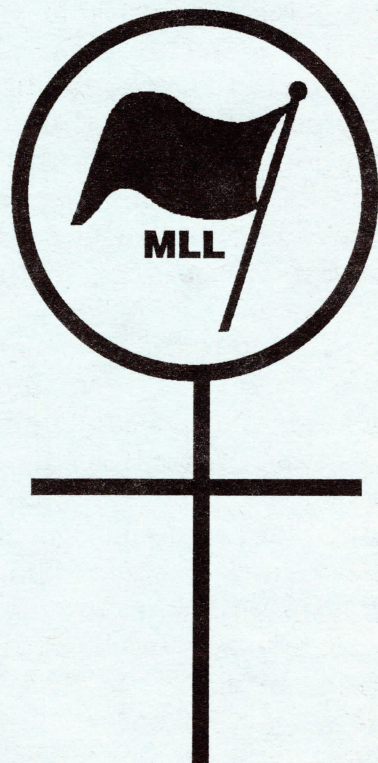


the sun-gods are but a sneeze. The power could then be beamed back via lasers or devices not yet invented — or even dreamt of.

So once again, the principles of liberty unravel another Gordian knot. The wealth of energy, environment, life and, above all, freedom, are compatible. Humankind can live in harmony — without the State.



This pamphlet was first distributed at an early nuclear teach-in in 1978.

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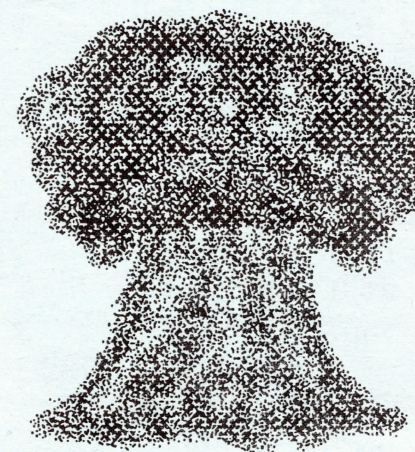
MOVEMENT OF THE LIBERTARIAN LEFT

THE NUCLEAR QUESTION



NO NUKES

OR



MLL Issue Pamphlet #4

Revised Series One • 1987

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**MOVEMENT OF THE
 LIBERTARIAN LEFT**

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The simple moral premise of libertarianism often leads to startling resolutions of seemingly thorny questions. The question of the proliferation of nuclear reactors, engines, and above all, bombs, has led many to accept fatalistically a duel to the death between pro and anti-nuclear advocates. Either we have them or not.

As usual, the sleazy "moderates" climb out of the woodwork to offer their "compromises" and "half a loaf" — all requiring a bureau for them to be appointed to run or a political office they should be elected to hold. Their answer to deep, philosophical conflict is to institutionalize and exploit it, to turn it into a new vested interest.

That's not the libertarian way. Where the politicians cry for funds to "seek an answer," we simply offer it. Where the bureaucrats ask for power for the "solutions," the libertarian finds all the answers in a context of absolute freedom. Where the Centrists co-opt through pleas of moderation, the libertarian relies on reason for the revolution.

The plea of the Nuclear Abolitionist is for an end to the genocidal warfare through nuclear-based weaponry, an end to nuclear pollution (that is, wanton destruction of other's property and unclaimed nature), and, above all, the decision as to whether to participate in a life pattern involving the use of nuclear energy. The plea is for Life and Freedom.

The Nuclear Defender is for energy. He sees nuclear energy as safe, modern, and efficient — and absolutely necessary to sustain the high standard of living of the developed West and raise that of suffering humanity around the globe. He sees the harnessing of the atom as the way to universal prosperity on earth and the pathway to a destiny in the stars. The plea is for Life and Freedom.

In both camps, one finds the death-oriented, pathological types. Among the pro-nuke forces are the "bomb them back to the Stone Age" militarists, who would have to go back to burning schools and sniping nurses if they had the Big Match snatched from them. Among the anti-nuke forces are the "back to the Stone Age" cretins who can't cope with calculators and the light switch, and see no reason why everyone else who can deal with modern civilization should have all the "advantages."

Libertarianism offers nothing to the envious club-wielders of the twilight back alleys. But to the Men and Women of Reason, it points out that there are no inherent conflicts among different seekers of Life and Freedom.

The problem arises when the Abolitionists and the Defenders attempt to *force* their solution upon all. Not only does this encourage their pet psychotics, who thrive in an atmos-

phere of violence, but it summons the age-old monster — the State!

Shall the State suppress the nuke or shall the State use the nuke? That has been the standard formulation of the nuclear question — and the reason that there is conflict. As Randolph Bourne so aptly said, "War is the health of the State." Whether that is a nuclear war or a war against nuclear use by police suppression is immaterial; it is the force which serves the State and perpetuates its existence.

Suppose, instead, we remove the State from the picture and abjure the use of force to settle the dispute. Let every person's life and property, and all wild areas which can find a protector, be safe from aggression, including radiation. This would certainly satisfy those with justifiable fears of the nuke.

It would be up to the proponents of nuclear energy to develop and use their wondrous device safely and out of harm's way. If it cannot be done, then indeed the nuke would be abolished. But that is not the case either. Even if safe nuclear power cannot be generated in Earth's vast wastelands — and that is not at all certain — the barren surface of the Moon and the vast reaches of outer space are not only immune to man-made radiation but compared to the outpourings of radiation from those colossal H-bombs in the sky — the stars — man's pitiful attempts to emulate