too. The only institutions that can resist the left-wing takeover of contemporary life are religious ones. When they fail, upon which institutions can we depend? Tragically, we cannot turn to the contemporary Catholic Church. One must fight back. [Comment by clicking here.](#)

Chapter 7 : Hammer and sickle | Revolv

*Hammer and Sickle, now retired from the People's Heroes, are seeking land and a new headquarters. In Catwoman #47, She wants to tear them apart from the inside, even if it means dealing with every baddie from Captain Cold and the Cheetah to the powered protectors of the proletariat, Hammer and Sickle!*

Books relating to hammer and sickle and brief extracts from same to provide context of its use in English literature. When Stars and Stripes Met Hammer and Sickle tells the story of face-to-face citizen diplomacy that brought together Americans and Soviets during the closing years of the cold war. Globe with outlined hammer and sickle Rev: Denomination within circle, small solid stars Date Mintage BNB with hammer and sickle. Brown on pale olive-green and orange underprint. Cuhaj, 4 Passion and Perception: Essays on Russian Culture The remaining hammer and sickle both frequently used in old provincial heraldry was framed by a reassuring wreath adorned with classical elements, including the Roman fascesâ€”a bundle of rods wrapped around an axe. Richard Stites, David Goldfrank, 5 New Scientist The communist movement, for example, includes in its flag the symbol of the hammer and sickle, both labour-intensive hand tools whose significance is now hidden under the proverbial bed. The hammer and sickle became part of the flag of the USSR, together Smorodinskaya,, 7 Posthegemony: Film still from La boca del lobo directed by FranciscoJ. Lombardi, ; courtesy of the Soviet Porcelain from the The saucer uses a sparser arrangement of the decorative elements on the cup, minus the portrait of Lenin, the globe, and Cultural Fantasy and Male In early interviews about Hammer and Sickle, Livnev claimed to be making a " remake" of Kiksâ€” another film about doubles, substitution, and replacement. See interviews and articles in Sovetskii ekran, Iskusstvo kino, and Seans Soviet republics of Central Asia: Pope Francis was presented by Bolivian President Evo Morales with a wooden crucifix carved in the form of a hammer and sickle, the symbol

**Chapter 8 : Between The Hammer And The Sickle by Simon Vickers**

*The hammer and sickle reminds most people instantly of Communism, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and probably also the color red.*

Through farming and the domestication of animals, man learned to stay in one place rather than lead nomadic lives in search for food and sustenance. This was made possible by the invention of agricultural tools that helped man cultivate the land on which his crops were planted. One such tool is the sickle, an agricultural tool with a curved blade and a handle. The earliest civilization to have used the sickle predates the Neolithic Era. In Mesopotamia, sickles made of flint were found; they had jagged edges and were straight not curved. It was later developed into a curved tool to enable the user to swing the blade against the base of the plant. The sickle can be used freely wherein it is swung away from the user or by holding the plant in a bunch in one hand and the sickle in the other, swinging the sickle towards the user. There are several types of sickles: A tool which is an offshoot of the sickle is the scythe which is still very widely used today. Its distinction from the sickle lies in the length of its handle which is usually 67 inches long and made of wood, metal, or plastic. The handle or snath can be straight or curved with two handles, one in the middle and another in its upper end near the curved blade. The edge of the blade is always pointed towards the user. In ancient times, the scythe was used for cutting grass but was later used to reap crops replacing the sickle which compelled the user to stoop or hunch. The right way to use it is to hold it with both hands, the left holding the top and the right holding the center while swinging from right to left. Since both the sickle and the scythe are ancient tools, they are no longer used very often today. They have been replaced by animal drawn tools and machines such as tractors. Still, they have been very important tools that led to the development of the modern farming tools being used today. A sickle is an agricultural tool with a curved blade which can be used freely or by holding the plant in the other hand while a scythe is an agricultural tool with a curved blade that does not allow the user to hold the plant in his other hand. A sickle is made with a short handle while a scythe is made with a long handle. There are many ways of using the sickle; it can be used left or right handed swinging away or towards the user while the scythe can only be used by swinging from right to left. The user of the sickle has to stoop because of its short handle while the user of the scythe can stand upright while working because it has a long handle. If you like this article or our site. Please spread the word.

**Chapter 9 : An Anarchist Defense of the Sickle and Hammer –“ Non-Compete**

*It crosses the hammer in the iconic Soviet flag as an emblem of workers and peasants. Hammer for worker. Sickle for peasant who uses this tool to cut the grain in the fields.*

You got communism in my anarchism! As a leftist YouTuber and blogger, I get a lot of push-back and negative comments every single day about my worldview and the content I generate. They love the idea of capitalism. They are resistant to fundamental changes that would upset the privileges they enjoy in our current society. These criticisms are generally easy for me to handle. I know this because I used to BE a right-winger, myself. I know exactly what it feels like to have that nagging awareness deep in the back of your mind that you might be wrong about the world. I have always felt very prepared to deal with this kind of criticism. After all, YouTube and the internet at large is rife with alt right trolls and angry right-wingers, and leftist positions are few and far between in our society. As leftist content creators, we have to enter into this work with a thick skin and an understanding that we will come under continuous and relentless attack from the far right. So when I read a negative comment from a fellow leftist it can really throw me for a loop. See, when a right-winger comes swinging, I swing right back without hesitation. And the more toxic and abusive their comments are, the less threatened I feel. Hell, I admit it, sometimes I even have fun knocking out an ignorant Nazi with cold, hard logic. Further Ado Leftist words, on the other hand, can really mess me up. Points of contention really concern me, because the division within and among leftists has done more to stymie our movement than any reactionary anti-leftist force in history. I get a LOT of negative from my fellow anarchists about my use of the sickle and hammer. So when I keep seeing the same negative comments cropping up about my videos, it really gives me pause. I take negative feedback from my fellow leftists very seriously. And I get a LOT of negative from my fellow anarchists about my use of the sickle and hammer. I composed this long preamble because I want you, the presumably leftist reader, to know that I have put a great deal of thought into what follows. I have examined the arguments against the sickle and hammer. I have weighed and considered them. I realize that advocating for the display and use of the sickle and hammer symbol is a risky and controversial position to take. This subject may seem flippant and unimportant. Should we really be this concerned about something as silly as a logo when there are people suffering capitalist exploitation, racist violence, sexist oppression, and all the other injustices of the world? Why am I even wasting my time typing up a diatribe about an old flag when there are so many more pressing issues that need to be addressed? The fact is that symbols really do matter. The way we present ourselves is important. As a student of history, I know just how powerful and dangerous symbolism can be for any political movement. Incredibly talented designers like Hugo Boss and Karl Diebitsch designed uniforms, equipment, and logos for the Third Reich. Leni Riefenstahl was commissioned to create propaganda films with breathtaking and painstakingly composed photography. Everything the Nazis put their hands on, from the architecture of buildings to the artwork of postage stamps, was meant to intimidate, inspire, and indoctrinate the German people. And it was terrifyingly effective. Pre-Soviet Origins of the Sickle and Hammer Together, the sickle and hammer have origins that predate Soviet communism. Working tools have long been symbols of proletariat struggle. The classical conception of a blacksmith or factory worker has long been a burly man with hammer in hand, depictions of farmers at work have always included reaping with sickles. Soviet Iconification of the Sickle and Hammer Early 20th century leftists understood the power of design, including Vladimir Lenin. One of the problems faced by early communist revolutionaries in Russia was a huge divide between urban workers and rural peasants. Lenin and his Bolshevik contemporaries wanted to win peasants over to their cause. The first draft was a little busy, but it had some pretty sweet grain. I give it a B-. A design contest was held for a logo that would symbolize the unification of peasants and factory workers, and the winning design featured a sickle, a hammer, and a sword, though Lenin nixed the sword because he wanted to portray the new Soviet nation as peaceful. In this fascinating article, Christopher Warton explains the importance of these kinds of symbols in the Russian revolution: Symbols of the government and party, rituals, mass demonstrations, and social illustrations each played a vital role in revolutionary ideology. Party emblems, seals, iconography, posters, and

political insignia, from the hammer and sickle to the red five point star, were essential mediums in conveying the messages of the revolution. In addition to the imagery of symbols, rituals and public demonstrations such as parades, unveilings, celebrations, chants, and motivational rhetoric in speech and communication found significance as well because they signified socio-political change, and indoctrinated Bolshevik ideology. Symbols and rituals of essentially set the parameters that defined post-revolutionary Russia. In conclusion, though the sickle and hammer as symbols have been used for centuries to represent the working class, there is no question that the iconic configuration of the sickle and hammer we know today was devised by the Soviets under the direction of Vladimir Lenin and the rest of the Bolshevik party leadership.

### Anarchist Usage of the Sickle and Hammer

The Soviet adoption of the sickle and hammer as symbols of Leninist-style communism did not stop libertarian socialists from adopting and using these symbols throughout the 20th century. The best and most striking examples I have found are those used by anarchist groups during the Spanish civil war, as can be seen in these beautiful posters: In a more modern context, it is not uncommon to see anarcho-communist use of the sickle and hammer online and at demonstrations. Typically, the sickle and hammer is presented in white over the black and red flag that was also developed by anarchists during the Spanish civil war, or in white over a red flag. Admittedly, these presentations are most often seen online. All this to say that sickle and hammer symbolism is far from universal in anarchist communities, but it is also far from unprecedented and unheard of. This begs the question: And why do some anarchists including myself choose to use a symbol that was devised by Lenin and tied directly to the state communism of the Soviet Union in the minds of most people?

### Of Gulags and Purges

The most eloquent and reasoned criticism of my use of the sickle and hammer came via email from one of my subscribers. It might not be the best choice of motif for your channel. The Soviet Union was a totalitarian state that killed millions of people and suppressed dissenting thought. We should reject all Soviet symbolism. First of all, I will be the first to admit that the Soviet union was tremendously problematic. I recognize that the Soviet state committed atrocities. I know that the Soviets assassinated anarchists and imprisoned and executed a lot of good and innocent people. I am not naive and I am not a Soviet Union apologist. You gotta admit, that thing looks better than a Swastika But I am also not willing to completely demonize the Soviets as completely evil villains of history. To begin with, we have to recognize that much of what we learn in school about the Soviet union is Western propaganda. Many of the atrocities the Soviets allegedly committed were grossly exaggerated or else completely fabricated by Western capitalists, Nazis, and other reactionary regimes. In the future, I hope to go into more detail about some of the more egregious anticommunist myths and lies about the Soviet Union, but for the time being, let it suffice to say that we as leftists should take the Western narrative of the USSR with a grain of salt just as we should take the official narrative of Soviet officials themselves with a grain of salt. The Soviets and capitalists of the 20th century fought a propaganda war that lasted decades, so the fact is that it can be tremendously difficult to sort out fact from fiction when it comes to Soviet successes, failures, and atrocities. Did the Soviets do very bad things? Of course they did. They were crucial for the defeat of Hitler in World War II, they helped to liberate Cuba and Vietnam from capitalist-imperialist and colonial rule, they made remarkable advances in science including many victories in the space race , they had one of the highest literacy rates in the world surpassing even the USA , and so on. Russia was a feudal agricultural nation under the absolute dictatorship of the Czar. They were devastated by World War I and had very little industry to speak of. The fact that they were able to become a world power with such industrial and military might in such short order is objectively impressive. The accomplishments they made after the devastation they suffered in World War II is equally impressive, especially when you consider the tremendous pressure and aggression they faced from capitalist powers in the USA and Europe. I believe that their regime ultimately failed because of its authoritarian nature. I am, at the end of the day, an anarcho-communist, and I disagree adamantly with many of the decisions that were made by the Soviet Union. But when I look at the USSR in toto, especially compared to the capitalist-imperialist states they opposed, I have to conclude that they were generally on the right side of history and were able to accomplish a great deal from very humble beginnings. The Soviet Union was not just its leadership. Set Stalin and Lenin and Khrushchev aside and you still have millions of soldiers who fought and died beneath the sickle and hammer to defeat Hitler. You still have millions of workers and

farmers who struggled and toiled together for decades to try and advance their own society. The Soviet Union was a major part of the history of leftism, and we must accept the role they played, warts and all. For my part, I may have strong criticism for many of the leaders of the Soviet Union, but I am proud of the good things they were able to accomplish. I will not disown them, but at the same time, I will recognize their faults and flaws and learn from their mistakes. The Soviets were people, and people are flawed. Most of us call ourselves Marxists even though Marx himself was highly problematic. Is there anything more capitalist than selling communist flags? In addition, the sickle and hammer logo was not only used by the Soviet Union! Cuba and Vietnam use the sickle and hammer to this day. Granted, these regimes were never perfect. I live in Vietnam, and I know full well that the communist party of Vietnam has tremendous problems with corruption. I understand very well the mistakes that have been made by Vietnamese communist leadership, including the assassination of Trotskyists and anarchists and the abuses against South Vietnamese citizens which occurred immediately after the war. I have heard their stories about watching their friends and family members die before their eyes. Many of these freedom fighters proudly display the sickle and hammer to this day. As they explain it to me, the nation and its government may not be perfect, but it is their nation. They are also one of the happiest countries in the world according to the Happiness Index. These are all leftist accomplishments worth celebrating.