

The Impossibility of Social Design in Egoism: Stirner's Theories of Ownness and Union

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Egoism, which has been developed since Max Stirner (1806-1856), is oriented towards living the individual nature of the self. The rise of anarchism as a way of life and post-anarchism has brought more attention to such an egoistic life in recent years. However, the fact that Stirner has been perceived in the context of individualistic anarchism raises the question of whether an egoist who lives a thoroughly self-lived life can have a viewpoint from which social design, or social thought, can be conceived.

This issue appears in Stirner with regard to his theories of ownness and union. In fact, Stirner's theory of ownness and union has traditionally been interpreted as either his theory of anarchism or a theory of social design. However, it has not been adequately discussed whether the theory of ownness and union, so understood, is consistent with the theory of egoism.

This problem arises from a lack of consideration of Stirner's philosophical history. This paper traces the history of Stirner's theories of ownness and union. It aims to demonstrate that he deliberately excluded the implications of social design, let alone social conceptualization, in both his theories of ownness and union, and it is impossible to create a social design in egoism according to Stirner's thought.