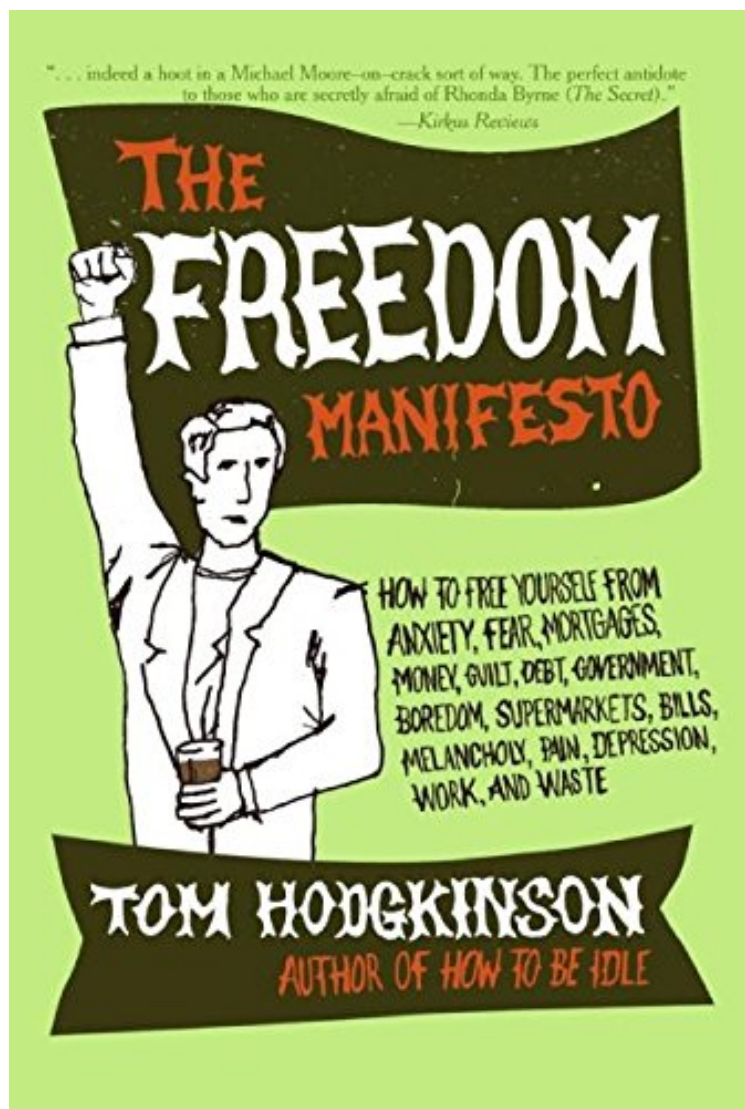


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The Freedom Manifesto: How to Free Yourself from Anxiety, Fear, Mortgages, Money, Guilt, Debt, Government, Boredom, Supermarkets, Bills, Melancholy, Pain, Depression, Work, and Waste

Tom Hodgkinson

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Tom Hodgkinson : The Freedom Manifesto: How to Free Yourself from Anxiety, Fear, Mortgages, Money, Guilt, Debt, Government, Boredom, Supermarkets, Bills, Melancholy, Pain, Depression, Work, and Waste before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Freedom Manifesto: How to Free Yourself from Anxiety, Fear, Mortgages, Money, Guilt, Debt, Government, Boredom, Supermarkets, Bills, Melancholy, Pain, Depression, Work, and Waste:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of my FavoritesBy OddGabbsI've bought this for several friends in the past who had found themselves in a rut. There aren't many books I can say that changed my life, but this is one of them. I've read it several times now and I always come away feeling refreshed and excited about my life, not to mention ready to take on a new hobby or project. If you're down, crushed by debt, stressed about a job, worried about the future, or just not feeling great about life in general, PLEASE do yourself a favor and read this book. It may not make you feel as free and joyous as it did me, but I think everyone can take something away from it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good read for the person who is doing too much and needs to find happiness and be fulfilledBy M. J. SearsSo not a perfect book. I would not follow it word for word, but it is good to help you stop and assess what is going on in your life. It will help find things that are just distractions in this life. This is a very personal decision, and what works for me will not work for you, but this book will help you stop and think about the stuff that gets in the way of life. The authors point in a very small nut shell, there are plenty of things that we initially think we need, but they can take over your life and ultimately can distract you from what you really want to do.14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Interesting pointsBy Cissal sure don't agree with all of his premises, but he does raise some interesting points- and advocates some possibilities that most of us would not really think of otherwise.Note that I do NOT favor his dicta to stop voting. I think voting is not only important, but a civil obligation. However, voting for what YOU want- not to try to game the system- is vital here. In the next election, I plan to vote green; I know they won't win, but I would hope that my vote, combined with others, might give the Powers That Be pause. I am no longer willing to vote for the "lesser evil".I think the author is really ignorant about a lot of the history he raves about- like "Athens was great, except for a few slaves". Well, MOST Athenians were not citizens nor had a vote; not just the slaves, but the lower classes and the women.And favoring the American South over the North because it was more courteous? How "courteously" did they treat the slaves???I was also not impressed by his "revelation" that when women whinge- they don't want solutions! Since he'd been all along discussing male whingeing without the desire for solutions, the notion that this was a female peculiarity is ridiculous, and casts some doubt on his ability to get outside himself and see others fairly.So: I think he has some interesting and enticing points, but his arguments from history show a partisan lack of historical knowledge and/or willful ignorance and/or intentional provocation.However, I also think it's true that we can be more empowered to change our condition than we normally think of ourselves as being- and that's really valuable.

The author of *How to Be Idle*, Tom Hodgkinson, now shares his delightfully irreverent musings on what true independence means and what it takes to be free. *The Freedom Manifesto* draws on French existentialists, British punks, beat poets, hippies and yuppies, medieval thinkers, and anarchists to provide a new, simple, joyful blueprint for modern living. From growing your own vegetables to canceling your credit cards to reading Jean-Paul Sartre, here are excellent suggestions for nourishing mind, body, and spirit—witty, provocative, sometimes outrageous, yet eminently sage advice for breaking with convention and living an uncluttered, unfettered, and therefore happier, life.

From Publishers WeeklyIn this intermittently amusing but excessively long sequel to *How to Be Idle: A Loafer's Manifesto*, British author and editor (the Idler) Hodgkinson states upfront that his goal is to present a philosophy for everyday life based on freedom, merriment and responsibility, or anarchy. Asserting that before the Reformation, England was one non-stop party, he wants to overthrow modern Puritans and return to an approach to life that is basically having a laugh, doing what you want—and he provides alternatives to the many ills of the modern world such as those listed in the book's title. The main problem is that many of Hodgkinson's topics end up being played for easy laughs—in one chapter titled *Forget Government*, the message is *Stop Voting*, while in another on *Submit No More to the Machine, Use Your Hands*, his main advice is *Use a Scythe*. When he does try to move beyond laughs and explain how his philosophy can cause a radical redefinition of human relationships based on local needs instead of global capitalism, he never quite explores how this would happen in the real world, relying instead on grand statements (in a chapter called *Stop Working, Start Living*) such as *A spade, a saw and a chisel, that is all you need to be free.* (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.About the AuthorTom Hodgkinson is still doing what he's always done, which is a mixture of editing magazines, writing articles, and putting on parties. He was born in 1968, founded *The Idler* in 1993, and now lives in Devon, England. He is also the author of *The Freedom Manifesto*.