

Social movements and the bicycle

Social movement	Use of bicycle facilitated by	Primary significance of bicycle	Orientation to mobility	Role of bicycle in identity	Bicycle affording opposition to	Primary class location
Feminism (1880 - 1910)	advent of 'safety-bicycle' rise of 'leisure class' growing impatience with patriarchy	pastime enabling freedom from patriarchal control	seeking more independent mobility	promoting freedom in movement and dress	patriarchal control	upper middle class
Socialism (1895 - 1914)	falling price of bikes rising pay and leisure time increasingly urban lifestyles	means of escaping city for pleasure and politics	seeking cheap, independent mobility	promoting class consciousness, solidarity and health	industrial capitalism	middle class
Anarchism (1960s - present)	dominance of car marginalisation of bicycle critiques of consumer capitalism	symbol of alternative vision, tool of political activism	against automobility; seeking humane, authentic mobility	embodying critique of the car; promoting prefigurative politics of the city	consumer capitalism	new middle class
Environmentalism (1960s - present)	mountain bike boom oil crises rising environmental concern	symbol of alternative vision, vehicle for intra-urban mobility	against automobility; seeking green, sustainable mobility	embodying critique of the car; demonstrating green lifestyles and sustainable futures	ecological crisis	new middle class