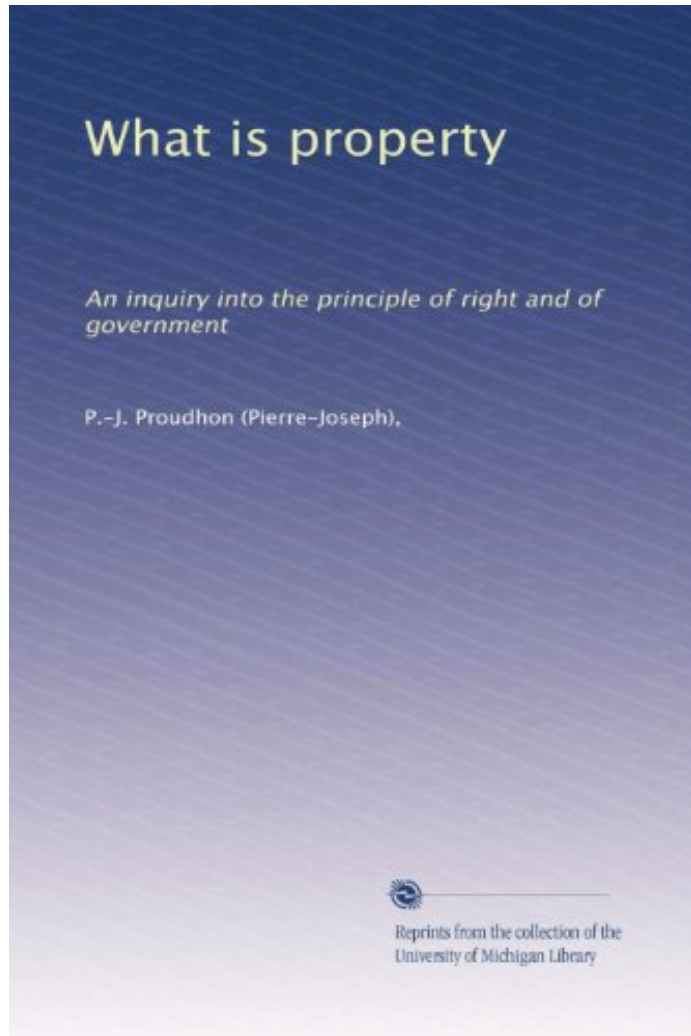


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What is property: An inquiry into the principle of right and of government

P.-J. Proudhon

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P.-J. Proudhon : What is property: An inquiry into the principle of right and of government before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What is property: An inquiry into the principle of right and of government:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. interestingBy K6This book rambles on at times but I still enjoyed reading it. I dont agree with all the views of the author but I gained some valuable perspectives on society from reading this book. If you are interested in the study of government, oppression, poverty and wealth, freedom and liberty, and humanities struggle to live harmoniously together, you may enjoy reading this book.19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Brian Wayne Wells, Esquire, reviews "What is Property?"By A CustomerBeginning

with the first paragraph, this 1970 English translation of the famous 1840 book by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon answers the question posed in the title. "What is Property? It is theft." This is the most famous quote associated with Proudhon and this book is the original source of that quote. If there is one book of Proudhon that is read most often it is this book. However, the book was written by Proudhon early in his literary career and some of his later writing depart from the early radicalism portrayed in this book. Consequently, the student of Proudhon seeking to understand the totality of the Proudhon's life and writings will have to read some of his later and less well-known writings in addition to this work. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Earl Manley Great Book

LARGE PRINT EDITION! More at LargePrintLiberty.com. This book was an influential work of nonfiction on the concept of property and its relation to anarchist philosophy by the French anarchist and mutualist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, first published in 1840. In the book, Proudhon most famously declared that "property is theft". Proudhon believed that the common conception of property conflated two distinct components which, once identified, demonstrated the difference between property used to further tyranny and property used to protect liberty. He argued that the result of an individual's labor which is currently occupied or used is a legitimate form of property. Thus, he opposed unused land being regarded as property, believing that land can only be rightfully possessed by use or occupation (which he called "possession"). As an extension of his belief that legitimate property (possession) was the result of labor and occupation, he argued against such institutions as interest on loans and rent. Some contemporary anarchists use the terms personal property (or possessive property) and private property to signify the distinctions Proudhon put forth in regard to ownership of the produce of labor and ownership of land. In this sense, private property would refer to claimed ownership of unused land or goods, and personal property would refer to produce of labor currently in use. This differentiation is an important component in anarchist critique of capitalism.

Language Notes Text: English, French (translation) About the Author Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809 - 1865) was a French politician, founder of Mutualism, and an early anarchist. Early in his life, Proudhon worked as a printer, which gave him the opportunities of learning Latin, reading extensively, and meeting Charles Fourier and Gustave Fallot. He was later exiled from France for insulting Louis-Napolon Bonaparte.