



ADDITIONAL NOTES

An Enclave Within An Enclave - Difficulties in Tracing a History of Black Autonomism Mutt (2024)

Histories of Anarchism suffer from a familiar problem to any readers of other histories, namely that they often centre men and men's experiences. They tend to centre the highly visible and recognizable parodies to the histories of states and statecraft. Such as; the Makhnovist Free Territories of Ukraine in the Russian Civil War or the various Anarchist Territories in Republican Spain, in the 1936 Spanish Civil war or even the Korean People's Association in Manchuria during the Korean independence movement. In the book *Afro-Caribbean Women & Resistance to Slavery in Barbados* Hilary Beckles notes that;

"Women, then, were not only to be found in the vanguard of the blacks' anti-slavery movement, but were central to the reproduction of anti-slavery ideologies. As nonviolent protestors, as maroons, as the protectors of social values and as armed rebels, black women were critical to the forging of resistance strategies and an anti-slavery consciousness which rests at the core of the slave communities' survivalist culture."

Yet in popular understanding of slave revolts and confrontation and resistance to the system of slavery, it's far easier to conjure up pictures of male leaders and a crowd of rowdy, armed men. Of the 22 known leaders of the failed 1816 Bussa Rebellion (which was the island's largest rebellion against slavery) only one of them Nanny Grigg was a woman. However this doesn't in the slightest reflect the proportion to which women were involved in resistance to slavery. As an example, the practice of *Huckerstering* in which enslaved women were involved to a far greater degree than their male counterparts in illegally obtaining items to sell at markets, which allowed them to improve the quality and quantity of their diets in the wider context of a generalised malnutrition. This practice brought great distress to the slave owning class as it disrupted their control over the life and health of enslaved peoples but it is seldom mentioned in discussions around slave resistance.

This pattern repeats itself when looking at radical movements such as anarchism, its very easy to draw a history of Black Anarchism & Autonomism around its imprisoned expropriator forefathers (not in the slightest intending to diminish their

