

Free Wind Collective Theory Book



THE
FREEWIND
COLLECTIVE

Chapter 1: The Free Wind Collective's Theoretical Approach

The Free Wind Collective is an organization that adheres to a specific set of principles designed to foster self-reliance, community resilience, and environmental stewardship. Their approach is not based on a single dogma but is a practical application of a few key concepts from various schools of thought, primarily rooted in the principles of mutual aid, direct action, and decentralized education. This chapter outlines the theoretical underpinnings of the collective's work, detailing how these concepts are translated into tangible action.

Community Empowerment and Direct Action

The Free Wind Collective operates on the principle that the most effective and lasting solutions to community problems are those developed and implemented by the community itself. This is a direct application of the anarchist concept of **direct action**, which is defined as a method of protest or intervention that creates change by directly confronting or addressing an issue rather than relying on intermediaries such as politicians or other authorities. Direct action is not merely about protest; it is about building the future in the present by creating institutions and systems that operate outside of existing power structures.

The collective's emphasis on direct action is a rejection of a top-down, state-centric approach to social change. Instead, it promotes a bottom-up model where people take power for themselves. Examples of this include neighborhood assemblies, community-run cooperatives, and local projects that address specific community needs. The Free Wind Collective will embody this by providing resources and knowledge that empower communities to solve their own problems, whether that involves creating a local co-op for sustainable fishing or building a community water purification system.

Labor Organizing and Mutual Aid

The collective's approach to labor is guided by the philosophy of **mutual aid** and anarcho-syndicalism. Mutual aid, famously articulated by Peter Kropotkin in his book *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*, is a principle of voluntary, reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. It is based on the idea that cooperation, not competition, is the primary driver of both biological and social evolution. The collective's mission to provide training and resources for sustainable livelihoods—such as engine maintenance, digital literacy, and sustainable fishing techniques—is a practical manifestation of this principle.

The collective also draws inspiration from **anarcho-syndicalism**, which sees trade unions not only as a means to improve working conditions but also as the organizational foundation for a new, post-capitalist society. Anarcho-syndicalists advocate for direct action in the form of strikes, boycotts, and sabotage to achieve their goals. The Free Wind Collective applies this by supporting local, worker-led initiatives and helping communities establish their own cooperative labor structures, rejecting the traditional model of a boss-and-employee relationship. By building solidarity and providing the means for workers to self-manage their production and distribution, the collective helps to create an economic system that is decentralized, democratic, and directly accountable to the people who operate it.

Decentralized Education and Ocean Ecology Awareness

The project's educational model is a rejection of the hierarchical, state-run schooling system, which anarchists argue is designed to produce obedient, productive members of a consumer economy. Instead, the Free Wind Collective advocates for **decentralized education**, a community-based, anti-authoritarian model that emphasizes critical thinking, self-mastery, and practical skills. This approach views education as a tool for personal and community liberation, not for social control.

A core component of this decentralized curriculum is **ocean ecology awareness**. The collective's focus on the ocean is not just about environmentalism; it is a direct application of green anarchist principles. **Green and Blue anarchism** are political philosophies that merge anarchist principles with an environmentalist perspective, advocating for a society without formal government structures that emphasizes ecological sustainability. The collective's curriculum on topics like sustainable fisheries, marine biology, and responsible resource management is a way to link the health of the ocean directly to the well-being and autonomy of coastal communities. It provides the knowledge for communities to manage their own local ecosystems, reinforcing the idea that environmental protection is a collective responsibility best managed at the local level.

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Chapter 2: The Malatestan Approach

The Free Wind Collective's theoretical approach is rooted in the pragmatic and gradualist anarchism of Errico Malatesta. Unlike revolutionary frameworks that prioritize a single, cataclysmic event, Malatesta's philosophy provides a blueprint for constant action, direct education, and the organic construction of a new society from the ground up. This approach is not about waiting for a perfect moment, but about creating that moment through consistent, purposeful deeds.

Propaganda by the Deed: From Insurrection to Community Building

For many, the term "propaganda by the deed" is synonymous with violent acts. While Malatesta and his contemporaries initially engaged in insurrections like the Benevento uprising of 1877, his philosophy on this concept evolved significantly over his lifetime. As historian Davide Turcato notes, Malatesta came to view "deeds" as any action that could inspire and demonstrate the viability of anarchist principles. The Freewind Collective interprets this in a modern context, reframing "propaganda by the deed" as **constant, small-scale acts of community development as acts of resistance**.

The ALV Project is the embodiment of this idea. Each educational workshop, from teaching engine maintenance to providing digital literacy, is a deliberate, constructive act that demonstrates an alternative to a state- or corporate-led system. It is a tangible proof of concept. The project does not simply talk about self-reliance; it builds it, brick by brick and skill by skill. The success of a solar panel installation, a community-run water purification system, or a successful fisheries co-op is a powerful argument for a new way of life—a far more effective form of propaganda than any pamphlet.

Gradualism: The Patient Path to Anarchy

Malatesta was a firm believer that anarchy would "only come about little by little." He argued against the utopian notion of a single leap from the current "hell" to a "longed-for heaven." For the Freewind Collective, this concept of **anarchist gradualism** is fundamental.

The project is structured in a way that respects this gradualist principle. The phased implementation plan, beginning with an online educational hub and progressing to a land-based vessel, is a testament to this patient approach. This slow, methodical growth allows the collective to:

- **Prove the Model:** By first validating the curriculum and building a financial runway on land, the collective demonstrates the project's viability to communities and donors.

- **Mitigate Risk:** It avoids the catastrophic failure that could result from a premature at-sea launch, a failure that would not only halt the project but could also discredit the anarchist principles it seeks to demonstrate.
- **Build Trust:** Gradualism allows for the long-term cultivation of relationships. The ALV will not arrive and demand a revolution; it will arrive as a partner, working alongside community members to identify needs and develop solutions over time.

As Malatesta wrote in his essay on the subject, the problem is not whether we should be gradualist, but rather "to seek the quickest and sincerest way that leads to the realization of our ideals." The ALV project's phased approach is a conscious attempt to find that way.

Voluntary Association and the Rejection of Dogma

Malatesta was a vocal critic of authoritarianism in all its forms, including a top-down, centralized revolutionary party. He famously debated Pierre Monatte at the 1907 International Anarchist Congress, arguing against a simple identification of anarchism with syndicalism. Malatesta believed that effective movements must be based on **voluntary association**, where individuals and groups can organize freely and without a rigid, dogmatic program.

The Free Wind Collective's approach to organizing embodies this. The project's mission explicitly states that it will not impose organizational structures, such as co-ops or unions. Instead, it will make knowledge and frameworks available for communities to use at their discretion. This is a direct application of Malatesta's anti-dogmatic stance. The collective provides the "how-to," but the community determines its own "what-to-do."

The ALV's curriculum, with courses on topics like "Social Dynamics," is designed to give community members the tools to critically analyze their own circumstances and organize for their own benefit. The ultimate goal is for the community to achieve true self-determination by developing its own institutions, free from external control. This process is the ultimate expression of Malatesta's belief that a free society is built from the bottom up, by people who have been inspired to act for themselves.

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Chapter 3: History of Resistance from Water Workers

The Free Wind ALV Project is built on a foundation of historical resistance, drawing inspiration from countless communities who have used their connection to the water to fight for justice, freedom, and autonomy. Our mission is a modern continuation of this global tradition, which spans continents and centuries. The ocean, which serves as both a thoroughfare for commerce and a barrier to oppression, has repeatedly been a stage for powerful acts of defiance by water workers—from sailors to dockworkers and captives.

This chapter explores a selection of these historical struggles, each demonstrating how collective action, specialized knowledge, and deep-seated solidarity can challenge the most formidable systems of power. The examples that follow—from the decentralized resistance of the Bahian coast to the anarchist unions of Italy—form the intellectual bedrock of the Free Wind Collective.

Brazil: The Decentralized Defense of the Bahian Coast

Centuries ago, in the 1620s, a fierce resistance against Dutch invaders unfolded on the Brazilian coast. When the official military forces failed to hold the city of Salvador, it was the local populations—the fishermen, sailors, and residents of coastal villages—who took up the fight themselves. Their strength was not in formal military training or advanced weaponry, but in their deep, inherited knowledge of the sea.

These communities, using their small, agile fishing boats, harassed the much larger Dutch warships. They leveraged their intimate understanding of local currents, hidden channels, and submerged reefs to disrupt supply lines and gather intelligence. Their resistance was a form of self-determination born directly from their labor and way of life. The skills they used to sustain their families—navigating the waters, reading the weather, and expertly handling their vessels—were transformed into the tools of a decentralized, community-led defense. This history proves that lived experience and local knowledge, when united for a common purpose, can be a more powerful force than any colonial army.

Mexico: Anarchist-Inspired Oil Workers

During the Mexican Revolution, the country's oil fields, controlled by foreign companies, became a hotbed of resistance. The oil workers, many of whom were skilled laborers from diverse backgrounds, were politically astute and deeply

influenced by anarchist and syndicalist philosophies. Their leaders skillfully organized unions and strikes, resisting both the exploitation of foreign capital and the "proletarianization" of their workforce. These workers understood that their technical skills and collective labor were their most potent weapons. Their resistance was a critical part of the broader revolution, demonstrating how water-adjacent workers, in this case on oil rigs and refineries, could link their local economic struggles to a global political discourse of autonomy and anti-imperialism.

Africa: Slave Ship Mutinies and the Black Sailors' Resistance

The most visceral form of resistance on the water was the slave ship mutiny. These uprisings, though often brutally suppressed, were a direct and powerful rejection of the transatlantic slave trade. They represent the ultimate act of defiance by captive people, who, in the most dire of circumstances, seized control of the instruments of their own oppression. Furthermore, the role of **Black sailors** in the colonial Atlantic was a quiet but persistent form of resistance. These men, navigating ports and cultures across the world, served as "cultural ambassadors" of freedom. Their mobility and ability to share information and ideas helped to forge connections between communities and spread the principles of liberation, actively undermining the system of slavery from within.

Asia (Singapore): Anti-Colonial Activism of Dockworkers

In Singapore from the 1920s to the 1960s, dockworkers were at the heart of the anti-colonial struggle against British rule. Their activism transcended mere wage disputes; they consciously connected their labor struggles to a global discourse of self-determination. By organizing powerful strikes and unions, these workers demonstrated the immense power that came with controlling the flow of goods through a vital port. Their actions were a direct challenge to the colonial administration, forcing concessions and contributing to the political momentum that eventually led to Singapore's independence. Their story is a clear example of how water workers can be key players in national liberation movements.

India: The Royal Indian Navy Mutiny of 1946

In 1946, the British Empire in India was already on shaky ground. It was the mutiny of thousands of sailors in the **Royal Indian Navy** that helped deliver a final, decisive blow. The rebellion began in Bombay (now Mumbai) over issues of poor food and racial discrimination by British officers. The mutineers hoisted not only the flags of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League but also the red flag of the Communist Party, showcasing the multi-faceted political nature of their rebellion. The mutiny, which spread to other ports and ships, was a major catalyst for India's

independence. It demonstrated that even within the heart of the colonial military, the spirit of resistance among water workers could ignite a popular movement and force the hand of the colonizers.

Europe (Italy): The Anarchist Unions of Biennio Rosso

The **Biennio Rosso**, or "Two Red Years," in Italy (1919-1920) was a period of intense worker uprisings that saw factory occupations, strikes, and the formation of workers' councils. At the center of this revolutionary ferment were the independent **maritime and railway workers' unions**, which were politically dominated by anarchists. These waterfront workers were crucial to the movement, as they controlled the transportation infrastructure that fueled the national economy. By organizing massive strikes and refusing to transport goods, they demonstrated the strategic power of their labor. Their actions were a direct application of anarchist principles, showing how workers could self-organize and exert control over their means of production to challenge the state.

United States: The 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike

The **1934 West Coast waterfront strike** was a pivotal moment in U.S. labor history, a four-day general strike that shut down all ports from San Diego to Seattle. This massive action was the result of longshoremen and other maritime workers, who had suffered for years under brutal working conditions and the "fink hall" system. A key ideological influence on the strike was the **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, or "Wobblies," which advocated for "one big union" to unite all workers regardless of trade. This philosophy was a direct challenge to the capitalist system and helped to forge the immense solidarity that made the strike successful, leading to the creation of the modern longshoremen's union and a permanent shift in the balance of power on the docks.

The ALV Project: Continuing the Legacy

These diverse histories serve as the intellectual bedrock of the Free Wind ALV Project. We recognize that our work is a modern echo of these past struggles. The lessons we draw are clear and central to our mission:

1. **Labor as a Catalyst for Change:** Just as the oil workers of Mexico and the dockworkers of Singapore used their labor as a weapon, our "University-in-a-Box" is designed to provide communities with practical skills that are also a basis for social and economic power. We believe that by building local capacity, we are arming communities with the tools to negotiate for better conditions and to control their own destiny.

2. **Lived Experience as a Strategic Asset:** The Bahian communities and the Black sailors of the Atlantic demonstrated that local knowledge and a unique cultural perspective are invaluable resources. Our project is built on the principle of a "reciprocal relationship," where we share knowledge, but the ultimate direction and adaptation of our programs are driven by the communities themselves. We respect and honor their decades of lived experience and their unique understanding of their environment, positioning them as the true experts and leaders of their own development.

The Free Wind ALV Project is not just a vessel carrying education; it is a ship sailing in the wake of countless water workers who have fought for a better world. We carry their legacy with us, committed to fostering new generations of empowered and autonomous coastal communities.

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Chapter 4: Anarchist Water Workers History

The Free Wind ALV Project's vision is rooted in a rich but often overlooked history of anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist traditions among water workers. This tradition, which informs the project's concept of an "International Anarcho-Syndicalist Union of Water Workers," is not about a single, formally established organization but rather a global legacy of militant unions, revolutionary movements, and workers who used principles of direct action, solidarity, and self-management to fight for their freedom.

Anarcho-syndicalism is a philosophy that sees trade unions as both a vehicle for immediate improvements to working conditions and as the prefigurative structure for a post-capitalist society. Anarchist water workers historically applied these ideas in some of the most strategic sectors of the global economy: shipping, ports, and oil fields. By controlling the flow of goods and the tools of their trade, they demonstrated immense power to challenge the authority of both capital and the state.

The United States: The Industrial Workers of the World and the 1934 Strike

The **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, or "Wobblies," were a revolutionary industrial union founded in 1905 with strong ties to anarchist and syndicalist movements. Their philosophy of "One Big Union," which welcomed all workers regardless of race, skill, or gender, was a direct challenge to the exclusionary practices of many other unions at the time. This was particularly crucial for maritime workers, as it broke down the divides between skilled sailors, firemen, and dockworkers, fostering a powerful sense of class solidarity. Their iconic slogan, "An injury to one is an injury to all," became a rallying cry for collective action against employers.

This influence was a critical ideological force in the **1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike**. While the strike was officially led by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), the true militant leadership emerged from a rank-and-file group known as the "Albion Hall group," which included key figures like Harry Bridges. Inspired by the IWW's industrial unionist principles, these workers demanded not only a coast-wide contract but also a union-controlled hiring hall. This was a direct attack on the employer-run "shape-up" system, which was notoriously corrupt and discriminatory. The strike, which began in May, escalated into a widespread confrontation. On July 5th, a day that became known as "**Bloody Thursday**," police

fired on striking workers in San Francisco, killing two men. This act of state violence galvanized the entire labor movement, leading to a massive three-day **General Strike** that shut down all work in San Francisco. The strike's success ultimately led to the formation of the powerful International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and permanently changed the balance of power on the docks, demonstrating the power of direct action and worker solidarity.

Harry F. Owens: The Anarchist Sailor Against Fascism

Harry F. Owens was an American anarchist sailor and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. He became a Wobbly in 1921 after growing disillusioned with the conservative craft unions of the time. Owens was a vocal advocate for direct action as a means to challenge the power of ship owners and the state, embodying the militant principles of Anarcho-Sindicalist Maritime unions. He used his position as a seaman to spread anarchist and syndicalist ideas to ports around the world, fostering international solidarity among maritime workers.

His commitment to these ideals was most profoundly demonstrated during the Spanish Civil War. As news of the fascist rebellion against the democratic republic spread, Owens became an outspoken opponent of shipping companies in the United States that continued to do business with Franco's forces. He actively participated in an IWW-led strike against a ship carrying goods to the fascists in Spain. Seeing the struggle as a global fight for liberation, Owens eventually sailed to Spain himself, where he joined the Lincoln Battalion of the International Brigades to fight on the front lines. He was killed in action in 1937, a testament to his belief that the struggle of workers was international and that anarchists had a duty to defend freedom wherever it was threatened.

Spain: Revolutionary Catalonia and Workers' Self-Management

One of the most profound examples of anarcho-syndicalism in practice occurred during the Spanish Civil War in the region of **Revolutionary Catalonia**. When the military attempted a fascist coup in 1936, workers' militias and the anarcho-syndicalist union, the **Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT)**, fought back and defeated the fascists in Barcelona and other cities. In the vacuum of power, the CNT, with its more overtly anarchist sister organization the Federación Anarquista Ibérica (FAI) acting as a radicalizing force, initiated a sweeping social revolution.

In ports like Barcelona, workers seized control of the docks and shipping infrastructure. They organized themselves into self-managed collectives, running the operations without bosses or state interference. This was a real-world experiment in workers' control, where decisions were made democratically by the workers

themselves through assemblies and committees. They managed cargo, logistics, and vessel repair, proving that a complex and essential sector of the economy could be organized on principles of autonomy and decentralized governance. The CNT's influence was so widespread that it ran not just the ports, but also railways, factories, and utilities, demonstrating a comprehensive vision for a libertarian communist society.

Italy: The *Biennio Rosso* and the Rise of Worker Power

In post-World War I Italy, the period known as the ***Biennio Rosso***, or "Two Red Years" (1919-1920), saw intense social conflict and worker uprisings. At the heart of this movement was the **Unione Sindacale Italiana (USI)**, a large and influential anarcho-syndicalist union. The USI played a leading role in a wave of mass strikes and, most famously, in the occupation of factories across northern Italy. These factory councils and occupations became models for workers' self-management.

For maritime and railway workers, the USI's influence was particularly significant. By organizing powerful strikes and refusing to transport goods, they demonstrated the strategic power of their labor in controlling the nation's economic infrastructure. The movement was heavily influenced by the returning anarchist theorist **Errico Malatesta**, who advocated for direct action and workers' councils as the foundation of a new society. Malatesta's presence energized the movement, and the USI's direct action tactics were a clear expression of his philosophy. The USI's growth to over 800,000 members during this period highlighted its role as a key force in the revolutionary moment before it was ultimately suppressed by the rise of fascism.

England: The Great London Dock Strike of 1889

The **Great London Dock Strike of 1889** is a landmark moment in the history of British labor and a powerful demonstration of the principles of industrial unionism and solidarity. Before this strike, dockworkers were among the most exploited and disorganized laborers in the country, working under a notoriously corrupt "shape-up" system where they were forced to wait for hours just for the chance of a few hours of work at meager wages. They were considered "unskilled" and were largely excluded from the craft unions of the time.

The strike, which began in August, was a spontaneous uprising of these casual laborers, but it was quickly given direction and organization by socialist and anarchist-influenced leaders like **Tom Mann** and John Burns. Mann was a vocal advocate for the principles of **New Unionism**, which rejected the exclusiveness of old craft unions and instead focused on organizing all workers, regardless of skill. The

strikers' primary demand was a "tanner an hour" (sixpence) and the elimination of the casual "shape-up" system.

What made this event so meaningful was the immense solidarity it garnered. The dockworkers were supported by a vast network of other workers, including coal porters and seamstresses, and received significant donations from around the world, particularly from Australian unions. After five weeks of a complete shutdown of the docks, the employers capitulated, granting virtually all of the strikers' demands. The victory of these previously powerless workers was a testament to the power of mass solidarity and direct action, proving that even the most oppressed could organize and win substantial improvements to their lives by shutting down the economic machine.

The ALV Project: A Legacy of Self-Liberation

These diverse historical examples from the United States, Spain, Italy, and England demonstrate a clear and consistent pattern: water workers have always been at the forefront of social and economic change. Their unique position, their essential skills, and their mobility have made them natural leaders in movements that challenge top-down authority. The Free Wind ALV Project seeks to continue this tradition. By equipping communities with the tools for self-reliance and autonomous organization, the project is not imposing a new structure but is instead building upon the deep historical legacy of water workers who, through solidarity and direct action, have always been the masters of their own destiny.

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Chapter 5: The 25-75, 50/50, 75-25 Organizing Approach

The Free Wind Collective's vision is built on a fundamental understanding that no single organizational model can effectively address the diverse needs and challenges faced by communities and workers in different contexts. Instead of a rigid, top-down structure, the collective is built upon a flexible, prefigurative organizing philosophy that allows each group to adapt its form to its specific environment. This approach is encapsulated by the **25-75, 50/50, 75-25 concept**, which represents a spectrum for blending the two essential components of any successful anarchist organization: the **Worker's Cooperative** and the **Free Union**.

This flexible model recognizes that while some groups may be in an intensive, combative struggle against external authority, others may be focused on building a resilient, self-managed economy. Regardless of their primary focus, every group must have elements of both. The Free Wind Collective provides the tools for these collectives to find their own ideal balance, ensuring they are both effective fighters for liberation and capable builders of a new society.

The Organizational Spectrum: 25-75, 50/50, 75-25

The Free Wind Collective's approach is not about choosing between a Worker's Cooperative and a Free Union, but about deciding on the right blend. The "25-75, 50/50, 75-25" scale represents a continuum of organizing strategies, with each number pair denoting the proportional emphasis on one structure over the other.

- **25-75 (Cooperative-Heavy):** A collective at this end of the spectrum is primarily focused on internal organization, self-management, and the day-to-day operation of its resources. This might be a group in an isolated, rural area or a community focused on running a local logistics network. The cooperative structure, with its emphasis on collective ownership and democratic decision-making for production, is dominant. The union component remains vital, but is used more for coordinating mutual aid and resource sharing with other collectives than for overt external struggle. Examples of this emphasis could be a **Producer's Cooperative** or a **Purchase Cooperative** that organizes its own supply chain using ALVs.
- **75-25 (Union-Heavy):** A collective at this end of the spectrum is primarily focused on direct action, militant organizing, and solidarity. This might be a group in a large, capitalist port or a community actively engaged in a struggle against a landlord or local government. The free union structure, with its

emphasis on collective struggle and mutual aid, is dominant. The cooperative component is still present, providing the self-managed logistical and economic support needed to sustain the struggle. Examples could include a **Tenants' Union** fighting for housing rights, a **Student Union** organizing on campus, or an explicitly militant free union that engages in solidarity strikes.

- **50/50 (Balanced):** The center of the spectrum is a balanced blend of both structures. A collective in this model would equally prioritize both internal self-management and external solidarity actions. It is a powerful, adaptable model that allows the collective to fluidly transition between building its own autonomous economy and engaging in militant struggle as conditions require. This is the ideal for many of the Free Wind Collective's long-term operations, where the ALV technology is used to build a new system while simultaneously challenging the old one.

The Structural Pillars: Worker's Coop and Free Union

The two structures at the heart of this approach are defined as follows:

1. **The Worker's Cooperative:** This is the internal economic engine of a collective. It's a self-managed, democratic enterprise where workers collectively own the means of production—in this case, the ALV fleet—and make all decisions about their work. It is the framework for building a new, autonomous economy outside of the capitalist system. Examples include **Producer Co-ops**, where members work together to produce goods and services, and **Collective Co-ops**, where all members have an equal say in all decisions.
2. **The Free Union:** This is the tool for struggle and solidarity. It is a decentralized, horizontal organization that unites workers to fight for their collective interests. Its power comes from direct action, such as strikes, boycotts, and blockades. Unlike traditional unions that are tied to collective bargaining with an employer, the Free Union is autonomous and serves as a vehicle for workers to struggle against any form of oppression. Examples extend beyond the workplace to include **Tenants Unions, Student Unions, and Credit Unions**.

The Role of the Worker's Solidarity Alliance

The Free Wind Collective is working in collaboration with the **Worker's Solidarity Alliance (WSA)**, a national anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian organization. The WSA serves a crucial purpose within this organizing model: it provides the organizational framework and institutional home for the Free Union aspect of the Free Wind Collective's approach. As an organization dedicated to creating new, self-managed unions and building a new society from the ground up, the WSA offers the necessary

resources, network, and ideological alignment to support the solidarity and direct action components of each collective. This partnership ensures that the Free Wind Collective is not an isolated project, but is grounded in a real, existing movement for workers' liberation.

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Chapter 6: The Tool – The Land-Based Autonomous Learning Vessel (ALV)

While the Free Wind Collective's vision is deeply tied to the history of water workers, the core technology that powers its movement—the **Autonomous Learning Vessel (ALV)**—is designed to be adaptable. An ALV is not just a boat; it is a conceptual framework for a self-managed, open-source technology that can be applied to any context where communities need to build their own infrastructure.

This chapter details a land-based application of the ALV concept, a synergistic model that leverages both a repurposed car and a trailer to act as a mobile hub, and a central **Land-Based Hub** to act as the project's nerve center. This model is specifically tailored for an underprivileged community, demonstrating how low-cost, decentralized technology can be used to build a resilient, self-sufficient local economy outside of the capitalist system.

The ALV: A Car and Trailer for Chicago's South Side

Imagine a neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, a community rich in culture but struggling with food deserts, limited access to resources, and a lack of reliable transportation. The Free Wind Collective's land-based project is to come alongside a local group, teaching them skills and sharing resources that will allow them to pursue their own solutions, guided by the principles of the **25-75, 50/50, 75-25 organizing approach**. The ALV is presented as one powerful example of what can be built, but it is not the sole objective. The community's own decisions will guide the work—whether they choose to establish a mechanic's cooperative, build a Tenant's Union, or create a mobile market.

In this model, a car and a custom-built trailer are not a finished product, but a living learning environment. This ALV could potentially be developed to serve multiple functions, but only if the community decides it is the right path:

- **Logistics Hub:** Deliver resources, tools, and supplies for local cooperative projects.
- **Mutual Aid Vehicle:** Deliver essentials to the elderly or housebound during emergencies.
- **University-in-a-Box:** The physical manifestation of our educational curriculum, a modular kit capable of deep social change.

This model not only provides a vital service but also gives the community ownership of the entire logistical process.

The Land-Based Hub: The Central Nervous System

A crucial Land-Based Hub serves as the project's administrative and educational core. Its function is to support the mobile ALV and its crew, ensuring a high-quality and sustainable educational program.

- **Curriculum Development & Management:** The hub houses the core team responsible for curriculum design, updates, and quality assurance.
- **Digital Resource Repository:** It maintains the comprehensive digital library for all courses, ensuring that all learning materials are available offline.
- **Accreditation & Recognition Liaison:** The hub actively manages partnerships to ensure the formal recognition and validation of ALV course completions.
- **Remote Support & Coordination:** It provides remote technical and pedagogical support to the ALV facilitators and community members.

The ALV: A Tool for Organizing

Beyond its practical functions as a vehicle, the ALV is an effective tool for organizers. Its design is a deliberate political act, aimed at building the skills and power necessary for a self-managed society. The ALV's value is not just in what it does, but in how it is built and maintained.

- **Technology as a Commons:** By using open-source hardware and software, the ALV project treats technology as a communal resource, not a proprietary product. This approach allows community members to learn, modify, and master the technology, breaking down the barriers between workers and the tools of production. It de-mystifies technology and puts it directly in the hands of the people who use it.
- **Skill-Building and Self-Reliance:** The construction and maintenance of the ALV fleet become an organizing activity in itself. It is a tangible project that brings people together to learn practical skills in electronics, robotics, programming, and mechanics. This process transforms community members into a new class of technically proficient workers who are not dependent on external experts or corporate services.
- **Decentralizing Power:** The ALV network's decentralized and peer-to-peer communication model is a physical reflection of the anarcho-syndicalist organizational structure. There is no central point of control, no "head office"

or single owner. This reinforces the idea that communities can manage their own infrastructure without a hierarchy, proving that autonomous and democratic governance is both possible and effective.

Components and Cost Breakdown

The build is designed to be affordable, using easily accessible and open-source components. The goal is to maximize functionality while minimizing cost, empowering the community to replicate and repair the technology themselves.

- **The Vehicle:** A used, but well-maintained, car is the base. A simple, reliable sedan from the early 2000s, such as a **Honda Civic** or **Toyota Corolla**, can be found for a low price and is easy to repair.
 - **Estimated Cost:** \$2,500
- **The Trailer:** A small utility trailer (e.g., 4'x8') is the platform for the ALV's payload and electronics. This can be purchased used or built from scratch.
 - **Estimated Cost:** \$650
- **Autonomous Components:** This is where the open-source spirit comes to life. The system is built with off-the-shelf parts that can be easily sourced and replaced.
 - **Brain:** A **Raspberry Pi 5** microcomputer to run the control software. (\$80)
 - **Eyes & Ears:** A **LiDAR sensor** for mapping the environment and a set of **ultrasonic sensors** for immediate obstacle detection. (\$150 for LiDAR, \$30 for ultrasonic sensors)
 - **GPS:** A simple **GPS module** for route planning and navigation. (\$50)
 - **Actuators:** To control the car's steering and braking. These would be a set of linear actuators and servos integrated with the car's existing systems. (\$300)
 - **Power:** A deep-cycle marine battery and a small **solar panel** on the trailer's roof to keep the system charged. (\$150 for the battery, \$200 for the solar panel)
 - **Miscellaneous:** Wires, fuses, and a rugged, weather-proof case for the electronics. (\$100)
 - **Total Component Cost:** \$1,040
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:**

- Car: \$2,500
- Trailer: \$650
- Autonomous Components: \$1,040
- **Grand Total: \$4,190**

This initial investment provides a community with a tool that can generate immense value, support local initiatives, and serve as a mobile educational hub for new members to learn about robotics, electronics, and self-management.

The University-in-a-Box: Delivering Education On-Site

The "University-in-a-Box" is the practical core of the Free Wind Collective's educational mission. It is a modular, decentralized, and offline-first educational kit that is transported via the ALV. Each "box" is a self-contained learning environment, packed with the tools and resources for a specific course.

- **Offline-First Technology:** The kits are designed to function without an internet connection, making them ideal for communities with limited or no access to broadband. Each "box" contains a pre-loaded local server, which hosts the entire curriculum, a digital library of academic texts, and a repository of open-source software and blueprints.
- **Modular Learning:** The curriculum is broken down into modular units, allowing communities to select and prioritize the skills they need most. A community could begin with "ALV Vehicle & Light Industrial Engine Maintenance" to address immediate transportation needs and then move on to "ALV Social Dynamics & Grassroots Organizing" to build a stronger tenant union.
- **Hands-on Application:** The "University-in-a-Box" is not just for theory; it's for practice. Each kit includes the necessary hardware, from Raspberry Pis and sensors for the robotics course to hand tools and repair manuals for the mechanics course. The ALV itself serves as the ultimate living lab, where theory is put into direct practice.

This "University-in-a-Box" model ensures that education is not a top-down imposition but a communal resource that is available on-demand, adaptable, and owned by the community itself.

The Educational Curriculum

The land-based ALV is a mobile classroom and a resource for building community power. The Free Wind Collective's courses are designed to be hands-on, using the car

and trailer as a tangible platform for learning. The curriculum is built on the principle that to control our own technology, we must first understand it.

Polytechnical Courses:

These courses focus on direct skill acquisition and vocational application within a land-based context.

- **Vehicle & Light Equipment Maintenance Technician:** This course focuses on the maintenance, diagnostics, and repairs of common cars and light industrial engines. Graduates will possess the skills to seek employment as certified mechanics, develop their own client base, or establish a worker-owned repair cooperative.
- **Certified Safety Professional:** This course prepares participants to become certified safety professionals, with a curriculum covering a wide range of topics from workplace hazard identification to emergency response protocols. This certification is designed to be recognized and applicable across various industries, including construction, manufacturing, and industrial sites, providing a direct pathway to better employment opportunities.
- **Light Construction & Carpentry Fundamentals:** Participants will learn practical skills in fundamental construction and repair, including framing, material selection, and tool safety. The course prepares individuals for entry-level positions in construction or carpentry, and provides the expertise needed to build and maintain community-based structures.
- **Mobile IT & Network Support Technician:** The focus is on the capability to set up, troubleshoot, and maintain computer hardware, software, and mobile network systems. This course prepares individuals for professional IT support roles, empowering them to provide tech support for local businesses, community organizations, or private clients.
- **Urban Environmental Monitoring Technician (Environmental Data Collection and Field Observation):** This course teaches proficiency in basic environmental data collection and field observation for soil quality, air pollution, and local wildlife. Graduates can work as environmental technicians for government agencies, consulting firms, or non-profit organizations focused on urban ecology and sustainability.
- **Professional Food Service & Urban Gastronomy:** This course provides foundational culinary skills with a focus on food safety, sourcing, and preparation using local and urban-grown ingredients. The curriculum is

designed to prepare individuals for employment in restaurants, catering, or to start their own food-related cooperative, while promoting sustainable, community-based food systems.

Academic Courses:

These courses offer deep theoretical understanding and critical analysis, with a revised focus on urban contexts.

- **ALV High School Equivalency Program:** This course provides comprehensive preparation in core academic subjects to pass equivalency exams, enabling pathways to higher education.
- **ALV Social Dynamics & Grassroots Organizing:** This course would maintain its focus on a critical understanding of social structures, power dynamics, and labor movements, with a specific emphasis on how to organize and build power at a grassroots level within urban communities.
- **ALV Urban Ecology & Infrastructure:** This course would provide a comprehensive understanding of physical, chemical, and biological interactions within an urban environment, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure and urban planning.
- **ALV Language Course:** This course is a foundational skill that supports the collective's international and local organizing efforts.

The Next Step: A New Branch of the Collective

The land-based ALV project represents a new branch of the Free Wind Collective's vision. It is a powerful example of how communities can use open-source technology not just as a convenience, but as a central component of a larger strategy. By putting the means of transportation and logistics directly into the hands of the workers, the ALV becomes an **effective tool for organizers**, a physical vessel for building solidarity, and a practical demonstration of how to create a new society from the ground up, no matter the terrain.

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Chapter 7: How to organize under these circumstances – possible scenarios

The Free Wind ALV Project is more than a technological or educational initiative; it is a framework for community organizing. Its core mission is to provide the tools and knowledge that empower communities to build and maintain their own self-managed structures, such as free unions and worker cooperatives. However, the path to building these institutions is fraught with common challenges. This chapter explores these organizing problems and outlines how the ALV project, with its unique approach to decentralized education and technology, can provide practical solutions.

Our organizing philosophy is rooted in direct action and solidarity. We recognize that the most effective solutions come from the communities themselves. The ALV project

does not impose a top-down model but instead serves as a partner, providing the resources for communities to solve their own problems and build their own power.

Problem 1: Internal Conflict and Burnout

- **The Situation:** A group of passionate community members comes together to start a project, but internal conflicts arise over strategy, roles, and responsibilities. The most dedicated individuals often shoulder the heaviest burdens, leading to burnout and a loss of momentum for the entire group. This lack of a sustainable, shared workload can quickly dismantle a promising initiative.
- **ALV Strategy:** The ALV project addresses this with its educational and organizational tools. The "University-in-a-Box" contains a "Social Dynamics & Grassroots Organizing" course specifically designed to teach democratic decision-making, consensus-building, and conflict resolution. This curriculum provides a theoretical foundation for healthy group dynamics. More importantly, the project's core organizing principle, the **25-75, 50/50, 75-25 approach**, is a practical solution to prevent burnout. It ensures a gradual, intentional transfer of knowledge and responsibility from project facilitators to community members, distributing the workload and fostering genuine collective ownership from the beginning.

Problem 2: Lack of Administrative and Technical Skills

- **The Situation:** A group of skilled workers wants to start a cooperative, but they are intimidated by the administrative and legal complexities of running a business. They may lack the knowledge of bookkeeping, legal compliance, or the technical skills needed to build their own digital infrastructure, leaving them dependent on external, for-profit services.
- **ALV Strategy:** The "University-in-a-Box" directly tackles this problem. For those looking to form a cooperative, the Land-Based Hub provides a "Cooperative-in-a-Box" kit. This is a collection of open-source administrative tools, a legal guide to establishing a co-op, and a basic financial literacy curriculum. The "Mobile IT & Network Support Technician" course empowers members to build their own digital and communication networks, ensuring their projects are self-sufficient and not reliant on costly, proprietary software. The project demystifies the administrative process, ensuring that a lack of knowledge is not a barrier to self-organization.

Problem 3: External Opposition and Intimidation

- **The Situation:** A new free union or cooperative faces opposition from a local employer, a rival organization, or powerful business interests that feel threatened by a new, self-managed entity. This opposition can take the form of legal threats, public smear campaigns, or even physical intimidation.
- **ALV Strategy:** The ALV project is designed to be a public, community-facing initiative. By building its reputation as a mobile educational and mutual aid hub, it fosters trust and goodwill within the community. This public role acts as a primary shield against external attacks, as the community will be more inclined to defend a project they feel they own. The strategy is to turn a private attack into a public issue. By openly documenting all opposition and leveraging the project's decentralized network of community members and allied organizations, the project can mount a collective defense. The project's educational mission and its tangible benefits to the community are its strongest weapons against those who would seek to undermine it.

Problem 4: Failure to Sustain Community Engagement

- **The Situation:** Many grassroots initiatives start with great enthusiasm but falter over time as members lose interest or feel a lack of genuine ownership. The project ultimately ends up being run by a small, highly motivated core group, rather than being a truly community-led effort.
- **ALV Strategy:** The project's foundational principle of community self-determination is a direct solution. From its very first interaction, the ALV project establishes a reciprocal relationship. The community is not just a recipient of a service but is an active partner in the design, construction, and operation of the ALV. The project's educational courses are directly tied to tangible, community-identified goals. For example, learning engine repair by working on the ALV itself, or learning organizing skills by building a local tenant union. This emphasis on ownership and participation ensures that the project is not just "for" the community but is truly "of" the community, making it far more likely to be sustained over the long term.

Scenario: Responding to an External Crisis (Mutual Aid)

- **The Situation:** A natural disaster, like a flood or a sustained power outage, hits the community. The local government and official emergency services are slow to respond. The community needs a way to organize a rapid, local response.

- **ALV Strategy:** The project's decentralized nature and offline-first technology are designed for this exact purpose. The ALV would immediately become a mobile mutual aid hub. Its onboard solar power and battery storage could charge communication devices, while its local server would provide critical information, emergency protocols, and communication tools. The community members trained in the "Mobile IT & Network Support Technician" course would be equipped to set up a localized, peer-to-peer communication network, enabling a rapid and self-organized response. This scenario demonstrates the project's dual function: not just an educational tool, but a resilient piece of community infrastructure.

Ultimately, the Free Wind ALV Project acknowledges that organizing is a challenging, long-term process. Our approach is to provide the skills, tools, and support necessary for communities to overcome these obstacles on their own terms. If a community decides, after this process, that it is not the right time to engage with the project, its decision is fully respected. The project's legacy is not in the buildings or the technology it leaves behind, but in the empowered and autonomous communities it helps to build.

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Chapter 8: The Free Wind ALV Project: Scaling, Theory, and Escalation

The Free Wind ALV Project is designed to be a replicable and scalable model for community empowerment. This chapter serves as a summary of the project's core principles and mechanics, a deeper exploration of its theoretical underpinnings, and a speculative look at how a successful, community-led initiative might "escalate" into a broader movement.

Summarizing the Project

At its heart, the Free Wind ALV Project is an initiative to deliver decentralized, skill-based education to coastal communities. The primary tool for this mission is the Autonomous Learning Vessel (ALV) itself, which functions as a mobile, offline-first educational and mutual aid hub. The ALV carries a "University-in-a-Box," a modular curriculum that teaches practical, polytechnical skills, such as engine repair and network administration, alongside courses on social dynamics and grassroots organizing. The project operates on a foundation of reciprocity, not charity. Our goal is for each community to take full ownership of the educational infrastructure, eventually becoming its own "Free Wind ALV." This process is guided by the **25-75, 50/50, 75-25 approach**, a method for gradually transitioning responsibility and knowledge from project facilitators to community members. This ensures that the project is not just for the community, but is a permanent, self-managed institution of the community itself.

Deepening the Theoretical Framework

The project is a practical application of anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist theory, drawing heavily from the history of resistance by water workers. The very structure of the ALV project is a form of **prefigurative politics**, a belief that the means of our struggle should embody the ends we wish to achieve. By being decentralized, democratic, and non-hierarchical, the project acts as a living model of the society we aim to build. It is not about waiting for a revolution; it is about building it from the ground up, one community at a time. This approach fosters **autonomy and self-reliance**, empowering communities to manage their own educational and economic infrastructure. The "University-in-a-Box" and its open-source tools are designed to break dependencies on external, proprietary systems, much like how anarcho-syndicalist unions of the past, like the CNT in Spain, taught workers to run factories and ports themselves. The goal is to build genuine autonomy for both the individual and the collective.

Furthermore, the project's strategies for dealing with external opposition are a direct application of the principle of **direct action and solidarity**. Instead of relying on

politicians or institutions, the project relies on the collective power of a decentralized network to mount a defense. The project's success is built on a foundation of solidarity, where an "injury to one is an injury to all," a principle that has historically united diverse groups of workers in common struggle.

How a Possible Escalation Could Look Like

An "escalation" for the Free Wind ALV Project would not involve violence or a sudden, dramatic confrontation. Rather, it would be a natural and intentional growth of community-led power that inspires a wider movement. This would begin when a Free Union and Worker's Cooperative, established with the help of the ALV project, becomes an undeniable economic success in its local community. The cooperative provides high-quality services, such as affordable fishing boat maintenance and fresh food distribution, at a fraction of the cost of its for-profit competitors. As this success grows, the cooperative naturally inspires a neighboring community to start a similar initiative.

This initial success would then become a regional model. Community leaders and organizers from nearby coastal towns would visit the original community to learn from their experience. They would see that the ALV is more than a vehicle; it is a proof of concept. The "University-in-a-Box" is replicated and adapted to their specific needs, leading to a second, and then a third, community-run cooperative. This forms the basis of a **regional solidarity network**, where the cooperatives begin to trade with each other directly, bypassing the traditional supply chain and creating a new, regional economy based on mutual aid and cooperation.

The confrontation would then begin. This new, decentralized economy would directly challenge the power of a large, corporate entity that has historically exploited the region. Instead of a single, isolated union or cooperative, the corporation now faces a united front of multiple, self-managed communities. Any attempt to intimidate or undermine one cooperative is met with a coordinated response from the entire network, including boycotts, public information campaigns, and a collective refusal to engage with the corporation's services. This "escalation" is the moment when these formerly isolated communities realize their collective power and begin to act in unison, demonstrating that the principles of direct action and solidarity are not just abstract ideas but a tangible force for social change.

Source:

<https://freewindcollective.noblogs.org/>

CHAPTER 9: LWA Anarchism: A Materialist Framework for Anarcho-Syndicalist Organizing

The Free Wind ALV Project introduces a novel framework for anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist organizing: **LWA Anarchism (Land, Water, Air)**. This is not a new, utopian theory but a practical, materialist methodology that adapts organizing strategies directly to the specific environment and technologies of the workers involved. At its core, LWA Anarchism is the recognition that the landscape of labor is inherently "geopolitical" in the truest sense—not as a conflict between states, but as a dynamic relationship between people, production, and the environment they inhabit. This framework provides a guide for building resilient, autonomous communities and worker collectives by leveraging their unique material conditions.

The Geopolitical Nature of All Organizing

Before delving into the components of LWA, it is essential to understand its foundational premise. Anarchist organizing, regardless of its scale, is always a product of its physical context. The terrain, the tools, and the available resources all shape the tactics of resistance and the structures of liberation. As the political scientist **James C. Scott** argues in his work on domination and resistance, marginalized groups often use their unique knowledge of local geography and their specific skills to undermine powerful hierarchies. In the same vein, LWA Anarchism formalizes this insight, positing that a viable anarchist movement must be deeply rooted in the physical and technological realities of its members' lives.

Land: Organizing Workers on Land Environment

The **Land** component of LWA Anarchism focuses on organizing in and around permanent, territorial bases. This includes a diverse array of laborers, from farm workers and miners to residents of a land-based hub or a worker cooperative. The strategy here is about creating a durable, self-sufficient infrastructure that can provide a foundation for both economic autonomy and social power.

This approach is heavily inspired by the work of **Peter Kropotkin**, who envisioned a society where industrial and agricultural labor were integrated, creating self-sufficient, decentralized communities. It also draws from the principles of **Murray Bookchin's** social ecology, which argues that a truly free society must overcome the hierarchies that dominate both humanity and nature. For LWA Anarchism, organizing on land means engaging with issues like land reform, housing, and the democratic control of the means of production—such as agricultural machinery and

transportation—as a direct path to liberation. A "Land Anarchist" would therefore focus on building and sustaining local power, ensuring that the community has a permanent, secure base from which to operate.

Water: Organizing Workers on Water Environment

The **Water** is the central, defining element of the Free Wind ALV Project. This component of LWA Anarchism recognizes the immense strategic power of maritime labor and infrastructure. Water is both a thoroughfare for global commerce and a barrier that can be used for defense and isolation. The history of water workers, as detailed by historians like **Marcus Rediker** and **W. Jeffrey Bolster**, shows that sailors, pirates, and dockworkers have always been at the forefront of social and political change due to their mobility, their internationalist perspectives, and their ability to disrupt trade.

A "Water Anarchist" organizing strategy, therefore, would not just focus on the workplace but on the entire logistical network. The goal is to gain control over the tools of the trade—the boats, the ports, the shipping routes—and use that control to build a new system based on solidarity. This is a direct application of anarcho-syndicalist principles, as exemplified by the **Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT)** in Revolutionary Catalonia, which seized and self-managed ports and other essential infrastructure. The Free Wind ALV, as a tool for a decentralized network, is the modern embodiment of this historical struggle, allowing water workers to create a logistics system based on mutual aid rather than corporate profit.

Air: Organizing Workers in the Air Environment

The **Air** component of LWA Anarchism is a practical framework for organizing the specific labor that occurs in the air and the technologies that facilitate it. This includes a wide range of workers, such as pilots, aviation mechanics, flight attendants, and those involved in air cargo and delivery. The organizing strategy here must be tailored to the unique conditions of this environment: a highly technological, globalized, and heavily regulated industry.

An LWA approach to air workers would recognize that their labor is inherently international and their working conditions are defined by complex technical and legal standards. It would focus on building solidarity among a diverse workforce that is often fragmented by geography and employer. The strategy would involve organizing around issues directly related to their work, such as the maintenance and development of aircraft, the logistics of global migration and delivery, and the legal frameworks that govern their industry. By building unions and self-managed collectives among these workers, the movement could gain control over a vital aspect

of global infrastructure, leveraging their collective power to build a more just and democratic system. This component of LWA Anarchism is a direct challenge to the concentrated corporate and state power that currently controls the air, a struggle that **Noam Chomsky's** analysis of power structures would deem crucial.

Conclusion: A Synthesis for Action

LWA Anarchism is not a theoretical monolith but a flexible, adaptable framework for action. It synthesizes the historical lessons of anarcho-syndicalism with a modern understanding of technology and environment. It recognizes that a successful movement must be grounded on the **Land** to build a permanent, durable base; connected by the **Water** to create a strategic, mobile network of solidarity; and sustained in the **Air** by organizing the technological and logistical infrastructure that connects the globe. By integrating these three domains, LWA Anarchism offers a concrete, non-utopian path for building a new society from the ground up, one that is not only free from domination but also resilient, self-sufficient, and deeply rooted in its material reality.

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Conclusion: A Synthesis of History, Theory, and Action

The Free Wind ALV Project is a convergence of history, theory, and practical action. It is not an abstract political idea but a concrete, material response to the challenges of the 21st century. The chapters we have explored—from the historical struggles of water workers to the flexible LWA Anarchism framework—together form a comprehensive vision for building a new, autonomous society from the ground up.

A Legacy of Water-Based Resistance

Our journey began by looking backward, acknowledging that the fight for liberation on the water is a long and storied tradition. As seen in the chapters on **Anarchist Water Workers History** and the broader **History of Resistance from Water Workers**, sailors, dockworkers, and other maritime laborers have always been at the vanguard of social change. From the anti-colonial struggles in Singapore to the revolutionary movements in Spain, these workers understood that by controlling the tools of trade and the flow of goods, they could challenge the power of empires and capital. The Free Wind ALV project stands on the shoulders of these giants, carrying their legacy of solidarity, direct action, and self-management into the modern era.

A Flexible Framework for Organizing

The project's organizing philosophy, as detailed in "**The Free Wind Collective's 25-75, 50/50, 75-25 Organizing Approach**," provides the practical blueprint for this vision. By rejecting a rigid, top-down model, the project embraces a flexible spectrum that blends the principles of a **Worker's Cooperative** with a **Free Union**. This adaptable approach allows local collectives to find the right balance between internal self-management and external struggle, ensuring that the movement is both resilient and effective. It is a philosophy that recognizes the diverse needs of different communities and provides them with the tools to build power on their own terms. The Free Wind Collective, in collaboration with partners like the Worker's Solidarity Alliance, is committed to fostering this decentralized, non-dogmatic approach to organizing.

The LWA Anarchist Lens

The theoretical framework for this entire project is encapsulated in **LWA Anarchism (Land, Water, Air)**. This is not a new utopian ideology but a materialist methodology

that grounds our organizing in the physical and technological realities of labor. We have defined it as:

- **Land:** Building a permanent, durable base of power in local communities and cooperatives.
- **Water:** Leveraging the strategic power of maritime labor and infrastructure to build a global network of solidarity.
- **Air:** Organizing workers in the highly technical and globalized aviation industry to challenge centralized control over transport and logistics.

This framework provides a clear lens for understanding where to organize, who to organize, and why a decentralized, worker-led movement can succeed. It formalizes the insight that all organizing is inherently "geopolitical," rooted in the physical environment and the unique skills of its workers.

The ALV: A Tool for a New Society

Ultimately, the Autonomous Learning Vessel (ALV) is the physical manifestation of this entire vision. It is a tool for a movement, an engine of solidarity, and a mobile platform for self-reliance. It is designed to be a piece of a larger, decentralized, and worker-controlled logistics network. By providing communities with access to knowledge, technology, and the means of production, the ALV project aims to transform the global supply chain from a vehicle of exploitation into a network of mutual aid and collective empowerment. The ultimate goal is not just to protest the old system, but to build a new one in its place—one that is organized, autonomous, and free.

Thank you very much. This is a work in progress so there'll more update in the future. Any question or if you wish to get in touch to help us please send us an email to:

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