

Extracts from a letter to l'Egalité of Paris

Andrea Costa

1878

“As for doctrines, we can say that we have very few. We are anarchists, and that is all. We desire that each be given the possibility of communicating their needs and the means of satisfying them. But, the expression of those needs being impossible without the prior destruction of the present order of things, our aim is action. We consider participation in politics, perpetuating in the masses the idea of and need for government, as a renunciation of the revolution. We do not mean to remain popular consciousness, because we consider ourselves neither better nor worse than the others and it is not up to us, but to a historical development of the people in their entirety, to remake that consciousness. That renewal will take place, but it will be an effect, not a cause of the revolution.”

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[Translated from Malon's "Histoire du socialisme" by Shawn P. Wilbur.]

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