Our last issue centred on Seattle and the emergence of an international militant anti-capitalism and the anarchist content of this supposed "new social movement." It came out around May/June 2000 when saw a conference in London being joined by various strains of anarchist and anti-capitalist groups and individuals. And the cops were there too. Almost a year on from this event we still see as a recurring theme for the anti-capitalist movement in the British context. One of the themes we are taking note of is the increasing of the anarchist movement as the financial crisis deepens and the attacks on the working class continue.

We have also seen a decisive shift in the way the police are handling the anti-capitalist movement. The police are now more aggressive in their tactics and more willing to use violence and brutality against the protesters. This has led to an increase in arrests and the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and batons.

In the meantime, the anarchist movement is still growing and developing. We are seeing a broadening of the movement, with more people from different backgrounds coming together to fight against the forces of the state and capital. We are also seeing a stronger emphasis on direct action and the use of tactics such as blocking, targeting, and occupations.

In conclusion, the anti-capitalist movement is still an important force in the struggle against the forces of the state and capital. We encourage all those who are interested in the movement to support and participate in its activities.

ROUGH IN HACKNEY

Workers and residents in Hackney, North London, are fighting a corrupt and incompetent council which has lost 2014. It has been a long and difficult struggle, but we are determined to win.

In October 2010, the council announced a plan to close the Hackney Council Housing for older people. The council said it would be “cost-effective” and that the closures were necessary to improve the service for older people. However, this plan was met with widespread opposition from residents and councillors.

The council’s decision was reversed after a campaign by residents and councillors, but the council then announced a new plan to close the council’s housing for older people. This plan was also met with widespread opposition.

The council’s decision to close the housing for older people was met with widespread opposition from residents and councillors. However, the council went ahead with the closures, despite the opposition.

The council’s actions have led to a number of legal challenges, including a challenge to the constitutionality of the closures. These challenges have been unsuccessful, but they have shown that the council’s actions were not legal.

The council’s actions have also led to a number of protests and demonstrations, including a demonstration outside the council’s offices in Hackney.

In conclusion, the council’s actions have been met with widespread opposition from residents and councillors. However, the council has gone ahead with the closures, despite the opposition. We are determined to continue our fight against the council’s actions and to ensure that the residents of Hackney have a say in the decisions that affect them.
Our last issue centred on Seattle and the emergence of an international militant anti-capitalisation and the anarchist content of this supposed 'new social movement'. It came out around May 3000 which saw a number of conferences in London bringing together diverse strains of anarchist and anti-capitalist groups and individuals. And the copros were there too. Almost a year on, Prague stands out as another reflection of the anti-capitalist movement in more ways than one. This time the two were on the same agenda. We're talking about as much interest in the anarchist movement as the old Bill have. Their downfall was not to face up to the fact that anti-capitalist riot tourism means as little as to most working class people as the paper sales and featuring of the left. Whatever we think, what's really going on is that we are all facing massive debt repayments — to banks and loan sharks, through bankrupcy courts and bankrupt governments. Globalisation begins at home.

On the subject of debt, Black Flag owe our printers well over £2,000. This is not because we stuck it up on our collective nose but because we have failed to pay the price up for years and increased the quality of the magazine to try and reach more people than before. Sales and sales are not enough to make a difference we can't build up debts indefinitely. If you think this magazine is worth supporting we need anything from one off donations — and thank you to all of you who have sent us money over the past year, standing orders, benefits and so on are all vital if we are not to go under.

Money was not the only problem we had putting this issue out. We do need more people to get involved in production and distribution, taking on responsibility as well as being supportive, as well as writing. We want to get back to a useful regularity but we all want to maintain political and personal objectives. The reasons why we want this magazine and the wider revolutionary movement to succeed.

For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation, against state control, and all forms of government and economic repression. To establish a share in the general property for all — the breaking down of social, religious, national and sex barriers — and to fight for the life of one and all.

MARK BARNES

Barnes is invited to apply for parole. He rejected the ‘offer’, responding: “I am an innocent man and freedom is my right, I am not prepared to compromise by submitting to any form of conditional release. If that means extra years incarcerated in top security prisons then I am prepared to pay any other price, including my life, for my beliefs. My life has been completely destroyed by the terrible injustices that I have suffered, and all that I have left are my principles and integrity, and I am not prepared to compromise them by bending my knee to the parole board.”

ROUGH IN HACKNEY

Workers and residents in Hackney, North London, are fighting a corrupt and incompetent council which has lost £26.5m. The town of Hackney is a place where people need to live and work. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises.

NURSERY OCCUPATION IN HACKNEY

In October 2000, auditors discovered a hole in the accounts so large they did not know how big it was. An order was made for all new expenditure. One of the immediate effects was the closure of two nurseries, Asta and Asta, which immediately occupied them to keep them open. When the order was lifted, the council was left with a large sum to be repaid to the nursery. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises. The council has failed to deliver on its promises.

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For more info contact
huckniflack@yahoo.co.uk
Hackney Fightback 079.4443.2318

Design
Davina and Lou
Seven anti-fascists were arrested on 28 November 2000 as the NF failed in their attempt to close down a pub in North London. The Cock Tavern in Euston, North London is a friendly pub with a pool table. For the past few years its function as a meeting place for left-labour and anti-fascist activists, amongst others, a Kurdish left-nationalist group. It promised to be a thriving way to spend a Saturday night. 33 Counties is supposedly the Sinn Fein to the Real IRA, who put them hands up for the Dnami bombing in 1999. Relatives of the victims of the bombing turned up at the pub along with TV crews and journalists. The Sunday Times had already written their story and presumably paid for the families' travel. It wasn't a secret meeting but had not been that widely advertised. Red Pepper magazine reported that those yrs had received emails asking for the details of the location to be leaked by the police. The pub, the social and, to an extent, the relatives of the victims, had been set up.

The group revealed that other groups including reclaim the streets had meetings at the Cock Tavern. RTS regular, open, Tuesday night meeting was clearly identified -

Contribute to the pamphlet
A booklet is being produced in February to encourage autonomous action. It will be a bit like Squaring Up the Square Mile, with a page dedicated to each square on the monopole board, explaining what goes on there, a bit of history, the companies and organisations that do business there, etc. You know about a particular area, street, estate, then email the brief details to the address below, stating "monopoly" in the subject line.

Monopoly
This year there are planes to celebrate Mayday by playing a game of Monopoly on the streets of London on the 1st May. This will hopefully raise the case of lots of autonomous actions, separate yet interconnected, which express opposition to the monopoly that capitalism has over our lives. Here are some ways in which you can get involved:

Organise an autonomous action
It'll all a monopoly board to consider the possibilities: housing, debt, railways, pre-paid utilities, prices and the streets and areas in which the daily business of capitalism continues unchecked. Get your group or campaign to begin discussing what action they want to do. Let the dis-organisers know what you are planning and they'll publicise it.

Mayday 2001
The "official workers' movement" have traditionally used Mayday to publicise their service to workers' struggles, but over the last two years the process of reclaiming Mayday as a day of celebration for all those struggling against capitalism and globalisation has begun. In 1999 a tube party was held in London and last year's four day festival of anti-capitalist ideas and action included a conference and guerrilla gardening.

The pamphlet which the Unions rep had compiled for the completing the hearing was totally bunched. It stated that the three had been suspended rather than dismissed and failed to clarify that the union was not involved in any way. The result was that the hearing could not be heard. The next hearing is put on hold. They are working with a whole range of organisations and the people who want to be on the support committee and they have been discussing how to develop this.
Mayday 2001

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Take a monastery and, for example, the possibilities: housing, debt, railways, privatised utilities, prisons and the streets and areas in which the daily business of capitalism continues. Instead, get your group or campaign to begin discussing what action they want to do. Let the disorganisers know what you are planning and they'll publicise it.

Contribute to the pamphlet

A booklet is being produced in February to encourage autonomous actions, it will be a bit like SQUARING UP THE SQUARE MILLS, with a page dedicated to each square on the monopoly board, explaining what goes on there, a bit of history, the companies and organisations that do business etc, if you know about a particular area, steal the idea, then email me the details to the address below, stating maximum in the subject line.

Co-ordination

To get involved with the overall co-ordination of Mayday Monopoly or to the co-ordinating meetings, which are being held monthly and get onto the mailing list. Check the website or phone for details.

Funding

Funds are of course needed, last year many groups contributed an initial sum of £2 to get things off the ground, others contributed more. It wouldn't be feasible without donations. Donations are also welcome, no matter how small, from individuals. Send cheques made payable to 'MAYDAY UK'.

Contacts:


Whistle blowers get support card

CGLS are a wholly owned subsidiary of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu - the private housing benefits company. Newham Council contracted out its Housing Benefit (HB) service to CGLS in 1999. The privatisation has seen punishments for minor errors increase, a massive cut in HB and the introduction of new targets. HB employees are now under threat of redundancy. The amount of time spent by or may be increased on those issues with this staff is enormous and it will be cut effective in the long term to remove unnecessary distractions from the real business at the site. 'Which is, of course, making profits.'

What had them done to gain such a reputation? It had simply raised staff's concerns about the manner in which staff and claimants were treated by the company in an internal memo to management. It included concerns about low staff morale, cut out meetings, victimisation of staff, benefit claims that had been refused, lack of both resources and a coherent strategy to run an effective service. Nothing was forthcoming and a copy of the unseen memo was then circulated. A weekly news magazine for the social housing sector, 'Although House Housing' in the communication, but they did start investigating the story - alerting management to the fact that the media were interested in their malpractices. CGLS have done little to rebut the allegations, instead compounding that the three had sought to cause CGLS' "grant agreement" and CGLS failed to successfully challenge a single item of disclosure during the disciplinary hearing. They also admit that complaints over performance and sickness monitoring were "very much in the right".

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Korean Revival

The Korean Anarchist Network has resurrected and conducted the first in a series of subway actions. The groups were composed of workers and students, who highlighted the impoverished nature of wage slavery, oppressive conditions in urban myths and commuter hell in the busy Seoul subway network. The groups attempted to disrupt, or at the very least, put in the air at the moment of the demonstration, the police attack on a suburban train. It is the first time in the history of anarchism in Korea, that a large demonstration has been held in the capital city of Seoul. The police attack was a response to the growing momentum of the movement, which has been gaining strength in the last few months. The Korean Anarchist movement is in a state of flux, with numerous new groups forming and challenging the established order.

BRAND NEWS

brand, the Swedish anarchist magazine, has been charged with incitement to insurrection. The March 2000 issue was a parody of the nudist magazine and included a feature on how to make a bomb. The editor of the magazine has been arrested and could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Crackdown on Prison Solidarity

Two Spanish anarchists have been arrested in connection with letter bombs sent to the Spanish government. The prisoners are members of the Anarchist Front and were charged with possession of explosives. The anarchist movement in Spain is facing a crackdown by the authorities, who have increased police presence and surveillance in response to the recent wave of attacks.

Nice in Nice

The summer summit in Nice attracted protests from the French anarchist movement and support from militant trade unionists, anarchists, fascists and radicals from across Europe. On 6 December 2000, around 5000 protesters demonstrated against the conference, with a block of about 1000 revolutionary supporters. Nice was a bastion of anti-capitalism and antifascism, and the protesters sought to disrupt the summit by causing chaos and creating a general atmosphere of disorder. The police, however, were well prepared and managed to maintain order, with large numbers of riot police deployed to prevent any violent incidents.

Collective Bargaining in France

Gilot is a town of 2000 on the Belgian border. In northern France, the area was dominated by steel and textiles until plants closed in the early 1990s. This trend was accelerated in the late 1990s and early 2000s, as the local economy continued to decline. The steel companies, which accounted for a large portion of the local economy, began to lay off workers, and the纺织 industry, which had been thriving in the area, began to suffer. The town of Gilot was hit hard by these changes, as the local economy continued to decline. The town of Gilot is located near the border with Belgium, and the local economy was heavily dependent on the steel and textile industries. The closure of these plants had a significant impact on the local economy, as the town relied heavily on these industries for employment. The closure of the plants led to a significant increase in unemployment, with many workers losing their jobs. The local government, however, was unable to provide sufficient support to help the workers, and the situation continued to worsen. The town of Gilot is located in the region of Normandy, which has been hit hard by the decline of the steel and textile industries. The region has experienced a significant loss of jobs and businesses, and the local economy continues to struggle. Despite these challenges, the community in Gilot has continued to work together to find solutions to the problems faced by the town. The residents have formed community groups and worked with local governments to find ways to support the local economy. They have also worked to attract new businesses and industries to the area, in order to create new jobs and opportunities for the community. Overall, the situation in Gilot remains difficult, but the community is working hard to find solutions and improve the local economy.
Korean Revival

The Korean Anarchist Network has resurrected and conducted the first in a series of subway actions. The workers were confronted by the factory's security staff, which arrested four of them for assault and vandalism. The demonstration continued throughout the day without any incidents of violence.

Crackdown on Prison Solidarity

Two Spanish anarchists have been arrested in connection with letter bombs sent to the Spanish government and the Iberian state. The police have accused the two men of being members of the ETA, an armed Basque separatist group.

security services are clearly getting their act together. Despite "free movement" in Europe the police are now targeting anyone they suspect of being involved in any kind of illegal activity.

The government is taking advantage of the current panic generated by the ETA offensive, targeting not just ETA groups but also other left-wing political movements and political initiatives throughout the rest of Spain. On December 20, 2000, 90 prisoners were the victims of an inmates' hunger strike. Another 50 prisoners are taking part with solidarity actions.

There are many reasons to combat the reality of the life behind the bars; the prisoners are making three demands:

1. End all racist and isolation laws. (Iberian Internal Law) was put into effect as a means of classifying and segregating the most dangerous prisoners. As a result of racism, most prisoners are held in separate facilities.

2. End all forms of violence against prisoners. Prisoners are housed in cells and allowed to use public telephones only.

3. Release all prisoners. This is a measure which only affects political prisoners. Most Spanish prisoners are serving their sentence outside their home province.

4. Access to prison facilities is also limited to prisoners. Many prisoners have been denied access to legal aid and have been refused parole.

5. Prisoners who wish to protest are denied access to legal aid and have been refused parole.

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The police have been accused of supporting the prison system and of using violence against prisoners. The government is taking advantage of the current panic generated by the ETA offensive, targeting not just ETA groups but also other left-wing political movements and political initiatives throughout the rest of Spain. On December 20, 2000, 90 prisoners were the victims of an inmates' hunger strike. Another 50 prisoners are taking part with solidarity actions.

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A New Intifada

On 29 September, Israeli border police killed 7 Palestinian demonstrators in West Bank, including the Palestinian Authority, in an attempt to stop them from reaching the Jerusalem. The demonstrators were thwarted by Israeli troops. The clashes continued for several days, with hundreds of Palestinian protesters arrested by Israeli security forces.

Emergency to stay in office, and as the continued pressure on Fatah by the US makes clear, intends to lead the Palestinian leadership into acceptance of the proposals first advanced by Israel at the Yitzhak Shamir's David Martin, which seek to end the conflict.

On 24 October, Israeli government announced that it would release 100 Palestinian prisoners, including Yasser Arafat's close aide, Suhail Rizk. This move was seen as a step towards ending the Intifada.

The threat of unrest across the Middle East led to the Arab League summit on 21 and 22 October, with the Arab leaders attempting to show unity with the Palestinian leadership. The summit declared the Intifada as a means of uprising against the Zionist settlements with the support of the international community. The Crescent International model made clear that the Intifada was a means of uprisings and the need for negotiations with the Israelis.

The Fatih militant Marwan Barghouti has stated that the Intifada has proved to the Palestinians that they are not alone in the struggle for freedom. The Intifada is in its seventh year, and it continues to grow in strength.

Nothing goes more to show the supremacy of the Israeli left than their continued support for Barak's Labour Party as a 'lesser evil' while Barak presides over a 'genocide in slow motion'...
On 28 September Ariel Sharon, a man described as “the very symbol of Israeli state terror and aggression, with a rich record of atrocities going back to 1953” visited the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem’s Old City, with a 1000 strong police escort. Sharon, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, and the man responsible for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the siege of Beirut and overseer of the 1982 Phalangist massacre of Palestinian refugees at the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps, had come to visit Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem as a deliberate provocation to Palestinian claims to sovereignty.

A New Intifada

On 29 September Israeli Border Police killed 7 Palestinians at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. On 30 September Israeli armed forces, in full view of the world media, killed 12 year old Mohammad al-Dura in the streets of the West Bank city of Hebron. On 1 October Sharon attempted to avoid London, where he was due to speak at the “Al-Aqsa Intifada.” The night before his trip, he met with the leaders of the PLO and the nationalist factions in Geneva. The next day, Israel’s defense minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, announced the arrest of 15 Palestinians, including the wife of Yasser Arafat. The PLO appealed to the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Israeli actions.

On 1 November, the Palestinian Authority announced the beginning of a general strike in the occupied territories. The strike was to last for three days, from 2 to 4 November. The strike was called in response to the continued Israeli aggression, including the closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the bombardment of Palestinian towns and villages, and the arrest of thousands of Palestinians. The strike was supported by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and by the Palestinian diaspora around the world.

The threat of cross-border attacks by the Israeli military and settlers in response to the Intifada forced the Palestinian leadership to consider a possible response. On 13 November, the Palestinian leadership announced that it would continue the strike until the Israeli government agreed to a set of demands, including the release of political prisoners, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian territories, and the recognition of Palestinian sovereignty.

Nothing goes more to show the stupidity of the Israeli left than their continued support for Barak’s Labour Party as a ‘lesser evil’ while Barak presides over a ‘genocide in slow motion’...
Responding to the call from作文 (the Initiative Against Economic Globalisation) for affinity groups to go to Prague for the 5th protest against the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) and the World Bank's 5th annual meeting, a small group of us travelled from London. Pitching up a cheap flight ticket, we were spared a lengthy journey over sea and road. Our hosts apparently expected everyone to travel by land – coaches and trains spent many hours waiting at the border to clear lines. A few problems. Indeed one of our members who travelled in a suit for the purpose of easy entry to hotel etc. was welcomed as a potential delegate! We had sent a flat to share and the objective was to live and work together, to make sure there were no problems. Our first point of call was the service info booth, but after a few minutes we established, without the "welcome message" consisted of a warning that there would not support violence against property, animals or people. This could of course be explained by the need to formally distance itself from violence given the difficult circumstances in which it was met. The extent of the police operation also became apparent. There were uniformed cops on every street, yet the level of harassment was relatively low – the cops seemed wary of anyone in a group, so only those walking alone were challenged to produce ID etc.

Saturday and Sunday
The following day saw the first demonstration, a counter-demonstration to the fascists. We turned up at Peace Square to find about 40 cops massed up in front of the peace statue. Some of the cops had dogs. One cop held up a police baton and said they were going to clear the area. Some of the crowd tried to get past the cops, but were stopped. The cops then marched to the main avenue and kept up a very strong presence, preventing any attempt at any demonstration. They were very aggressive, shouting and threatening anyone who tried to get past. The demonstration was called off and we left to find somewhere to eat.

The Masses Gather
Each day saw more and more people arriving in Prague and more stories of people stuck at the border, leading to pickets of essential services and the Interior Ministry. Prague was a constant hive of activity and it was impossible to attend everything. Sunday saw what was billed as a parade of commuters to the centre, which turned out to be a steady stream of people walking. The main event on Sunday was the massed rally in the city centre, with a huge crowd of people shouting slogans and holding banners. The police were everywhere, but they were not trying to prevent people from gathering. The crowd continued to grow, and by the end of the day there were thousands of people in the centre. The police were clearly in a minority, and the crowd was clearly in control. The police responded with tear gas and water cannon, but the crowd continued to grow.

The cops began by firing tear gas into the crowd. These up for it responded with cobble stones, molotovs and other missiles, whilst those who weren’t moved into the park on one side. At first it seemed the police were going to lose. Their lines were split, shields and helmets were grabbed and held high, and many police were in face of the crowd, yet the crowd refused to back down. The police then used the water cannon, which turned out to be the weapon that moved them, and they were forced to retreat.

The cops used all their weapons and eventually we were forced back down the hill to where the flare were. This was a working class area of industrial locals passed bottles of water out of windows to those needing to wash their eyes. One police was even pushed by people, presumably from his gâynet.

The fight continued and barricades were built. At one point three cars were damaged. The police then used tear gas and water cannon to try to clear the area, but the crowd refused to move. The police response was more and more violent, and the crowd continued to grow. The police were clearly in a minority, and the crowd was clearly in control. The police responded with tear gas and water cannon, but the crowd continued to grow. The police then used the water cannon, which turned out to be the weapon that moved them, and they were forced to retreat.

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A View from the Red and Black Block

Responding to the call from ssew (the Initiative Against Economic Globalisation) for affinity groups to go to Prague for the S26 protests against the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) and the World Bank’s 5th annual meeting, a small group of us travelled from London. Pitching up a cheap flight ticket we were greeted a lengthy drive in a small car, and we apparently expected everyone to travel by land — coaches and trains spent money hours with all of us slumped in chairs had no problems. Indeed one of our number who travelled in a suit for the purpose of easy entry in hotels etc., was welcomed as a potential delegate! We had sent a flat to share and the objective was to live and work together, to make some trouble and have fun.

Our first port of call was the ssew info shop. Here we got our first look and listen at the posters of the S26. Summarily, the “winning message” consisted of a warning that there would be no support for violence against property, animals or people. This could of course be explained by the need to formally distance itself from violence given the difficult circumstances in which (we) was. The extent of the police operation also became apparent. There were unmarked cops on every street, yet the level of harassment was relatively low — the cops scared away anyone in a group so only those walking alone were challenged to produce ID etc.

Saturday and Sunday

The following days saw the first demonstration, a counter-demonstration to the fascists. We turned up at Peace Square in a small group. The police were in force, the forecourt of the red and black block. The demo was, like all the protests taking place in Prague this week, a small one. We were not able to find out what this actually meant in practice. The banning turned out to be a mere formality despite the large police presence an attempt was made to stop the march. After many speeches and much posturing for photographers, the march moved off in the warm sunshine to wind its way round central Prague. The fascists were marching on the other side of the river, so there seemed little chance of coming in contact with any. The police were on hand to see that no black bloc was seen. The police seemed to have evaluated things and decided to follow an alternative route. The speakers and the music were of more importance than the march itself. The few students who actually turned up to watch the march were met with a wall of police. The police were clearly not interested in suppression but just to make sure that no trouble would happen.

The Masses Gather

Each day saw more and more people arriving in Prague and more stories of people stuck at the border, leading to pickets of commuters and the Interior Ministry. Prague was a constant hive of activity and it was impossible to attend everything. Sunday saw what was billed as a parade with puppets to round off the arts and resistance festival. We went expecting a fluffily event, to find the same masked up protesters at the front of the march, followed by various Leninist/Bolshevik inspired plans for the S26 and the search for trying to prevent delegates from getting into the conference as in Seattle. We blocked them in until they disembarked the train and World Bank! The protest would start at 11am and follow three routes, designated blue, yellow and pink. The blue route started at the train station and headed for the conference. We pondered the political significance of the three colours, but it appears that these were the only colours you could paint the town without being asked. The red and black block, at which we hoped an alternative plan might emerge, but this meeting never occurred. Most of the responsibility for this must fall on the Czech anarchists, the main group of which had denounced ssew as being too liberal and failed to offer any alternatives, and their international group, who had circulated a leaflet calling the meeting. The failure of the main Czech anarchist group to engage in the S26 process was a major weakness. Monday saw us making preparations for the zofin. As well as buying energy food and drink (the local equivalent of Red Bull in called Somer — a non-alcoholic cola), other necessities (pepper spray, gas masks etc), we took a recce of the conference centre. Located away from the city centre, on the outskirts of the city, the conference centre was a vast concrete building. It was well guarded with lots of security staff around. The conference centre itself was a huge concrete block with lots of windows. The conference centre was located in a very residential area, surrounded by rows of apartment blocks. We walked around the conference centre and the streets around it, trying to get a feel for what was going on. The conference centre was relatively quiet, with only a few people around. The streets around the conference centre were busy with people walking to and from the centre. The conference centre was well lit with lots of lights shining from the windows. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light. The conference centre was located on a hill overlooking the city, with views of the city centre. The conference centre was located on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by green fields and trees. The conference centre was well designed with lots of windows and lots of natural light.
that it had nothing to do with the protests (obviously not). Javor, who had published a daily paper throughout the protests, issued the following statement and carried it on the front page: "In the public announcement the State has stated that it does not endorse any form of violence against people, animals or property. Violence is not part of the democratic political activity. For these reasons, it is impossible to accept the pointless and brutal excesses of groups who acted independently of the State during that event. A radical, consistent criticise saw and WB policy as a long term goal and current attempts to disrupt [sic] the two institutions' synoptic meeting as a short term goal, are times which are vastly different from the senseless destruction of property in Prague. Last night's violent attacks are barbarous expressions of powerlessness and pointlessness of violence. In the end, this does not help those who were defending the movement generally or a mystery to me. Fortunately the prison support itself has been unconditional."

The Leninist Rally

As we wandered up the hill we came across the surly guards of the two leading Workers' Power and other Leninists groups round town to the chant of "one solution, revolution". Never mind that we had just spent three hours fighting the cops. After a while they started for the inevitable rally and, while they speachified, we took a break.

Later on it turned out that there was a breakdown of the sound system. After trying to find out what was happening elsewhere. Yet another rally was held on the steps of the Leninist in Prague, at which Jirka Zemanowski and others of the KSC told their followers what a success it had all been. At this point one person wearing a loud hailer was trying to get people to go to the bridge, where there was still a walk off. Not surprisingly the Trotskyists ignored this call. Another group from the UK had made a great banner with the slogan "The revolution will not be Bolshevik". Together we held it on the platform behind the speakers. Initial laughter was caused by our sign that said, "In the immortal words of the swing, 'The revolution will not be Bolshevik'". The march moved off the opera hall and we tried to get information on what was happening elsewhere. Yet another rally was held on the steps of the Leninist in Prague, at which Jiri Kunka and others of the KSC told their followers what a success it had all been. After the march we were heading towards the bridge only to be met by the same hoolie crowds running the other way. It seemed that the delegates had been got out by metro and were in the banquet.

A Banquet for us All!

About 250 of us set out on the three mile walk to the banquet centre, along a dual carriageway blocking both sides. A small group made common purpose with a group of women who were on the march. When we arrived we found that the cops had been turned back by the crowds and that the marchers were in the park. The and we arrived we were bused off to a nearby dining hall which was filled with the delegates and we met up with the international delegation. It was a great night out and we met up with the international delegation. It was a great night out and we had a great night out.

As we wandered up the hill we came across the surly guards of the two leading Workers' Power and other Leninists groups round town to the chant of "one solution, revolution". Never mind that we had just spent three hours fighting the cops. After a while they started for the inevitable rally and, while they speachified, we took a break.

Later on it turned out that having signed up for the pink block, the Leninists actually went with the yellow block. This had two results. Firstly the pink block was smaller than the others. The cops naturally concentrated their firepower on the blue and yellow block, because of their vulnerability. Whilst Earth First! succeeded in getting into the conference centre this was at the price of injuries and arrests and was nearly jeopardised by the left of a pink march. The two marches tried to push forward on the bridge, despite the requests of the police. At the front of the densely packed crowd, and they tried to get to the front to get on the trolley. They had to be physically repelled by others.

The Morning After the Night Before

Last night and during the following day the cops were engaged in a mass round up of anyone they thought to have been involved. Baricades were raided, leading to one instance of a stand-off between the cops and the police. People were grabbed off the street. In total about 500 people were arrested, about half of whom were foreigners. Large numbers of people were assaulted in custody – beatings, strip searches, medial abuse and torture.

After a few days most of the foreigners were deported but some, including one UK activist, were in the process of being deported. From our Czech comrades things are much harder. Many face trumped up charges but will be held on remand in prison for a long time before even getting to challenge the evidence. Lawyers need to be hired and funds are urgently needed.

The conference the next day was poorly attended, as apparently delegates were too afraid to leave their hotels. The final day was cancelled, as were the dinner section of the conference. We were keen to stress all who would listen to the conference the next day was poorly attended, as apparently delegates were too afraid to leave their hotels. The final day was cancelled, as were the dinner section of the conference. We were keen to stress all who would listen.
atmosphere was crowded, with people co-operating - building barricades out of street furniture, filling bins with rocks from the railway, blocking the road. One area in which this was noted was the provision of first aid equipment - anyone seeking help always had a choice of half-dozen people. Respect was also shown for the nature of the area to local shops and blocks of flats were left alone. Eventually the cops decided to clear the charge. This was the type of policing we used to and it was interesting that convos from other countries were not used. Eventually we were forced to scramble across the railway line, on which a goods train had been left to block our way. Across the other line a train was coming and, coupled with the hail of badly aimed missiles from the other side, things got a bit hairy for a moment. Once safely on the other side we regrouped and new barricades were built. Fighting continued but the cops were now clearly advancing and we were defending pointless positions. More cops were lining up behind us, leaving only two escape routes. One led through a park into town, the other across the river which meant getting across there. Unfortunately few people seemed to have checked out the area and they were forced towards the river. We made our escape into town.

The Leninist Rally

As we wandered up the hill we came across the atmosphere of the two leading Workers' Power and other Leninist groups round town to the chant of "one solution, revolution". Never mind that we had just spent three hours fighting the cops. After a while they stopped for the inevitable rally and, whilst they shouted, we took a breather. Later on it turned out that having signed up for the picket block the Leninists actually went with the yellow block. This had two results. Firstly the pink block was smaller than the others. The cops naturally concentrated their firepower on the blue and yellow blocks, because of their complicity. Whilst Earth First! success in getting up to the conference centre this was at the expense of injuries and arrests and was nearly quashed by the left of a pink march. The SWP meanwhile attempted to push forward on the bridge, despite the requests of Ya Busta who were at the front for a disciplined assault, and then they tried to get to the front on the telly! They had to be physically repelled by others.

As we wondered up the hill we came across the surreal sight of the SWP leading Workers' Power and other Leninist groups round town to the chant of "one solution, revolution". Never mind that we had just spent three hours fighting the cops.

The March moved off the opera hall and we tried to get information on what was happening elsewhere. Yet another rally was held on the steps of the opera, at which Julie Watkinson gave a talk and others of her ilk talked about their viewpoints. It was a success in that all of the cops were talking each other in the squares. The cops made a grand gesture with the slogan "The revolution will not be Bolshevikised". However, they held it on the platform behind the speakers.

In the background the crowd was confused and, having made our point, the march headed towards the bridge only to be met by the same hands coming the other way. It seemed that the delegates had been got out by metro and were in the banquets.

A Banquet for us All!

About 350 of us set off on the three mile walk to the banqueting centre, along a dual carriageway blocking both sides. Our small group made common purpose with others going to the centre. From there we marched in arms. Unfortunately during the journey many people dropped out, at the bar we dropped the band, and by the time we arrived we were only about 100 strong. The cops weren't to know this and mimicked us for the advance guard! The banqueting centre had a large courtyard and this was entirely filled with tables, while later three bands of delegates came out, to be met a ball of stones. As it was by now noon we decided to head off and call it a day. When we got to the nearest metro station we found that the three bands of delegates had been dumped there and, in an effort to stop them, they were desperately trying to find a bus or tram home. Our arrival caused a bit of a stir, despite the presence of cops, and for some reason when we got on a bus some of them seemed to get on.

Later on that night in addition to the opening being cancelled, the banquet was brought to an end by our SWF Arrangements were made for the protesters to be joined by local youth and together they hit the usual target, McDonald's.

The Morning After the Night Before

Later that night and during the following day the cops engaged in a mass round up of anyone they thought might have been involved. Bars were raided, leading to our instinct of a stand off between the cops and the police. People were grabbed off the street. In total about 500 people were arrested, about half of whom were foreign. Large numbers of people were assaulted in custody - beatings, strip searches, molestations, sexual attacks.

After a few days most of the foreigners were deported but some, including one UK activist, continued to be held. For our Czech comrades things are much harder. Many face trumped up charges but will be held on remand in prison for a long time before even getting to challenge the evidence. Lawyers need to be hired and funds are urgently needed.

The conference the day after was poorly attended, as apparently delegates were too afraid to leave their hotels. The final day was cancelled, as the Brussels meeting was cut short, and the conference was boarded up to stress on all who would listen that it had nothing to do with the protests (obviously not). Let's not forget about the more recent events. That in its public announcement recently stated that it does not endorse any form of violence against people, animals or property. Violence is not part of their political activism. For some reasons, it is impossible to accept the pointless and brutal excesses of groups who acted independently of its direction. A radical, consistent critique of war and imperialist policy as a long term goal, and current attempts to distract [sic] the two institutions' syncretic meeting as a short term goal, are aims which are vastly different from minimise destruction of property in Prague.

Last night's violent activities are fruitless expressions of powerlessness and pointlessness of existence. The destruction of property and nonviolence require real individualism and people who violate the outrage to be in the right place at the right time and who are not afraid to publicly express their opinions.

In the ensuing post-Prague debates some activists have sought to justify this statement on the grounds of the opposition to the movement in the Czech Republic. Leaving aside for a moment the question of violence as a legitimate and necessary tactic – and anyone who thinks that violence would have achieved our aims in Prague isLady me the information themselves - what is most telling is the lack of condemnation of police violence.

Within the two years since Fall, the anti-capitalist movement has shown its ability to mobilise large numbers of people across the globe. The institutions, such as the IWF, World Bank, G7 etc which set the international conditions for capitalist expansion are unable to meet the challenge posed by thousands of rioting people. Prague must therefore be seen as a success in continuing this process. Whilst it did not lead to the IWF and World Bank being disband, the bureaucracy and heavyweights were forced to abandon their conference and are once again on the defensive having to justify the very existence of capitalism.

On another level Prague was a wonderful example of solidarity and comradeship, one that I am proud to have been a part of. Activists from all over Europe and indeed the world worked together and struggled together, despite our differing political and historical perspectives and the language barriers. There were numerous examples of this co-operation from the planning of the event, to the attempts to make the Dumas and Brussels meeting work, the building of barricades and sharing of missiles, leading to the injured and the support for those arrested. I believe that many of us learned the importance of each other. An action such as this demonstrates our collective potential and that is a rare glimpse of what a real human community could be like.

At the same time the anti-capitalist movement is paradoxical, for it is a protest movement so opposed to against a thing, as protest movements have in the past, but against the particular form of protest. This is a mathematically dead end in which we can relate both to each other via the mediation of the commodity form, the key commodity being our labour power. Whilst days such as these can partially overcome the alienation of class society for an all too brief moment, the suppression of capitalism requires a social movement, which is able to connect to peoples' (particularly workers') daily struggles. Whether our protest movement can become such a social movement remains an open question.
Reforming Zeal

Not content with this, Straw has decided to go the whole hog and use the football (Disorder) Act to bring in “criminalise working class males per se.” The premise for the introduction of the Act, “the disorder perpetrated by England supporters in Charleroi and elsewhere” doesn’t stand up to much scrutiny. As Straw conceded, 95 British nationals were arrested, 264 were deported and “a very small number of those originally arrested were now face trial.” So, on the basis of a linked series of events resulting in negligible criminal charges, Straw Labour seeks to bring in the Act to curtail the freedom of movement of a whole swathe of UK citizens.

An objective examination of the footage of Euro2000 reveals groups of fans drinking, chanting and throwing the occasional plastic glass or plastic chair. The only reason violence resulted in serious injury was carried out by rival fans against English supporters, or by police baton charging and using CS gas and water cannon. The position of the left in relation to these sustained assaults by the police on groups of young working class fans is, at best, one of indifference.

Football “hooliganism,” a process of, in sociological terms, identity, identity-redemption and solidification of territory between groups of rival fans, in which a few participants suffer serious injury with the risk to non-participating minimal, has, for years been, a testing ground for policing strategies. What horrifies the Guardian reading middle classes is the “vulgar chanting” and occasional outbreaks of nationalism (although the “New Britain” — here anti-refugee rhetoric — really doesn’t stand up to inspection at all). As Straw conceded, 95 British nationals were arrested, 264 were deported and “a very small number of those originally arrested were now face trial.” So, on the basis of a linked series of events resulting in negligible criminal charges, Straw Labour seeks to bring in the Act to curtail the freedom of movement of a whole swathe of UK citizens.

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Reforming Zeal

Not content with this, Straw has decided to go the whole hog and use the Football (Disorder) Act to criminalise working class machismo per se. The premise for the introduction of the Act, "the disorder perpetrated by England supporters in Charleroi and elsewhere doesn't stand up to examination. As Straw concedes, 965 British nationals were arrested, 264 were deported and a very small number of those originally arrested now face trial. So, on the basis of a linked series of events resulting in negligible injuries, New Labour seeks to bring in a Act to curtail the freedom of movement of a whole swathe of UK citizens.

An objective examination of the footage of June 2000 reveals groups of fans drinking, chanting and throwing the occasional plastic glass or plastic bottle. The only real violence resided in serious injury was carried out by both fans against English supporters, or by police baton charging and using CS gas and water cannon. The position of the left in relation to these sustained assaults by the police on groups of young working class lads is, at best, one of indifference. Football "hooliganism", a process of sociological terms, identity-differentiation and alienation of territory. In between groups of rival fans, in which poor participants suffer serious injury with the risk to non participants minimal, has, for years been an open question for policy makers. The Italian use of src to demy the scope for the possibility of collective action. A lack of collective action of a mass of legislation passed to entrench the notion of working class life as "policed" life, a life bounded and hemmed in by the state. From the increased use of src to

FOOTBALL (DISORDER) ACT — Main Provisions

Gives magistrate the power to make banning orders for domestic and international games:
- Where, after trial, a magistrate believes they have "reasonable ground", a "chief officer of police" may apply for a banning order to a magistrate, where a new banning order to a magistrate, where the respondent has "caused or contributed to any violence or disorder in the UK or elsewhere." Note that the violence or disorder need not have led to a conviction, nor need it relate to football. The Home Office has made it explicit that "violence" and "disorder" are not limited to football or "conduct constitutes a crime." (Membership of an illegal football group or any group with links to "disorder" might suffice.)
- Any banning order will ordinarily lead to surrender of passport and any reporting conditions the court thinks appropriate.
- The bill allows for the deletion of criminal periods during which any "suitable in uniform" can, if he "reasonably" suspects an individual before him of involvement in violence or disorder (as previously defined):
  1) issue a person a notice in writing requiring him to appear before a magistrate at a stated time;
  2) order that person not to leave the UK before that time;
  3) if the control period relates to an international match — surrender his passport;
  4) if he believes the person before him may fall to comply with a notice, the constable may arrest without warrant, detain that person and hold for a period of up to four hours (six with authorisation from an inspector of above) before producing before a magistrate. These provisions allow for the police to restrict freedom of movement even where grounds for a banning order cannot be made out, simply on the basis of reasonable suspicion, to "enquire enquires to be made."

"From the late 1970s, football became a testing ground for techniques that would later be deployed against the trade union movement and the left."

"...notion that "football hooliganism... is perpetuated by a relatively small minority of known football troublemakers." However, "the blunt truth... which has become clear from events last month is this: football hooliganism abroad is no longer confined to a small minority of known troublemakers. In other words, the "organised and conscripted" used to ram through the 1990 Act don't exist. Rather than give up this particular ghost though, Straw intends to extend the powers of the 1991 Act to cover the "spectre of the white working class". Over 50"... of the 1996 Police Act, " officious from football grounds for specific periods, and the subsequent extended provisions of the 1995 Football Offences Act, intended as Straw makes explicit, on the
Gentrification is a very real threat to the survival of working class communities both in the inner cities and in those rural areas where the rich like to commute to enjoy long weekends and holidays.

Those of us threatened by gentrification (or "regeneration" - which amounts to the same thing) have no choice but to fight, the question is how.

After re-unification, communities in East Berlin faced gentrification on a massive scale. Their attempts to fight back were met with little success; together with the problems they faced, such as crime, house prices rising, and the cost of living, the gap between the east and west was widening. The Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989 and East Berliners were left to face the consequences of the city's transformation.

From an article by M Bentz and A Holm

In April 1996, 86% of Berliners voted "yes" to the reunification of East and West Berlin.

Resistance Against Exploitation and Gentrification - "West Berlinian" (We're All Staying)

The danger of gentrification was spotted early on. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the first large-scale gentrification projects began, and the city was divided into areas that were either "gentrified" or "not gentrified". The city's middle class began to move in, while the working class was left behind. The process continued, with the city becoming increasingly divided.

Getting the Borough Ready - From Prenzlauer Berg to "Prenzlberg"

1990 brought with it a new wave of gentrification, as developers moved in to transform the area into a trendy, upscale neighborhood. The process was not without its problems, as residents struggled to keep up with the rising costs of living. The city's new rulers, the "new money" class, moved in to take advantage of the situation, and the old residents were left behind.

Confrontation - that was who "We" were.

WBA was mainly known for two actions: one was the widely supported occupation of a block in Köllnische Straße - which prevented it from being turned into a hotel (although not into yuppie flats). Secondly, WBA was the only attractive opposition to the 100% rents in 76 to 89, that took to the streets. Despite massive mobilization (20,000 demonstrates) and widespread support in the neighborhood, neither action ultimately succeeded, yet they did mean that the WBA alliance was widely known and had an extraordinary degree of legitimacy and acceptance in inner city east Berlin.

West Berlin liberal "public opinion" - essentially made up of west German "post-GDR" - only noticed WBA afterwards as part of the construction of Prenzlauer Berg as an "in district. Resistance against exploitation was incorporated as evidence of the "localism" and "attachement" of the area - photos of the bigger demos are used today in the brochures of the regeneration firm SERN - which was previously active in Kreuzberg and now co-ordinates regeneration in Prenzlauer Berg.

Winter 1992 saw a decline in WBA. In the following years, despite a wave of demonstrations, the destruction of living conditions in a neighborhood which relied on mutual support. The current, often chaotic, often unfair credit or payment on account, were also places where people could meet - the "backyard" of the local "tents".

The new "offerings" are aimed at a better-off circle of customers - reflecting the shift in popularity. These new shops also function as an advertising vehicle for specialists in the area - for private flat ads. The architecture of the area helps make Prenzlauer Berg attractive.

The resident protest against gentrification - the new money class - aimed at preserving the most advanced structures of gentrification - the new cafes. With a mixture of anger against invasion, exclusion, and the privatization of public space, the WBA demanded an end to the service of housewives in the open air for so long and for a halt to further gentrification and cultural development.

However, this meant that the initiative was used to divide the neighborhood and sent into the distant horizon of what was possible through official negotiations. The meetings between WBA and representatives of local associations and representatives of the city council led to the formation of the "Gentrix" group, which was composed of representatives of various local associations and representatives of the city council. The group's main goal was to preserve the character of the area and to prevent further gentrification.
We're all Staying?

Weinrer Beelden, If you think you own all of the following 'Walz Garten' - We're all Staying!

The Jungingen Neuhof zur Fastenzeit Bleib-richer the scene was side-lined, the formalising of and official recognition of local initiatives / groups in "segmentation areas" and the institutional reinforcement of the arrogance of the Berlin left.

The Battle of the Barns on Kollwitzplatz

In no area of Prenzlauer Berg are the legal and physical possibilities more clear as in Kollwitzplatz. By 1994 - 95 the transformation of the area into a tourist zone had become inevitable for real estate developers suffering noise from the pubs of the go-go bars in the area (population: 22,0000 and growing) - to avoid a hear of style and real estate developers. The shopping and commercial pressures had to lead, for the first time since the decline of WBA, significant streets and protest. While people shops opened, the shops used by old residents were forced to shut as rents climbed. The Pensioner's rooms, Post offices, bakeries, fruit and veg shops and the local children's library were all replaced with posh restaurants, cafes and health food stores in the business of the traffic and noise, the commercialisation of the Kollwitzplatz quarter had turned the area into a scene of social dise-away areas.

The destruction of the established retail stores in the area meant the destruction of living conditions in a neighbourhood which relied on mutual support. The residents protest, which often allowed credit or payment on account, were also places where people could meet - the "market" of the local tenants. The new "offering" is aimed at a better-off circle of customers - reflecting the shift in population. These new shops also function as an advertising vehicle for special interests in the area - for private flat rent. The commercialisation of the area helps make Prenzlauer Berg attractive.

The resident protest against gentrification is eagerly awaited by many, with interest being the most advanced structures of gentrification - the newly opened cafes. With a mixture of anger and frustration, the residents are demanding an end to the commercialisation and an unprecedented class consciousness - a large proportion of the local population, in a call for democracy and justice, has demanded an end to the serving of food in the open air after 6pm and for a halt to further gentrification and commercial developments.

However, this meant that the initiative was welcomed by the local population and sent into the distant horizon of what was possible through official negotiations. The results of meetings with the authorities questions of noise emissions and boundaries and ended up bogged down in the
"Delis, fashion and lifestyle in this neighbour- hood are no longer seen as manifestations of the class enemy..."

In Prenzlauer Berg no-one is emptying buckets of shit on posh restaurant floors as once happened in Kreuzberg.

Citizens' protest - the posters say, "There is an empty living space here."

never heard of bureaucracy. Police reports of the time also showed an increase in individual attacks against popular targets – ranging from damaging car windows, stealing puppy, and stealing tires to continuous squading of yuppie restaurant windows. Neither tactics worked – today the old residents of Kollwitzplatz are a minority. They’ve given up and moved one by one to quieter areas.

The media and many leftists (including former squatters) portrayed workers and their families, who had to get up early and worked hard to keep their home in better condition in Kreuzberg. ‘Cultural life is a part of every neighborhood, and if it was too loud for them then, they should, “move to Köpenick”, an outer suburb of Berlin, often characterised as a village.

The fact that the residents of Prenz- lauer Berg had in the past been positive in their reception of ‘culture’ meant that this distillation of their needs, and the preferences given to those of the squatters, was even harder to combat. The records of ‘pioneers’ and ‘gentrifiers’ so dominated the public discourse over ‘Prenzlauer Berg’, that the problems of the rest of the population were ignored. The voices of the ‘foreign’ sections of the population were excluded and the lessons of the Kreuzberg experience had been learned.

According to the Berliner Zeitung, for example, the distilling aspects (Turkish people, foreigners, pensioners) had been mostly left in the west. This big difference: Delis, fashion and lifestyle in this neighborhood are no longer seen as manifestations of the class enemy... In Prenzlauer Berg no one is emptying buckets of shit on posh restaurant floors as once happened in Kreuzberg's Ottensheim Straße. No anonymous groups calling themselves Class Against Class are desecrating stately houses. And autonomous punk groups are nowhere to be seen.

Increasingly, initiatives which didn’t fit into this picture failed to attract media attention for the problems of residents, as the myth of “Prenzlauer Berg” became dominant. Protest were incorporated, as evidence of the colour and rebelliousness of the borough. Social conflicts were depoliticised and instead turned into cultural artefacts. The media didn’t even mention the 1988 rent rises as they were only a problem for the diminishing number of older tenants.

Co-operation not Conflict - being crapped on consultatively

As WBA broke up at the end of 1992, the remaining activists joined consultative committees in the regeneration areas. Invitations to participate in the changes offered a glimpse of hope that the developments in your local area could be influenced. But after 3 years those efforts must also be seen to have failed. The effects of the formalising and reproducing through the ‘Bürgerbeteiligung’ have been at least as devastating as the movement against expulsions at the distribution of codified resistance through the media discourse of gentrification.

The rights set out in the regulations for regeneration projects show clearly how limited the scope for action was. The consultation committees could be consulted on the appointment of experts and consultants... should equally be in writing assist in providing information to the public... can make comments and suggestions on the preparatory and carrying out of the regeneration works.

A real aim in terms of a veto on regeneration and building decisions never existed - and fundamental critiques of regeneration work was next to impossible.

This model of ‘consultative regeneration’, imposed from Kreuzberg, had been critiqued in the 1980s by the Berlin academic, Karl Homuth, ... it incorporates the potential for protest into its structures via active cooperation. It brings groups previously not participating into the consensus model for urban restructuring. It transforms heterogeneous demands interests and needs of ‘interest groups’ into manageable problems and actions."

The essence was described in the ‘de-legalisation and localisation of protest. Instead of guaranteeing “everyone staying” we were limited to the individual project - the regeneration of a square or the rezoning of a city block."

The increased demand for renting and purchasing new apartments in Berlin, as was possible in the semi-profits of the old consultation structures. But against a background of resistance to particularly cross strata, there was a tendency for activists to be pushed into being anti-capitalistic fire fighters, merely reacting to action. The possibility of a generalised critique of the means of regeneration was not possible from this position.

Radical Critic and Radical Neglect - the neighborhood movement without the left

Another reason for the weakness of the movement against expulsions was the lack of the ‘Radical left’ in Berlin - which drew in many WBA activists...
“Delis, fashion and lifestyle in this neighbourhood are no longer seen as manifestations of the class enemy.

In Prenzlauer Berg no-one is emptying buckets of shit on posh restaurant floors as once happened in Kreuzberg.”

Citizens’ protest: The posters say, “There is a lively living space here!”

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The example was criticism, limiting the doable and localisation of protest, instead of guaranteeing that everyone anyone was limited to the movement against expansion, as the distribution of coordinated resistance through the media discourse of gentrification.

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A real aim in terms of a vote on regeneration and building decisions never existed — and fundamental criticisms of regeneration work was not even possible.
Secrets and Lies

The more we hear about David Shayler, the less it does quite the problem what he actually poses for the British state. In both his interviews and his work with Mark Hollingworth and David Fielding (Defence of the Realm, Andrew Deutsch 2003) Shayler has never hidden his reactionary agenda. Shayler - an ex-Mi5 operative who has yet to express substantive disillusion with the aims and objectives of the organisation he once so lavishly - has caused a career change for the soft left and liberal intelligentsia. Shayler's career has been a forceful indicator of the left's failure and unwillingness to act as an anti-intellectual agency. His obstruction with bureaucracy and procedure combined with inertia and the lack of initiative by senior officers prevented vital decision-making that might have saved lives and millions of pounds of public money. (Defence of the Realm). As Hollingworth and Fielding observe, "There is no question of whitehall being run by intelligence, but the hollowness of intelligence and the hollowness of security service operations: 'Shayler's solution to the management problems of Mi5 is to sell out to the United States. There is no one European community country that has succeeded in defeating terrorism without first establishing a national counter-intelligence agency'. Shayler argues that this is one area which should be problematic for the left, night to go without saying.

Shayler - an ex-Mi5 operative who has yet to express substantive disillusion with the aims and objectives of the organisation he once so lavishly served - has become a career change for the soft left and liberal intelligentsia.

Notes
1. German press, following the release of 10% of the 10,000 pages of the "Fall 2" file. The content is similar in a particular area. Berliner is defined as "the city of 350,000 inhabitants" and the capital of the state of Berlin.
2. The main Mi5 Operation group on the left in the 1980s.
3. A wider scope on an extensive campaign to rewrite the 1980s in Berlin to meet the Marxist model in West Berlin.
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Secrets and Lies

Shayler - an ex-MI5 operative who has yet to express substantive disillusion with the aims and objectives of the organisation he once so loudly served - has become a cause célèbre for the soft left and liberal intelligentsia.

The more we hear about David Shayler, the less is clear about what precisely he is saying. He appears to be completely untruthful, unconvincing, and unconvincing, yet potentially interesting.

Shayler's case is too powerful for the British state to ignore. Between the state and its institutions, the financial market, and the mainstream press, the story of Shayler's actions is almost completely out of control. Shayler is a case study in how the state can be corrupted by powers within its own ranks.

Shayler's actions are not simply a matter of personal morality or professional ethics. They are a matter of national security and the rule of law. Shayler has exposed the state's weaknesses and failures, and the government must take action to address these.

This is not to say that Shayler is without blame. His actions were reckless and irresponsible, and his motives were unclear. However, the actions of the government in response to Shayler's revelations have been equally flawed. The government's response has been too slow, too weak, and too lacking in substance.

The government's handling of the Shayler case has been a disaster. The government's response has been too slow, too weak, and too lacking in substance. The government's handling of the Shayler case has been a disaster.

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“the liberal left flew into a fit of joy at the first sight of the Human Rights Act, without noting its context in relation to New Labour’s wider security agenda. In rushing to embrace Shayler so quickly they may be making a similar error.”

The Socialist Workers Party are targeting “anti-capitalist” demonstrators as the next “big thing” and ideal recruiting fodder.

Chris Barron, a leading member, puts it clearly enough: “The test for the SWP will be how it shapes and directs the anti-capitalist movement.” Another, Julie Walters, knows precisely what they want out of it: “A code of Bolsheviks.”

Again: the SWP tries to make a political and radical movement purely as means of increasing the size and influence of their party. Rather than their politics being informed by the class struggle they are the class struggle as a means of gaining members. Potential new members of the Party are urged to ignore their own political experiences within their own movements and to follow instead a set of politics based on the “lessons” of experience gained in a near pre-communist, absolutist state at the start of the last century.

It is not surprising, then, that, if anti-capitalism has any part in the organisation of the anti-capitalist demonstrators. They demonstrate class people to relate to their predetermined political positions, whereas revolutionaries apply politics to the conditions we face as members of the working class. The important issues facing the working class — and how to fight — are not determined by political campaigns, but by the leadership of the party, who are the vanguard of the working class.

The SWP case ought to pose a dilemma for those who support the liberal left. Green Shayler’s declared agenda of making more efficient, less the “liberal” aspect of the movement, it is possible to imagine him as a right-wing campaigner, or a right-wing political consultant.

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Authoritarians, Vanguards and Anti-capitalist Movements

For anarchists, it is not a question of organisation versus non-organisation but rather authoritarian versus libertarian organisation and hierarchy versus self-management.

The SWP's crime is not a belief "that effective action depends on deception and political lies", but their involvement in the Iraq war. The SWP is not the only group who have "organised" under the banner of "anti-war".

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In a riot or revolution, small groups have to act without being bound by “democratically-taken majority decisions” as a matter of course, in practice, impossible to organise in the heat of a confrontation with the forces of the state.

Bolshevism in power

In fact, the Bolshevist tradition has always been happy to let individuals ignore and revoke the democratic decisions of collective groups — as long as the individuals in question were the leaders of the Bolshevist Party. The leading lights of the Leninist tradition freely placed the rights of the party before the rights of working people to decide their own fate. Thus, Callinicos’ attack on RTS can be applied to his own politics, with far more justification.

In addition, in response to the “great Bolshevist losses in the soviet elections” during the spring and summer of 1928, “Bolshevik armed force usually overthrew the results of these provincial elections.” In May, in the midst of the struggle against the Mensheviks and SRs, “the Mensheviks and SRs won a majority... In June, these two parties won a majority of the executive committee of the soviet.” In October, “a Bolshevik majority voted to give up power...” and “by use of the military” abrogated the results of the May and June elections and arrested the SR and Menshevik leadership of the soviet and its executive committee.” In addition, “the government continuously postponed the new general elections to the Petrograd Soviet, the term of which had ended in March 1928. Apparently, the government feared that the opposition parties would show gains” (Samuel, p. 14).

In the workplace, the Bolshevists replaced workers’ economic democracy with a new type of democracy by the state: “the state (the executive principle) was now replaced by the principle of intervention. The state that had used ‘the civil war... not plundered our economic organs of all that was strongest, most independent, most somehow linked with intervention of the state. I should also have understood the path of one-man management in the sphere of economic administration in a single industry to be better than to abolish the collective.” (M. Bernstein, The Bolshevists and Workers’ Control, p. 63.)

He pushed the idea of ‘individualism’ as a means to abolish democratic forms of organisation in the workplace — “collective action is politically pointless and technically incompetent and has already been set aside by decree” (quoted by Bernstein, p. 75). Moreover, in spite of Callinicos’ claim that it is the Leninist tradition which is democratic we find Lenin arguing in April 1928 that the “irreducible experience of history has shown that... the dictatorship of individual persons is the whole, the channel of the dictatorship of the revolutionary classes.” (CPSU p. 49)

The elimination of the soviets (of control) by the state was a principle of the bolshevist coup: in May 1921, the All-Russian Congress of the Metalworkers’ Unions met. The “Central Committee of the [Communist] Party handled down to the Party faction in the union a list of recommended candidates for union leadership. The metal-workers’ delegates voted down the list, as did the Party faction in the union. The Central Committee then forwarded an endorsed list of the union of a appointed and recommended a Metalworkers’ Committee of its own. So much for the “dictatorship of the revolutionary classes.” (CPSU p. 68).

These are just a few examples of Trotsky’s argument that you cannot place the “executive principle” above representation above the party. As the Party were not entitled to assert its dictatorship even if that dictatorship clashed with the party’s own self-interests. He continued by stating that “the Party is obliged to maintain its dictatorship... regardless of public opinion.” (CPSU p. 80).

In conclusion, the Bolshevist tradition is deeply authoritarian, based on the personal qualities and revolutionary experience of the leadership of the state. It was not only the state that had to be subordinated to the will of the state; it was the Party that had to be subordinated to the will of the state, and the state that had to be subordinated to the will of the state. This is why the Bolshevist tradition is so inherently antidemocratic, and why it has been so successful in its attempts to “create a society without class差别.”

Further, it would be misleading to conclude that those among the German and other Socialist Democratic Party who opposed Trotzky’s role in supporting the First World War were acting inappropriately. Rather than express their opposition to the war, they acted according to their logic that they should have remained in their party, accepted the “democratically-taken majority decision” and supported Imperialist slaughter in the cause of democracy (indeed, many of the anti-war minority went along with the majority of the party in the name of “discipline” and “democratic” principles).

Of course, he would reject such positions — in these cases, the rights of minorities take precedence. This is because the majority is not always right and it is only through the consent of individuals and minorities that the opinion of the minority can be moved towards the right one.

The Two Souls of Democracy

The real problem is that Callinicos fails to understand the rationale for democratic decision making, i.e. the idea that the majority is not always right but that individual freedom requires democracy to express and defend itself. By placing a vaguely defined collective above the individual, Callinicos undermines democracy and replaces it with little other than tyranny by the majority (or, more likely, those who claim to represent the majority).

Simply put, Marxism (as Callinicos presents it here) flies in the face of how society changes and develops. New ideas start with individuals and minorities and spread by argument and by force of example. Progress is determined by those who dissent and rebel against the status quo and the decisions of the majority. That is why anarchists support the right of dissent in self-managed groups (in fact, dissent, refusal, revolt by individuals and minorities is a key asset of self-management and engaged in the class struggle and of revolution).

In other words, for anarchists, self-
In a riot or revolution, small groups have to act without being bound by “democratically-taken majority decisions.” The reason is, in practice, impossible to organise in the heat of a confrontation with the forces of the state.

azroko-syndicalist union, the CNT were based on nominated delegates co-ordinating the policy decisions of all the membership. However, often it is impossible to do this. Workers on strike cannot continuously have a delegate to consider their membership. Striking workers in each area must make decisions appropriate to their needs and co-ordinate their activities later. In a riot or revolution, small groups have to act without being bound by “democratically-taken majority decisions” which are, in practice, impossible to organise in the heat of a confrontation with the forces of the state. Workers act spontaneously to show solidarity, occupy their workplaces, create new forms of organisation and so on. Any struggle or revolution is dependent on people making decisions spontaneously, at the appropriate time and place otherwise it is as though there can be no collective action and co-ordination between the workers.

The logical conclusion of Callinicos’ argument is to condemn society to bureaucratic inaction. In a strike, the workers involved could not say, organise a picket line without first halting the rest of their union. In a socialist society, workers in a factory could not decide to reorganise production in more libertarian ways without getting a majority of the workers across the globe to agree to the change.

Of course, in practice, Trotskyists recognise that to involve the majority in every decision would be impossible. So they argue for “democratic centralism” where the party membership elects a leader who make the day to day decisions which the party has to implement. Rather than “effective action” being the result of “democratically-taken majority decisions”, “all involved” they in fact mean “decisions made by a few leading members at the top of the party, binding on all involved.” In other words, a representative government whose decisions are binding on all subject to it - a radically different concept.

It was this vision of centralised, top-down “democratic” decision making which might be described as the Bolsheviks’ justification to eliminate the functional democracy associated with the factory committees and soldiers committees. In place of workers’ and soldiers’ self-management, the Bolsheviks appointed managers and officers and justified this on the grounds that a workers’ party was in power. The “democratically-taken majority decisions binding on all involved” which elected the Bolsheviks into power became the means by which democracy was eliminated in area after area of Russian working class life.

Bolshevism in power

In fact, the Bolshevik tradition has always been happy to let individuals ignore and revoke the democratic decisions of collective groups - as long as the individuals involved were the leaders of the Bolshevik Party. The leading lights of the Menshevik tradition happily placed the rights of the party before the rights of working people to decide their own fate. Thus Callinicos’ attack on RTS can be applied to his own politics, with far more justification.

For example, in response to the “great Bolshevik losses in the soviet elections” during the spring and summer of 1918 “Bolshevik armed force usually overthrew the results of these provincial elections.” In May, in the days of the Constituent Assembly, “the Mensheviks and SRs won a majority.” In June, these two parties also won a majority of the executive committees of the soviet. In December, the Bolsheviks lost control of the soviet and were forced to give up power. [and by use of the military] abrogated the results of the May and June elections and arrested the SR and Menshevik central committee members of the soviet and in executive committees.

In addition, "the government continuously postponed the new general elections to the Petrograd Soviet, the term of which had ended in March 1918. Apparently, the government feared that the opposition parties would show gains." [Samuel Rosman, Before Trotsky] Bolshevik power only through its vanguard. In itself the necessity for state power arises from an insufficient cultural level of the masses and their heterogeneity. In the revolutionary vanguard, organised in a party, is canalised the aspirations of the masses to obtain their freedom. Without the confidence of the class in the vanguard, without support of the vanguard by the class, there can be no talk of the conquest of power. In this sense the proletarian revolution and dictatorship are the work of the party as a whole, but only under the centralised party power riding rough-shod over the functional democracy of the working class. To quote Trotsky, "party power only through vanguard."

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leadership of the vanguard." [Stalinism and Bolshevism], Socialism Review 105, p96]. Yet “a revolutionary party, even after seizing power, is still by nature the sovereign force of society.” [Ibid] This is, of course, true - there are still organs of working class self-management such as factory committees, workers councils, trade unions, soldiers committees through which working people can still exercise their sovereignty. Little wonder Trotsky abolished independent unions, decreed the end of soldier committees and urged one-man management and the militarisation of labour when in power. Callinicos’ arguments lose all credibility when considered in the light of the history of Marxist parties in power.

Democracy and Freedom

Callinicos’ argument, taken to its logical conclusion, also implies the end of the free expression of individuality. Would we not be seriously deflected a society that “democratically” decided that, say, homosexuals should not be allowed to associate freely? Or that inter-racial marriage was against “socialist law”? Or that socialists were to be banished, the dangerous subversives and should be hanged? Would we have recognised the rights of individuals to rebel against the state that majority values the spirit of association, freedom and equality which should give democracy its rationale.

Fust, he would reject such positions - in these cases the rights of minorities take precedence. This is because the majority is not always right and it is only through the consent of individuals and minorities that the opinion of the majority can be moved towards the right one.

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The real problem is that Callinicos fails to understand the rationale for democratic decision making, i.e. the idea that the majority is always right but that individual freedom requires democracy to express and defend itself. By placing a vaguely defined collective above the individual, Callinicos undermines democracy and replaces it with little more than tyranny by the majority (or, more likely, those who choose to represent the majority).

Simply put, Marxism (as Callinicos presents it here) flies in the face of how societies change and develop. New ideas start with individuals and minorities and spread by argument and by force, for example. Progress is determined by those who dissent and rebel against the status quo and the decisions of the majority. That is why anarchists support the right of dissent in self-managed groups (in fact, dissent, refusal, revolt by individuals and minorities is a key aspect of self-management and is essential to the class struggle and of revolution). In other words, for anarchists, self-
In 1976, the Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan declared that the "English disease" of indiscipline and labour militancy was undermining the profitability of UK capital. During the "English disease" became the raison d'être of the ruling class.

The "English disease" now takes an apparently different form — from 1980 allowing the redefinition of the plague — no longer the threat of working class militancy, now simply the "obscene taint of bolshevism". The forces of capital are singularly cut off from the working class. The period following Callaghan's speech, "We're all, we're told, middle class now. The war is won, we've bunt our dead, and the front of the parties are now made up by old men who have our heads down and bring our sacrifices of less pay and longer hours to try before the new God, Flexibility.

In an article in the Guardian on 17/02, David Sanders, a professor of politics at Leeds University, declares that we are "in a process of class 'de-alignment'." He notes that a "distinctive feature of Labour's victory in 1997 was its ability to successfully appeal to all social classes. The party not only obtained a clear majority, but it also won nearly all the working class votes."

Callaghan's English disease was not simply about the "bourgeois" society in which the working class were not seen as part of the solution. It was about the "bourgeois" society in which the working class were not seen as part of the solution. It was about the ability of the ruling class to maintain its grip on power.

This marginalisation has seen a decrease in the working class vote in recent years. However, this is not simply due to a lack of support for the Labour Party. The working class remain a vital part of the UK economy and their continued support is crucial to the continuation of the capitalist system.

The election of the Wilson government in 1964, in many ways, was not that of Blair 33 years later. Wilson, like Blair, committed himself to embrace the "white heat of technology" and raised against the "white heat of ruling class claptrap. We shall be frank in condemning all those who shirk from their duty as a role in this Wilson stated, targeting particularly the "professors of unaffordable strikes."

The decay of working class politics, not only in the UK, was partly due to the efforts of the Labour Party to undermine the working class. The Labour Party's strategy of breaking the working class's links with the TUC and the trade unions was part of this. The Labour Party's anti-trade unionist policies also contributed to the decline of working class politics.

At the end of the 1970s, Ralph Milliband observed a "culture of desolation" forming in the working class. "Young workers did not remember the Depression or have any affinity with Cold War trade unionism. They had been raised in an affluent, affluent society in which, they were repeatedly assured, class barriers were being swept away. But the image of the "high mass consumption society" held up them by television contrasted painfully with the reality of life on housing estates and the shop floor. To hope to live like the middle class, they had to act like militant workers: to go in for more militant collective bargaining, and organise the one sphere in which they had some real power. (L. Panitch and C. Leys, The End of Socialism, Verso, 1997.) Here, then, was Callaghan's English Disease. The election of the Wilson government in 1964, in many ways, was not that of Blair 33 years later. Wilson, like Blair, committed himself to embrace the "white heat of technology" and raised against the "white heat of ruling class claptrap. We shall be frank in condemning all those who shirk from their duty as a role in this Wilson stated, targeting particularly the "professors of unaffordable strikes."
In 1976, the Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan declared that the "English disease" of indiscipline and labour militancy was undermining the profitability of UK capital. During the "English disease" became the raison d'etre of the ruling class.

The "English disease" now takes an apparently different form — from 2000 allowing the redefinition of the plague — no longer the threat of working class militancy, now simply the "obnoxious taint of bad judgement". The forces of capital scored a single victory over the working class that the period following Callaghan's speech. We're all, we're all, middle class now. The war is won, we've lost our dead, and those of us who are still afloat are down and live our sacrifices of lost pay and longer hours to live by the new law, flexibility.

This is not the case in the Guardian on 27/11/90. David Sanders, a professor of politics at Leeds University, declares that we are "in a process of class-dealignment". He notes that "A distinctive feature of Labour's war in 1977 was its failure to successfully appeal to all social classes. The party not only obtained a clear majority in the working class, but also in middle class votes that it ever had before. He contends that "Labour has lost working class support since 1957... but it does not have very much to lose by failing to make a specific appeal to its traditional supporters in the north, on the rates and so on. To do well in the next election, Labour needs to convince enough voters across all social classes that it is actually taking their concerns about the things that matter most to them.

This is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation. The basis for the argument is a false if unfortunate conclusion emanating from the political and social complexion of the situation.
Community-based organisations could be formed along the same lines as the anti-poll tax unions, but around a wider set of self-defined interests (ie. against debt enforcement) and employ direct action methods such as were developed in the anti-poll tax struggle and against, say, Hillgrove.

The starting point has to be the recognition that it is not possible to build an anti-capitalist movement apart from the daily needs and interests of everyday working class life. A movement against capital that is not made up of those exploited by capital in both a material and spiritual sense. "The first step always remains the regaining of an irreducible workers' partiality against the entire system of capital. Nothing will take place without class hatred; neither the elaboration of theory, our practical organisation... Any attempt to assume the general interest, every temptation to stop at the level of social science, will only serve to better inscribe the working class within the development of capital." (Marie Tronti, Social Capital, in Tids 17, 1973)

The rebuffing of autonomous working class organisation ought, therefore, to cohere around identifiable areas of struggle, proposed as follows:

1. The defence of working class communities:
The distinction between those in itself and for itself is often abandoned by the left, in favour of a sociological conception of class. The problem is that the working class exists under such circumstances not as a class defined through recognition of common interests and against another class, but only as a class defined by other class, for the purpose of exploitation. The defence of working class communities means, then, to organize within those communities for the defence of themselves and their interests against the class which opposes them, i.e. as council tenants against the state. It means identifying how our interests are threatened and how we might organize as a counter-power in our own defence. There must be a resistance to physical and ideological attack, an enemy as part of the process of regaining our awareness as a strength as a class. Community-based organizations could be formed along the same lines as the anti-poll tax unions, but around a wider set of self-defined interests (ie. against debt enforcement) and employ direct action methods such as were developed in the anti-poll tax struggle and against, say, Hillgrove.

2. Blue or white collar jobs. Moreover, both trade union membership and trade union militancy are on the rise. TUC figures show that unions carried out 63,871 ballots for industrial action in the year from June 1993 to June 1994, compared with 64,061 the previous year. It is estimated that 60% of the ballots involved direct strike action and the remainder led to improved deals as a result of the ballot. The Communions' TUC conference on the future of trade unionism, in Tids 17, 1973, recommended that the TUC should play a more active role in supporting industrial action. The trade union movement has historically been one of the most powerful forces in society and it remains the case that the union movement is able to effectively organize workers and defend their rights.

3. We change the way we live our lives because we are being watched; CCTV denies space to the possibility of collective, community-based relations.

CCTV Cameras Outside News International Headquarters - Site of the Derry Dispute
"Community-based organisations could be formed along the same lines as the anti-poll tax unions, but around a wider set of self-defined interests (ie, against debt enforcement) and employ direct action methods such as were developed in the anti-poll tax struggle and against, say, Hillgrove."

The starting point has to be the recognition that it is not possible to build an anti-capitalist movement apart from the daily needs and interests of everyday working class life. A movement against capital that is not made up of those exploited by capital in both meaningful and useful. "The first step always remains the regaining of an irreducible workers' solidarity against the entire system of capital. Nothing will take place without class hatred; neither the elaboration of theory, nor practical organisation... Any attempt to assume the general interest, every temptation to stop at the level of social science, will only serve to better inscribe the working class within the development of capital." (Maurice Trow, Social Capital, in Tiffs 17, 1973)

The rebuilding of autonomous working class organisation ought, therefore, to centre around identifiable areas of struggle, proposed as follows:

The defence of working class communities:
The distinction between class-in-itself and for-itself is often abandoned by the left in favour of a sociological conception of class. The problem is that this is the way the working class exists under such circumstances, not as a class defined through recognition of common interests and goals, but only as a class defined by that other class, for the purpose of exploitation. To organise against the defence of working class communities means, then, to organise within those communities for their own interests and those of the class which opposes them - as council tenants against the state. It means identifying how our interests are threatened and how we might organise as a counter-power in our own defence. There must be a commitment to physical struggle, not to the particular sectional interests of the trade union bureaucracy. Such a movement's purpose would be practical - not ideological, in that we change the way we live our lives because we are being watched; CCTV denies space to the possibility of collective, community-based relations."
while it would, of necessity in the course of workplace struggles, come to oppose this bureaucracy, its purpose would be to defend working class living standards, health and safety and above all its rank and file movement would be, simply, to fight against closures and cuts, for more pay and better conditions, shorter hours and more jobs and - to seek to organize in support of struggles within the workplace and within the working class community.

Organising the Unemployed: The Working class unemployed are designed to conspire the unemployed into the battle to force down wages. The only responsive capable of meeting both the interests of the unemployed and those in work is organisation of the unemployed through Claimants Unions fighting for a social wage (equivalent to the average working wages) to defend working class living standards across the board, and the needs New Labour’s attempt to pay the minimum wage as a drag anchor on wages in general.

Against Racism: Racism remains a key ideological weapon for the ruling class to control the working class. Since taking office in 1979 they introduced new immigration controls to move towards the creation of a cheap immigration and the destruction of union rights. New Labour have deployed the racist card with a viciousness that appears almost desperate. Working class people need to understand and resolve these two obligations; while it must move to defend minority communities from racist attack, its primary concern is to fight racism as a systemic racist threat. Rather than falling prey to the politics of difference, the multiculturalism which sits within black (and in particular black and white) political identity, the building of organisations committed to working class autonomy within the communities of the class. As Murray Bookchin (Anarchism, Marxism and the Future of the Left) has it "...It is the height of self-delusion for a minority - if we suppose we can substitute personal "militancy" for organisation, or personal "freedom" for a consistent revolutionary practice."

The boom of the 1980s which allowed the Thatcher government to claim to have delivered on its promise of prosperity was financed in part through deregulation of the City and financial services industry and an increase in the availability of personal credit. Deregulation allowed the City to take advantage of developments in Information technology and facilitated Capital’s plans to roam the world in search of new markets by allowing it to write cheques against future exploitation. The expansion of personal credit served a different purpose. Until 1982, terms for consumer credit lending were controlled by the state. The hiking of these controls was followed by relaxation of controls over building societies to allow them to market a wider range of financial products and to increase the proportion of funds raised from sources other than investors. As a result, more people than ever before had access to credit and to an increased range of consumer goods. As Elaine Kempson, a researcher for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation describes it "Credit provided a means of smoothing the peaks and troughs of daily living expenses for those who lived on incomes that were both low and liable to fluctuations, depending on the availability of overtime or shift working. People also used credit to tide them over between jobs... Credit also provided a lifeline for people who were unable to pay their bills - especially if they were being threatened with court action or disconnection from their fuel or water supply." (Life in a Low Incomes Joseph Rowntree Foundation 1995)

For these without access to licensed or regulated sources of credit, loan sharks and unlicensed lenders filled the gap. Fuel and water utility privatisation and the introduction of the first poll tax and subsequently the council tax comprised to increase the debt burden on low-income households. As availability of social housing declined with the drastic reduction in council building programmes, the introduction of the Right to Buy scheme and Rents to Mortgages, combined with the hyping of low cost mortgage options led to an increasing privatisation of the income leaving. The onset of recession in the 1990s led to a massive increase in personal debt and a rapid rise in mortgage arrears and repossessions. Since 1985, approximately 300,000 households have lost their homes through repossession proceedings. Debt - whether mortgage or rent arrears, fuel debt, credit card debt or councils tax - has become a constant destabilising factor in working class life. We hide from bailiffs, stuff unopened letters from creditors in drawers and hope our non-attendance on county court summations will make the debt of repossession go away.

As the econometrician Werner Bonefeld and John Holloway note "The boom of the 1980s acted as a neutralising agent (as) it helped to co-opt parts of the working class (in) to the project of prosperity. Poverty, unemployment and marginalisation of superfluous labour power constituted with prosperity. The boom vindicated the material and social position of market equality. The decomposition of resistance to poverty was based on property, a poverty which was the mirror image of a credit driven prosperity in the face of property, poverty broke the homogeneity of resistance against austerity... The threat of unemployment was reinforced by the threat of a forcible collection of unpaid debt, eviction and thus homelessness and poverty. The disciplining power of debt and precarious work cannot be overstated." (Bonefeld and Holloway ed. Global Capital, National States and the Politics of Money Macmillan 1993) that "disciplining power of debt overshadows all our attempts to forge a new politics of working class resistance. The fear it engenders disrupts solidarity and community. Working class life has become increasingly atomised, and the burden of debt is a deliberately engineered cause.

It follows then, that if we want to rebuild working class solidarity, we have to start with where we are and the problems we face, rather than attempt to build a politics on an idealised notion of working class life - we have to reforge class identity and politicisation around the question that holds us back - the question of debt. In the struggle against the poll tax real steps were taken to build active community groups capable of tackling real issues thrown up by the non payment campaign as it came to riot, itself in daily life. Anti-poll tax unions were able to provide legal advice in support of non-payment, both as leaflets and through immediate representation and support. Direct action was taken against enforcement procedures, through physical disruption of court proceedings, to monitoring and physical harassment of bailiffs.

When the Tories caved in, the anti-poll tax unions faded away. The politics of that period though showed us some insight into how we can re-establish a politics of active community resistance today.

Enforcement procedures for all forms of personal debt are relatively negligible. A first step to resistance would be to do nothing to all households in a given area, advise and information about altering legal aid, legal aid enforcement. More importantly, the provision of such information ought to allow a point of contact for anyone wanting to get involved in a campaign against working class debt in a particular area and the establishment of telephone trees etc. local groups could be set up and similar this to the original anti-poll tax unions, to co-ordinate information, hold advice surgeries etc. and to monitor the various enforcement strategies pursued. Anti-debt groups could seek to offer advice and help to any and anyone, group or individual, regardless of their circumstances and look to whether direct action could effectively prevent enforcement proceedings going ahead. Local groups should be established in areas of debt, bailiffs firms active in the area, and monitor their movements with a view to preventing the enforcement and any holding any household within that area. Bailiffs offices and cars could be targeted for direct action who are involved in enforcing anti-poll tax campaigns could be shouldered out of "anti-bailiff" and be made aware of the consequences of continued anti-working class activity and paralysis.

In the longer term, groups organised around anti-debt activities could co-ordinate political pressure and harassment such as to push debt agencies for particular households, estates etc. Those who profit from our poverty - whether they be banks, pawnbrokers, fuel companies etc. need public outlets to operate effectively and they need therefore public co-operation to be able to function at all. Their work effectively, if that "co-operation" were withdrawn, life might cease to be as easy. The need for co-operation, the demand of profitability and hence, the increase in working class debt, has made inscrutably a permanent pervasive daily task of resistance for a whole class. Whenever we think of going on strike, or quitting a job we can stand any longer, the threat of a line of inscrutable, unceasing disconnection, looms over us and we lower our heads since once more. Collective resistance is the only start then with what holds us up.

Jacob Rees has organised a campaign of the great and the good against Third World debt. All power to them. What we need in order to overcome the privatisation of life which is the legacy of the Thatcher/Maastricht and from which New Labour intend to profit. is a militant direct action campaign against those who steal and profit from us every day and every and no one else has the right to make money out of the middle of the night in a cold sweat over mortgage arrears, unpaid rent, fuel bills, council tax, electricity, gas, water, and any other goods or services politics is to have any meaning it has to show how we can resist the crises and fears of our economic and social fate. We can stop class based debt, based on the lessons and tactics of the anti poll tax movement would provide a way of breaking the solidarity within our communities by tackling head on that which usually acts as an astounding obstacle to the forging of such solidarity. This article is intended to at least raise the issue and suggest that with imagination and information we can build such a campaign. In the box below is a list of the many companies which profit from our debts. Give them hell. 

### Credit Consultants International (Thames Valley Collection Agency) 75–76 Shoe Lane, EC1 Tel: 020 7242 0841 Fax: 020 7931 8609 Web: www.teca.co.uk

### Baker Gore (Bailiffs) PO Box 391 Reading Berkshire RG2 0TZ Tel: 01189 597444 Fax: 01189 598500

### Credit Consultants Pacific Debt Recovery PO Box 315 Reading Berkshire RG2 0TZ Tel: 01189 597444 Fax: 01189 598500

### Moores Debt Recovery (Independent) PO Box 17 Reading Berkshire RG2 0TZ Tel: 01189 597444 Fax: 01189 598500

### Moorcroft Debt Recovery PO Box 112 Woking Surrey GU21 1EB Tel: 01483 778800 Fax: 01483 778811

### Thomas Egger Church Adams Bollotis (Repossession Specialists) 75–76 Shoe Lane, EC1 Tel: 020 7242 0841 Fax: 020 7931 8609 Web: www.teca.co.uk

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while it would, of necessity, in the course of workplace struggles. Consequently, to reverse this hierarchy, its purpose would be to define working class living standards, health and safety, work place rank and file movement would be, simply, to fight against closures and cuts, for more pay and better conditions, shorter hours and more jobs - and to seek to organize in support of struggles within the workplace and within the working class community.

Organising the Unemployed:
The Worker's Unemployment is designed to conscript the unemployed into the battle to force down wages. The only resource capable of meeting both the interests of the unemployed and those in work is organization of the unemployed through Citizens Unions fighting for a social wage (equivalent to the average working wages, to defend working class living standards across the board, and to) and New Labour's attempts to pay the minimum wage as a drag anchor on wages in general.

Against Racism:
Racism remains a key ideological weapon for the ruling class. Being in office since 1979 they introduced new immigration controls to move towards the creation of a white working class. New Labour have deployed the race card with a velocity that appears almost desperate. Working class solidarity needs to be grounded in two obligations; while it must move to defend minority communities from racist attack, its primary task must be to re-educate the Labour Party. Rather than falling prey to the politics of difference, the multiculturalism which sets white against black in poor relation to cultural difference, but funds for each group's sectional interests, a multicultural logic used as easily by the BNP as by liberal anti-racists, we need to set loyalty to class against loyalty to race.

Against the post-modern tyranny that says there are no longer any clear lines, the bottom line of all the above is that the key to reversing the "English disease" has to be, not abstract sociological and theoretical jousting, but the rebuilding of organizations committed to working class autonomy within the communities of the class. As Murray Bookchin (Anarchism, Marxism and the Future of the Left) has it "It is the height of self-deception to suppose we can substitute personal "militancy" for organisation, or personal "struggle" for a consistent revolutionary practice."

The boom of the 80s which allowed the Thatcher government to claim to have delivered on its promise of prosperity was financed in part through deregulation of the City and financial services industry and an increase in the availability of personal credit. Deregulation allowed the City to take advantage of developments in Information Technology and facilitated Capital's plans to roam the world in search of new markets by allowing it to write cheques against future exploitation. The expansion of personal credit served a different purpose. Until 1983, terms for consumer credit lending were controlled by the state. The Hiving of these controls was followed by relaxation of credit controls over building societies to allow them to market a wider range of financial products and to increase the proportion of funds raised from sources other than investors. As a result, more people than ever before had access to credit and to an increased range of consumer goods. As Elaine Kempton, a researcher for the Housewives' Rights Foundation describes it: "Credit provided a means of smoothing the peaks and troughs of daily living, for expenses for those who found incomes that were both low and liable to fluctuations, depending on the availability of overtime or shift working. People also used credit to tide them over between jobs ... Credit also provided a lifeline for people who were unable to pay their bills - especially if they were being threatened with court action or disconnection from their fuel or water supply." (Life in a Low-Cost Society: Joseph Rowntree Foundation 1996.)

For these without access to licensed or regulated sources of credit, loan sharks and unlicensed lenders filled the gap. Fuel and water utility privatisation and the introduction of first the poll tax and subsequently the council tax conspired to increase the debt burden on low-income households. As availability of social housing diminished with the drastic reduction in council building programmes, the introduction of the Right to Buy scheme and Rents to Mortgage, combined with the hyping of low cost mortgage options led to an increasing privatisation of the income living. The onset of recession in the 1990s led to a massive increase in personal debt and a rapid rise in mortgage arrears and repossessions. Since 1980, approximately 1300 households have lost their homes through repossession proceedings. Debt - whether mortgage or rent arrears, fuel debt, credit card debt or unskilled council tax - has become a constant destabilising factor in working class life. We have from bailiffs, staff unspoken letters from creditors in drawers and hope our non-attendance on court count summonses will make the dread of repossession go away.

As the economists Werner Bonefeld and John Hollway note: "The boom of the 80s acted as a neutralising agent as it helped to co-opt parts of the working class to the project of prosperity. Unemployment and marginalisation of superfluous labour power co-ordinated with prosperity. The boom vindicated the moral and material positions of market equality. The decomposition of resistance to austerity was based on poverty, a poverty which was the minor image of a credit driven prosperity in the face of poverty. Prosperity broke the hegemony of resistance against austerity. The threat of unemployment was reinforced by the threat of a formidable collection of unpaid debt, eviction and thus homelessness and poverty. The disciplining power of debt and precarious work cannot be overstated." (Bonefeld and Hollway ed. Global Capital, National States and the Politics of Money Macmillan 1993) "This disciplining power of debt overshadows all our attempts to forge a new politics of working class resistance. The fear it engenders disrupts solidarity and community. Working class life has become increasingly immobilised, and the burden of debt is a deliberately engineered cause.

It follows, that if we want to rebuild working class solidarity, we have to start with where we are and the problems we face; rather than attempt to build a "politics, based on an idealised notion of working class life - we have to refining class identity and politicalisation around the question that holds us back - the question of debt. In the struggle against the poll tax real steps were taken to build active community groups capable of tackling real issues thrown up by the non-payment campaign as it came to root itself in daily life. Anti poll tax users were able to provide legal advice in support of non-payment, both as leaflets and through immediate representation and support. Direct action was taken against enforcement procedures, through physical disruption of court proceedings, to monitoring and physical harassment of bailiffs.

When the Tories came to, the anti poll tax users faded away. The practices of that period though should give us some insight into how we can re-establish a culture of active community resistance today.

Enforcement procedures for all forms of personal debt are equally vile. A first step to resistance would be to distribute to all households in a given area, advice and information about the options of non-payment for enforcement. More importantly, the provision of such information ought to allow a point of contact for anyone willing to get involved in a campaign against working class debt in a particular area and the establishment of a network of telephone trees. Local groups could be set up that would work as a network to the original anti-poll tax users, to co-ordinate information, hold advice surgeries etc. and to monitor the various enforcement strategies pursued. Anti-debt groups could seek to offer advice and help as a community and mobilise the capacity of our communities to act collectively. The old deficiencies of repression, disconnection, looses over us and we lower our heads once more. Collective resistance has not started when with what holds us back. Lobbies have organised a campaign of the great and the good, against Third World Debt. All power to them. What we need in order to overcome the privatisation of life which is the legacy of the Thatcherite/Macmillan and from which New Labour intend to profit, is a militant direct action campaign against those who leach and profit from us every day, and more of us wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat over mortgage arrears, unpaid rent, fuel bills, credit card debt. The politics of anti-racism and anti-part in have any meaning it has to show us how to can resist the necessities and fears of everyday life of the working class. It is debt, that debt, solidarity within our communities by tackling head on that which usually acts as an astonishing obstacle to the forging of such solidarity. This article is intended to at least raise the issue and to suggest that with imagination and information we can build such a campaign. In the box below is a list of the many companies who profit from our debts. Give them hell.

Thomas Eggar Church Adams Bollotors (Repossession Specialists) 75-76 Shoe Lane, EC1 Tel: 020 7242 0841 Fax: 020 7831 8609 Web: www.teca.co.uk

P&R Baker Co (Bailiffs) PO Box 391 Reading Berkshire RG2 0TZ Tel: 01189 597444 Fax: 01189 598500

Credit Consultants International (Thames Valley Collection Agency) St Andrews House West Street Woking Surrey GU21 1EB Tel: 01483 778800 Fax: 01483 778811

Moorecroft Debt Recovery Services PO Box 17 2 Spring Gardens Stockport SK1 4AU Tel: 0161 480 4966 Fax: 0161 477 3864

Black Flag 293 & Revolution
SATPAL RAM

SATPAL RAM is 59 years old this year. He will be 60 in December. Regular readers will be familiar with Satpal's case. In 1988 he was attacked in a restaurant in Birmingham by a gang of six masked thugs. During the attack Satpal was stabbed twice. He defended himself using a small knife he had in his pocket and was later treated in hospital. The trial was a farce - and the all-white jury convicted after 20 minutes of deliberation. He was convicted of murder and given a tariff of 40 years. He appealed in 1992 failed when the appeal judges simply revisited the flawed evidence of the original trial. Sixteen years later, he remains in prison as a category D prisoner, with no idea of when he will be released. His crime was to be black and to have the audacity to defend his life.

During Satpal's time in prison, he has spent an enormous amount of time in segregation, often following an attack by prison officers in his cell. Further, he has never been allowed to settle in a prison, form relationships and set up visiting routines as he has been constantly moved from one prison to another. So far he has been in 65 prisons.

Late last year, in Full Sutton Prison, Satpal was subjected to more mistreatment from the prison authorities. Having agreed to go into the segregation unit for adjudication in a previous incident, he began to gather up his toiletries and legal papers to take with him. He was told: he could not take anything. Despite the fact that he needed his legal papers for a visit from his solicitor the following Monday. As the duty officer would not let him take his things, Satpal refused to leave the cell. On the Saturday afternoon the 'Multi Squad' (POs in padded uniforms and carrying not-shielded batons) entered with Satpal's cell and dragged him down to segregation and put him into a strip cell. He was forcibly stripped, his glasses and female POs - his shirt was torn off his back and he was thrown to the ground while the rest of his clothes were dragged on the floor. He was then put in a separate cell, in a separate wing.

The trial of Lorenzo Kimmshee Erwin, Damien McCleary and Malik Almas Ahmad, for 'disrupting' a council meeting at City Hall, Chattanooga, Tennessee, to protest the killing of two black men by city police, has been put back yet again. The trial, which could result in the defendants facing six months in jail, has been repeatedly put off by the state on the basis that the District Attorney was "not ready." Finally scheduled for September 10, 2009, the trial was not set off again on the DAs application, and is now set down for 11 January 2010. Defence attorneys are filing motions to dismiss for failure to prosecute.

Please write to the district attorney demanding the charges against the Chattanooga 3 be dismissed. Write to Mr. Bill Perdue, Co-Chair, Hamilton County District Attorney General, City County Courts, 3rd Floor, 60 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

CHATTANOOGA 3

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REPUBLICAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

Despite the release of most IRA and INLA prisoners as a result of the political process of the Good Friday agreement, political status to dissident Republicans in Maghaberry is still denied. Refused segregation, Republican prisoners are surrounded in the jail by about a hundred loyalist prisoners, who, as well as attacking the prisoners, use the non-segregated visitors to gain intelligence on family and friends of prisoners, eating down car number plates etc. Carl Kilbride, linked to the Real IRA, is at present on 23 hour a day lock up. Tommy Craig, linked to Republican Sinn Fein, has been on 23 hour lock up since June 29th. The prisoners have issued a demands as part of their long battle for political status, such as recognition as a group the right to have their own spokesmen and a prison wing of their own.

Danny McAlister, a Republican prisoner in Portlaoise, commenced a hunger strike on 19 August on the instruction of the 36 county authorities' refusal to allow him compassionate parole to visit his brother, who has been in a coma for a number of years. His mother, who has a respiratory illness, Twenty years on from the hunger strikes which led Bobby Sands and his comrades to sacrifice their lives in the fight for political status, Republicans are having to battle for the same demands again. All of us, whether anarchists, socialists, pro or anti-sectarian process Republicans, should support the prisoners demands against the British and Irish states to recognition as conditions at Maghaberry and Portlaoise.

Contact with the prisoners at Portlaoise can be made via:

C.U. Republican Prisoners, E10 Larnany, 3rd Floor, 16a Mary Street, Co Dublin. You could also contact those at Maghaberry through either Republican Sinn Fein 253 Park Street Dungannon or 3rd Floor County Sovereignty Movement PO Box 651259 Redditch Dublin 1.


A PLEA FOR HELP FROM DEATH ROW

On 11 August B. In Cary Indiana, Zelo Azania was arrested without explanation near his home, pistol whipped and charged with bank robberies and a car theft. On 29 May he was convicted and sentenced to death. His appeal was rejected in October 11, but the death sentence was overturned by the Supreme Court of Indiana in May 93 only to be reinstated in March 96.

Zelo's case has been hampered by appalling representation throughout. There was no pre-trial identification in his case and later trials have be re-试 again. At first time round he was shackled in the presence of the all-white jury, second time before a jury of whites and a Mexican. A court ballot spoke to the jurors during the trial and asked them to be ready to deliver individual "death penalty verdicts." Prosecutors relied on testimony they knew to be false. On 6 June 2000, the Indiana Supreme Court turned down Zelo's latest appeal. Zelo is a passionate political activist before he was jailed, and continues to be active in jail. He urgently needs our help. As he says, "The use of the death penalty to repress liberation movements is State sanctioned terrorism. Revolutions are criminalised as enemies, a threat to the opulent security of the ruling elite, and must be treated accordingly. U.S. capital punishment is an instrument of class warfare. The U.S. criminal system is anchored in procedural issues rather than guilt or innocence. The law courts hold that mere factual innocence is no reason to carry out a death sentence properly received." Contact Zelo's Campaign c/o CROSSROAD Support Network, 3200 19th Street, Richland, Ohio 60633 USA. Website: 727-777-9397. Email: crossroad. info. com. http://www. afrikan. net/crossroad

GEORGE BULSARA ANOTHER MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

On 26th April Jill Dando was shot dead on the doorstep of her Fulham home. In broad daylight as she was returning home from work at the BBC. Dando was killed by a single shot to the back of the head. No one heard the shot. Immediately Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell of the Yard solemnly informed us that it was a professional job carried out by a hitman. All that was lacking was a suspected killer and their employer.

Dando was famously the pretty face of Criminality, the true-life crime programme. She thus straddled the all-important overlap between crime fighting and the media, which has almost replaced all other forms of documentary making. Crimebust is important, not so much for catching criminals, but is a weapon in the (falling) police PR strategy and for fuelling the concerns of middle England over rising crime rates, played on so effectively by Jack Straw.

Eighteen months later, running out of excuses, the Met appeared to have resolved the matter in time honoured fashion. They arrested Barry George aka Barry Burtles, a vulnerable man who had been housed locally by the council. Getting from professional hitman to sad neighbour was obviously going to take some explaining, but our fearless boys in blue were quick to a new theory - George hero worshiped Freddie Mercury before real name was Bulsara, so he must have been scarred by Dando as well. Here we can see that we had all the key ingredients for a sensational story - pretty journalist and TV presenter, linked to the law and order agenda and a stalker of the rich and famous – all that seems to be missing is any actual evidence. The cops and their allies, with unimpeachable free press, celebrated this major act of detection by naming a crime fighting institute at University College London in memory of Dando.

George goes on trial in March. Fortunately for him we are not the only ones to resent a trial. Possibly just possibly, this may be one wrong conviction which is prevented. If however George is convicted the bourgeoisie will sleep soundly once again, the media campaign to turn Dando into an icon of these troubled times will continue unabated and the rest of us will look over our shoulders with even more nervousness than usual.

NIKOS MAZIOTIS

On 9 January 2000, the second day of his trial Nikos Maziotis, jumped from the dock, dodged the police and managed to reach the bench and attack the judge before the riot police intervened and violently restrained him.

The court wanted a summary proceeding, in the spirit of the anti-terrorist law which is to be passed in Greece following US pressure. On the first day of the trial two of Maziotis' witnesses were forcibly removed from the court. Nikos is trial for a bomb placed in support of the resistance against the TVX Gold multinational mining company (News 21, 219). When Nikos started saying that he was not a criminal and that criminals are the multinational who destroy the environment and the cops who murder immigrants, the judge refused to let him continue and declared that the pleading was over. On the second day of the trial Nikos stated that he would not be tried under these conditions. The judge ordered the lawyers to continue the trial, and that's when he tried to attack the judge.

However, on the basis of these submissions, his fifth recent sentence was reduced to five years.
SATPAL RAM

SATPAL Ram is 55 years old this year - this will be his last election. Regular readers will be familiar with Satpal's case. In 1986 he was attacked in a restaurant in Birmingham by a gang of six black thugs. During the attack Satpal was stabbed twice. He defended himself using a small knife he had in his pocket, but was later stabbed in hospital. The trial was a farce - and the all white jury convicted after 30 minutes of deliberation. He was convicted of murder and given a tariff of 60 years. He appealed in 1995 failed when the appeal judges simply revised the flawed evidence of the original trial. Sixteen years later, he remains in prison as a category B prisoner, with no idea of when he will be released. His crime was to be black and to have the audacity to defend his life.

During Satpal’s time in prison, he has spent an excessive amount of time in segregation, often following an attack by prison officers in his cell. Further, he has never been allowed to settle in a prison, form relationships and set up visiting routines as he has been constantly moved from one prison to another. So far he has been in 60 prisons.

Late last year, in Full Sutton Prison, Satpal was subjected to more harassment from the prison authorities. Having agreed to go into the segregation unit for adjudication on a previous incident, he began to gather up his toiletries and legal papers to take with him. He was told he could not take anything despite the fact that he needed his legal papers for a visit from his solicitor the following Monday. As the duty officer would not let him take his things, Satpal refused to leave the cell. On the Saturday afternoon the ‘Multi Squad’ (POs in padded uniforms and carrying riot equipment) came into Satpal’s cell and dragged him down to segregation and put him into a strip cell. He was forcibly stripped of all his clothing - his shirt was torn off his back and he was thrown to the ground while the rest of his clothes were dragged away from him. It was evident that Satpal was left preoccupied on the ground for 10 minutes. When Satpal’s solicitor turned up the next day, Satpal was brought into the interview room totally dehydrated, still wearing the torn shirt and the deep lacerations caused by ratchets handled by clearly visible. The solicitor who had then waited for an hour and a half before Satpal’s legal documents were produced, leaving only 30 minutes before the interview was ended.

These incidents took place against the background of an Inquest panel hearing meeting on his case and widespread demonstrations in solidarity with Satpal marking the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Six.

Decisions on Satpal’s parole and future appeal routes are still pending. However Paul Kosterg has finally agreed to move him to a category C prison at the end of January, after a meeting with the Free Satpal Ram campaign is pressuring in HMP Berwyn. He needs all the support he can get.

Write to Satpal at: HMP Wakefield, Henry Lawes, Wakefield, West Yorks, Y1B 6EJ or check the website first to make sure he is still there. Contact us at: Satpalcampaign@wacsc.demon.co.uk. E-mails will be sent by post to Satpal the same day.

CHATTANOOGA 3

The trial of Lorenzo Kimboke Erin, Damon McClell and Mike Musa Abraham, for ‘disrupting’ a council meeting at City Hall, Chattanooga, Tennessee, to protest the killing of two black men by city police, has been put back yet again. The trial, which could result in the defendants facing six months in jail, has been repeatedly put off by the state on the basis that the District Attorney was “not ready”. Finally scheduled for September 19, 2003, the trial was not off again on the DAs application, and is now set down for 11 January 2004. Defense attorneys are filing motions to dismiss for failure to prosecute.

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Damien McLear, a Republican prisoner in Portlaoise, commenced a hunger strike on Sunday of this week. He added his name to the 36 county authorities’ refusal to allow him compassionate leave to visit his brother, who has been ill for some time. He has a respiratory illness. Twenty years on from the hunger strike which led Bobby Sands and his comrades to sacrifice their lives in the fight for political status, Republicans are having to battle for the same demands again. All of us, whether anarchists, socialists, pro or anti-sectarian process Republicans, should support the prisoners demands against the British and Irish state in relation to conditions at Maghaterry and Portlaoise.

Contact with the prisoners at Portlaoise can be made via: CVC Republican Prisoners, E. Lening, 2350 S. 26th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145 and those at Maghaterry through either Republican Sinn Fein 233 Pearse Street Dublin 1 or CVC. The Irish Republican Army, PO Box 6082, Udine Street, Dublin 8.

Nikon Maziotes

On 9 January 2000, the second day of his trial, Nikos Maziotis, jumped from the dock and dodged the police and managed to reach the bench and attack the judge before the riot police intervened and violently restrained him.

The court wanted a summary proceeding, in the spirit of the anti-terrorist law which is to be passed in Greece following US pressure. On the first day of the trial two of Maziotis’ witnesses were forcibly removed from the court. Nikos is on trial for a bomb placed in support of the resistance against the TVX Gold multinational mining company, (see link). When Nikos started saying that he was not a criminal and that criminals are the multinationals who destroy the environment and the cops who murder immigrants, the judge refused to let him continue and declared that the pleading was over. On the second day of the trial Nikos stated that he would not be tried under these conditions. The judge ordered the lawyers to continue the trial, and that’s when he tried to attack the judge.

However, on the basis of these submissions, his fifth year sentence was reduced to five years.
PHILADELPHIA - 450 ARRESTED AT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

During 3 days of protests at the Republican convention last summer, over 450 people were arrested, and the level of police brutality (and police numbers - over 20000) deployed reached a new peak. Philadelphia Chief of Police Timucin Justice justified the criminalization of the protests by denouncing all those involved as "out-of-towners" and "professional protestors". Three protestors appear to have been picked at random from hundreds arrested on 1 August, and charged with riot, conspiracy and assault on "an officer". They were held on bail of $5000 each. The three, Camille Viveros, Darby Landy, and Eric Steiling, face long jail terms simply because the state has decided to flex its muscle against the anti-capitalist movement and frighten off any other public support. Vivelos in particular is in desperate need of legal funds.

Letters to Indonesian Delegates, PO Box 44098, Boston MA 02233
Letters of protest to Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, City Hall, PO Box 215, Philadelphia PA 19105, fax 215-686-2660

MAYDAY PRISONERS

There are still a number of people inside following last year's May Day events. Please send cards, letters of support etc. to:

Paul Revel PO Box 59599
WAM, Wandelrow, PO Box 257
Health Center, Wandelrow
London NW1 5HS

This issue of May is due to be released on "Tagging" fairly soon.

Michael Collins PO Box 12939
WAM, Emelyn, Eastchurch
Sheerness Kent ME2 1AY

Remember all letters are read so do not write anything that may jeopardise someone's freedom. There are several people whose cases are still outstanding. Their trials are being held over the next couple of months.

For further information contact:
Legal Defence & Monitoring Group 
cbj MB Mavors 
London WC1H 3XH (envelope SAE)

HUNGER STRIKES IN TURKEY

86 left wing political prisoners are on hunger strike in Turkish jails. 133 have started "death-fasting". Turkish Justice Minister Mustafa Saritürk is rejecting the prisoners' demands and threatening "medical intervention"; however, the Turkish Doctors Union have declared that to interfere with a hunger striking prisoner is unethical. In 1996, twelve leftist prisoners died from death-fasting.

The hunger strike comes after weeks of confrontation in Turkish prisons. Security forces have stormed prison dormitories to break up protests against the use of isolation cells and to tighten their control within the prisons. Over 40 prisoners are reported dead - most died in fires that the security forces set off or allowed to take hold. The Turkish authorities are justifying their actions, saying that the prisoners were controlled by left wing groups such as Dev Sol, despite the obvious fact that they are prisoners, controlled by guards and soldiers.

Up till now the prisoners have been in dormitories rather than cells. Whilst these are embarrassing for the government when confronted by human rights monitors and international groups they do provide the opportunity for solidarity in the face of brutality from prison guards. Moving prisoners to cells will break this and make prisoners more vulnerable to torture and isolation in lonely cells.

The protests have sparked solidarity action inside and outside Turkey. Three anarchist prisoners at the Kyzylcuk prison in Athens, Greece - Nikos Miziatis, Arasim Iskoulian and Simeon Seissis - are on hunger strike expressing their solidarity with the prisoners' struggle and hunger strike in Turkey. Two other anarchist comrades - who on 14 December took part in a demonstration supporting prisoners in Turkey and demanding the immediate disbandment of isolation prisoner units - were found "guilty of attacking a tourist" (who had been providing the prisoners with fascists

sattled and sentenced to 20 months by an Athens court on 18 December. In London, Turkish militants held a demonstration on the London Eye (the millennium wheel), hanging banners and singing in two of the pools before being arrested.

Injuries and fatalities with the prisoners have been repeatedly attacked by the Turkish police, with at least one demonstrator killed in Ankara, and 88 arrested. The state-backed Ceyre Wegels fascist group has also been involved in attacks. In Istanbul, Giugliani between fascists and Ceyre Wegels left 4 anti-fascists injured. To top it all, the Turkish cops have staged demonstrations calling for amnesties for those implicated in the prison massacres!

ANARCHIST PRISONERS IN TURKEY

Anarchist prisoners in the Turkish prison system are doubly oppressed. As well as brutalization from the prison officers, it is clear that anarchist prisoners are being victimised by the Kemalist and Stalinist prisoners who have a very large degree of control in the political wings.

The 5th May Group (London anarchists in exile) state that the new (nom domain) system has been put on the agenda by the Turkish government for pacification of individuals in prison by way of atomisation, elimination of the possibility of forming social relationships, and the possibility of fighting back through the organization of the same groups with the same methods as to our comrades just because they are anarchists.

The 5th May Group are publicising the case of the isolated anarchist prisoner who has been isolated for his political ideas, warned not to speak to anyone about anarchists' direct access to political prisons, and had access to medical treatment restricted.

This prisoner, whose name is being withheld for safety reasons, has kidney disease and needs urgent funds to pay for medical treatment. Donations should be sent to 5th May Group PO Box 2495, London (cheques payable to Emme Ouyed). For further information contact cmenset@ukonline.co.uk.

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

No Ocean Separating Our Desire For Justice

A Benefit CD

A lot of benefit albums are either tracks by worthy activist bands that you might not listen to or offers from big bands trying to get some street credibility. This album is far better. What's more, many of the tracks are directly or indirectly relevant to Mumia's case and the politics around it. There are 13 tracks from all sorts of bands if you don't like digi decks you may find that ever represented, but there is everything from Pitchshifter's hardcore metal to U2's North African drum and bass and Bryan Wilson and Scott Howie jazz funk poetry. There are some big names - Primal Scream's Stan with Augustus Pablo, takes a lot of sense on this album. Other bands include in Mumia's statements or messages of support for him.

The facts of Mark Barleymore's case ought to be familiar to black flag readers by now. On 8 June 1994, Mark Barleymore, a 33 year old writer from Sheffield went for a walk with his baby daughter and a friend, Jane Leatham. They stopped for a drink at the Pamona, a pub near his home. While waiting for Mark to collect their drinks from the bar, Jane was verbally abused by a group of drunken students. The abuse continued when Mark and Jane got up to leave, and when Mark went over to question the students about their behaviour he was hit over the head with a beer bottle and beaten up by four or five of the group. In the early stages of the attack one of the students produced a knife which Mark managed to get hold of. Mark was chased and brought to the ground three times, over a distance of 70 yards, sustaining broken ribs, a broken nose and several head wounds. In the fury of their attack, some of the students received minor accidental knife wounds. All independent witness evidence confirmed that it was Mark who was being attacked, but Mark was arrested, and subsequently charged with five counts of GBH.

At his trial, the student witnesses admitted assaulting Mark, one confessing that he went "apeshit" and had been "affected" by the amount of alcohol he'd drunk. The students said about having also smoked marijuana, but the trial judge refused to admittestimonial evidence to the contrary because it would affect the jury's "impression of the students' culpability". This amounts to saying that no effective defence was to be allowed on the basis that the students' culpability was worth more than the weight of a working class local man. Despite the best efforts of Judge Baker the local CPS who withheld evidence as to criminal convictions of the student witnesses, copies of interview reports, a copy of the Search Register and the original handwritten statements and the Star newspaper which acted as a mouth piece for South Yorkshire police throughout - the jury convicted on only two of the original five charges, indicating that they had not accepted the CPS had instigated the violence.

Judge Baker allowed the CPS to substitute lesser charges when the trial was almost over, for which Mark was then convicted. Following adjournment for consideration of these reports, which recommended probation, Baker handed down a sentence of 12 years

BEATEN UP, FITTED UP, LOCKED UP

Pamphlet produced by the Justice for Mark Barleymore Campaign £2

Many of the bands are well known from Mumia benefits or other political campaigns but others are barely known now. The project received a lot of help from Ferrira Maguari, formerly of militia, Basque purifiers Negu Corri, of many of the contributors are from Europe, South America and Africa. A lot of the songs are not in English, and none the worse for it. Even when fermi raps in Basque alongside Oциano rappers, Galan Underground you get an idea what he is talking about.

If you don't know about Mumia the double cd comes with a booklet, in English, Spanish and Basque, about his case, the background to his commitment to struggles in the US and the disgraceful history of the judicial murder of political activists. Most importantly it includes a call for emergency action in support of Mumia.

The variety on this album reflects the breadth of support of the Mumia campaign has without any dilution of the politics which he stands for. The quality of the music is a great tribute to someone who has inspired and continues to inspire many activists around the world. Available for £2 from AT distribution, and cheaper from WAA SCC EDho on Greg Harrick (www.ccm-azonki.co.uk).
PHILADELPHIA - 450 ARRESTED AT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

During 3 days of protests at the Republican convention last summer, over 450 people were arrested, and the level of police brutality (and police numbers - over 3,000) deployed reached a new peak. Philadelphia Chief of Police Thomas J. Jackson justified the criminalisation of the protests by denouncing all those involved as "out-of-towners" and "professional protesters." Three protesters appear to have been picked at random from hundreds arrested on 19 August charged with riot, conspiracy and assault on an officer. They were held on a bail of $400,000. The three, Camille Viveros, Darby Landy and Eric Stenberg, face long jail terms simply because the state has decided to flex its muscles against the anti-capitalist movement and frighten off any wider public support. Vivirios in particular is in desperate need of legal funds. 

MAYDAY PRISONERS

There are still a number of people inside following last year's May Day events. Please send cards of support etc. to: 

Paul Reiff FR9599 
HAP Wandsworth, PO Box 257, Heathfield Road, London SW18 5HS 
(He is due to be released on "tagging" fairly soon)

Michael Collins FR1089 
HAP Elmley, Eastcurh
Sheerness Kent ME4 7AP

Remember all letters are read so do not write anything that may jeopardize someone's freedom. There are several people whose cases are still outstanding. Their trials should be held over the next couple of months.

For further information contact: Legal Defence & Monitoring Group 8 IBN Havers London WC1H 3XJ (envelope S4E)

HUNGER STRIKES IN TURKEY

88 left wing political prisoners are on hunger strike in Turkish jails. 137 have started "death-fasting." Turkish Justice Minister Hikmet Saritürk is rejecting the prisoners' demands and threatening "medical intervention"! However, the Turkish Doctors Union have declared that to intervene with a hunger striking prisoner is unethical. In 1966, twelve leftist prisoners died from death-fasting.

The hunger strikes comes after weeks of confrontation in Turkish prisons. Security forces have stormed prison dormitories to break up protests against the use of isolation cells and to tighten their control within the prisons. Over 40 prisoners are reported dead - mostly died in fines that the security forces set against or allowed to take hold. The Turkish authorites are justifying their actions, saying that the prisons are controlled by left wing groups such as Dev Sol, despite the obvious fact that they are prisons, controlled by guards and soldiers.

Up till now the prisoners have been in dormitories rather than cells. Whilst these are bad conditions for the government when confronted by human rights movements, as the left wing groups they do provide the opportunity for solidarity in the face of brutality from prison guards. Moving prisoners to cells will break this and make prisoners more vulnerable to torture and isolation in lockups.

The protests have sparked solidarity action inside and outside Turkey. Three anarchist prisoners at the Korydallos prison in Athens - Nikos Maziotis, Asimio Lepesioglou and Simos Sideris - are in hunger strike expressing their solidarity with the prisoners' struggle and hunger strike in Turkey. Two other anarchist comrades, who on 14 December took part in a demonstration supporting prisoners in Turkey and demanding the immediate dismantling of isolation prisons - were found "guilty of attacking a terrorist" (who had been providing the protesters with fascist

sated) and sentenced to 20 months by an Athens court on 18 December.

In London, Turkish militants held a demonstration on the London Eye (the millennium wheel) hanging banners and singing in two of the pools before being arrested.

Rallies in solidarity with the prisoners have been repeatedly attacked by the Turkish police, with at least one demonstrator killed in Ankara, and 68 arrested. The state-backed Ceyre Wolves fascist group has also been involved in attacks. A call was made to a Socialist Party centre which was full of demonstrators (who were later arrested). Clashes between anti-fascists and Ceyre Wolves left 4 anti-fascists injured. To top it all, the Turkish cops have staged a new wave of investigations calling for -arrests for those implicated in the prison massacres!

ANARCHIST PRISONERS IN TURKEY

Anarchist prisoners in the Turkish prison system are doubly oppressed. As well as brutality from the prison officers, it is clear that anarchist prisoners are being victimised by the left wing and Stalinist prisoners who have a varying degree of control in the political wings.

The 5th May Group London anarchists in exile stated that the new (non-dormitory) system has been put on the agenda by the Turkish government for purification of individuals in prison by way of internment, elimination of the possibility of forming social relationships...and the possibility of fighting back through resistance... for this reason the prisoners reacted by forming the 'anti-stalinist space type cells' but, without collaboration with the left wing-Stalinist left. They are doing the same things to our comrades just because they are anarchists.

The 5th May Group are publicising the case of a Turkish anarchist prisoner who has been isolated for his political ideas, warned not to speak to anyone about anarchism, denied access to political wings and had medical treatment restricted.

This prisoner, whose name is being withheld for safety reasons, has kidney disease and needs urgent funds to pay for his medical treatment.

Donations should be sent to 5th May Group, PO Box 2495, London (cheques payable to Emine Ozkazil). For further information contact: emineozkazil@hotmail.com

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

No Ocean Separating Our Desire For Justice

A Benefit CD

A lot of benefit albums are either tracks by worthy activist bands that you might not listen to or official from big bands trying to get some street credibility. This album is far better. What's more, many of the tracks are directly or indirectly relevant to Mumia's case and the politics around it. There are 10 tracks from all sorts of bands, if you don't like them you may find that even Pitchshifter's hardcore metal to U2's North African drum and bass and Bryan Wilson/Scott Horne jazz funk poetry. There are some big names - Primal Scream's Star, with Augustus Pablo, makes a lot of sense on this album. Other bands we liked in Mumia's statements or messages of support for him.

The facts of Mark Bamber's case ought to be familiar to black flag readers by now. On 6 June 1994, Mark Bamber, a 19 year old writer from Sheffield went for a walk with his baby daughter and a friend, Jane Leadbrough. They stopped for a drink at the P上赛季, a pub near his home. While waiting for Mark to collect their drinks from the bar, Jane was verbally abused by a group of drunken students. The abuse continued when Mark and Jane got up to leave, and when Mark went over to question the students about their behaviour he was hit over the head with a beer bottle or heavy glass and kicked up by several of the group. In the early stages of the attack one of the students produced a knife which Mark managed to get hold of. Mark was chased and brought to the ground three times, over a distance of 150 yards, sustaining broken ribs, a broken nose and several head wounds. In the ferocity of their attack, some of the students received minor accidental knife wounds. All independent witness evidence confirmed that it was Mark who was being attacked. But it was Mark who was arrested, and subsequently charged with five counts of GBH.

At his trial, the student witnesses admitted assaulting Mark, one confessing that he went "apeshit" and had been "affected by the amount of alcohol I had drunk. The students listed having also smoked cannabis, but the trial judge refused to admit evidence to the contrary because it would affect the jury's "opinion of the students credibility" taking the point that no effective defence was to be allowed on the bars that the students' credibility was worth more than that of a working class local man. Despite the best efforts of Judge Baker the local CPS who withheld evidence as to criminal convictions of the student witnesses, copies of interview notes, a copy of the Search Register and the original hand written statements and the Star newspaper which acted as a mouth piece for South Yorkshire police throughout - the jury convicted on only two of the original five charges, indicating that they had not Mark illustrated the violence.

Judge Baker allowed the CPS to substitute lesser charges when the trial was almost over, for which Mark was then convicted. Following adjournment for reports, which recommended probation, Baker handed down a sentence of 12 years

BEATEN UP, FITTED UP, LOCKED UP

Pamphlet produced by the Justice for Mark Barmasley Campaign £2

Many of the bands are well known from Mumia benefits or other political campaigns but others are barely known here. The project received a lot of help from Ferrini Magnanari, formerly of militia, Basque punks Negro Corral. Many of the contributors are from Europe, South America and Africa. A lot of the songs are not in English, and none the worse for it. Even when ferm Damas in Basque alongside Oscuras rappers: I call you Underground you get an idea what he is talking about.

If you don't know about Mumia the double cd comes with a booklet, in English, Spanish and Basque, about his case, the background of the struggle in the US and the disgraceful history of the judicial murder of political activists. Most importantly it includes a call for an emergency action in support of Mumia.

The variety on this album reflects the breadth of support of the Mumia campaign has without any dilution of the politics which he stands for. The quality of the music is a great tribute to someone who has inspired and continues to inspire many activists around the world.

Available for £5 from AT distribution, and for free from the WAC 3CD Edito on Gora Herrik (www.cas-winanchik).
A spot of recent pamphlets as workpeople organizing, within, outside and inside of the official unions have come out over the past year, notably from the Workers Revolutionary Party, and it is clear as distinct responses to the increasing attacks on trade unionism.

On 31 October 1986, 45 workers at J.J. Fast Food Distribution in Aylesbury went on strike to contest the sacking of their shop steward.

They were immediately locked out and attacked by the Conservative Party, the strike, which began with a demonstration and ended with the onslaught on the workers. The strike ended after Buchan, a local newspaper, published a report of the workers' protest, and the management backed down.

Branch profile for many years and suffered police harassment, violence and attempts to fit him up in the past. The "Pamona incident" provided them with an opportunity to rid themselves of someone who had previously been a long-standing and well-liked figure in their organisation.

A report by the Food Industry Workers Association on the strike described how the workers had been locked out and that the strike was supported by a large number of trade unionists, who had been present throughout.

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A spot of recent pamphlets on workhorse organizing, within, outside and inside of the official unions, have come out over the past year. Not fashionable politics, maybe, but at least as capital as a trip to Seattle. Here we review:

UP AGAINST THE ODDS  
-The J.J. Fast Food Workers Strike by John MacArthur

THE COURIERS ARE REVOLTING  
-The despatch Industry Workers Union 1989-92 by Des Patchtridge

On 31 October 1986, 45 workers at J.J. Fast Food Distribution in a magnificent victory were contesting the sacking of their shop steward.

They were immediately locked out and attacked by Turkish nationalist friends of their boss Mustafa Kamil, and then by the paramilitary fascist Support Group of the Metropolitan Police. These attacks left 4 of the mainly Turkish and Kurdish strikers hospitalised, more were injured.

The pamphlet describes how the strikers, with help from the J.J. Fast Food Locked Out Workers Support Group (a variety of groups and individual supporters), built an effective boycott of J.J.'s products by kebab/burger shops, local council housing, etc. and how they developed a continuous picket and lent their support to other struggles of the day.

Up against the odds clearly demonstrates how the T&GWU AWU obstructed workers and controlled with the bosses to isolate the Kurdish workers but officialise the return of some Turks and Cypriots. MacArthur describes how the strikers maintained their demands for full reinstatement and better conditions. All the while the union officials argued any possible resolution, encouraging workers down the blind alley of an industrial tribunal - taking their fate out of their own hands and placing it in that of employment law designed specifically to protect employers from their own struggle.

By the new year the strikers were winning. J.J. was on the brink of going bust, but at this point a Tribunal Gala was set up and the union officials were not interested in every effort to discourage direct negotiation and encouraging workers to prepare for the tribunal. The timing was crucial - if the scab workforce near was to become a viable replacement to the strikers and so move every day their hand weakened. Until this point the dispute had been characterised primarily by direct and collective action, boycotts, pickets, fund raising, propaganda and independent meetings. This shift from emphasis of collective action to legal action weakened everything the struggle had achieved. By the time the tribunal sat, the organization which had compelled the bosses to negotiate had been dissipated. These workers who got their jobs back returned to new expressive contracts which embittered the very abuses documented at the tribunal. MacArthur describes all this, along with the participation, for good and ill, of the various English, Turkish, and Kurdish left sects. Though this struggle ultimately failed in its aims, the pamphlet describes many of the achievements along the way and highlights the pitfalls in which it became entangled.

It is a particular strength that the pamphlet provides many examples of the strikers declarations in their own words, even when it is doubtful that the author shares their opinions.

Here we see workers with particular affiliations and ideologies struggling by contradictory means against specific circumstances. All this confusion and unclarity of the real world, and this alone makes a bloody good change. One purpose of such pamphlets is to allow those who didn't participate themselves to benefit from the learning experience of real struggles and this only achieved when the events and actors are portrayed as close as can be to how they were, not pre-packaged and smoothened at the edges. To fit some abstract theory severed from reality.

That said 'Up against the odds' doesn't neglect to examine the strikes and consider its implications, to criticise its failings and particularly those of the various left interventions. As such it will prove useful to many workers for many officials and bureaucratic tendencies of participants, supporters, and commentators are all the confusion and unclarity of the real world, and this alone makes a bloody good change. One purpose of such pamphlets is to allow those who didn't participate themselves to benefit from the learning experience of real struggles and this only achieved when the events and actors are portrayed as close as can be to how they were, not pre-packaged and smoothened at the edges. To fit some abstract theory severed from reality.

This collection of essays contains much that anyone familiar with Bookchin's writing would expect. There are forceful and highly critical essays on a wide range of eco-mysticism, post-modern biatheism and_ptristinthats who mistakenly believe in the existence of nature, and who are also an interesting examination of the current widespread tendency towards mysticism and personal exception instead of rational and collective action, which he argues results from the collapse of the revolutionary workers movement.

He argues that the only route to rebuild a revolutionary movement based on real needs, and to rigorously challenge the prevailing stupidity of capitalist thought and action.

Bookchin explored these themes in 'Reconstructing Humanity,' and 'Social and Lifestyle Anarchism.' But new ground is broken in the interviews with the author, where he takes a broader view of his own ideas and takes the opportunity to clarify up some misconceptions and correct what has been often been confusing expressions in his work. For example, he makes clear his comprehensive picture of what the importance of class, as only if he had always expressed this clearly.

These interviews help place his other works into the context of contemporary arguments. Given the enduring nature of Bookchin's ideas for rhetorical exaggeration, this is quite handy for those of us who weren't there at the time. Although taken as a whole, these essays have encouraged weird and woolly ideas in many, as for example the Green Anarchist group, which in their earlier only just beginning-to-look-it days.

This also takes an approach (Bookchin's) expressing ideas of the activist work, and activist work in 30's New York. It is, that he is a libertarian in the 60's as well. His account of the enthusiasm, strengths and failings of these movements should be read on both the past and the present.

The collection ends with an assessment of the current state of the revolutionary movement, the problems it faces and the
Errors in the Spanish Revolution

Jana Garcia Oliver
Kate Sharpley Library

Juan García Oliver, a leading militant of the Spanish CNT during the 1930s, is famous for founding the first anarcho-communist newspaper, El Heraldo de la Libertad. This is a section from his 1981 autobiography, which provides a firsthand account of the events leading up to the Spanish Civil War.

The CNT in the Spanish Revolution

Volume One


The Moler Press will be publishing a new book about the CNT in the Spanish Revolution, which will cover the events leading up to the start of the Civil War in 1936. This book will be based on extensive research and will provide a detailed account of the CNT's role in the conflict.

The Anarchists of Casas Viejas

By Jerome R. Mintz

This book provides a detailed account of the CNT's activities in Casas Viejas, a small town in the province of Cáceres. Mintz's research draws on a variety of sources, including interviews with survivors of the conflict, to provide a comprehensive picture of the town's role in the Spanish Civil War.

The值得一提的是, the CNT's role in the Spanish Civil War is still a subject of much debate and controversy. Many historians and activists remain committed to the principles of anarchism and have continued to work towards a socialist society.

Wrong Steps

Bookchin Review Continued from Previous Page

Tasks it must set itself. This continues for the most part in a well-reasoned, coherent and practical manner, making the sudden appearance of libertarian socialism all the more irritating. The book's attempt to critique the political project of the CNT in Spain, as well as its internal dynamics, is a welcome addition to the ongoing debate on the nature of anarchism.

Bookchin's review continues from a previous page and discusses the challenges faced by the CNT in Spain. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the CNT's role in the Spanish Civil War, as well as its internal dynamics.

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The Anarchists of Casas Viejas

Jerome R. Mintz

The CNT in the Spanish Revolution Volume One

by Jess Parets, The Moltzer Press, 827

The Moltzer Press should be congratulated on producing this classic history of the CNT. It is a wonderful book and a vital resource on the history and politics of the CNT. While it may not be perfect, it is well worth the money as it is a goldmine of useful information and facts, presenting an honest and comprehensive account of the CNT from its founding in 1893 to the end of 1933.

You will find in full the CNT’s concept of libertarian communism as accepted by its congress in May 1918. It is useful to finally have the resources available in English — we are no longer dependent on historians selectively quoting from it.

Also of interest is the discussion of the CNT’s role in the October revolt of 1917. Parets’ account claims that anarchists abstained from the revolt in Catalonia. In fact the first shots of the revolt were directed by the Catalan rebels towards civil members trying to take part in the revolt in an organized fashion by opening their union ranks. He also presents extensive information on the collectivizations, the Council of Angon and the July 1936 decision to postpone creating libertarian communism and to collaborate with the state in the name of “anti-fascist unity.”

The book is a classic, giving a wonderful insight into the lives and experiences of CNT and FAI members in rural Catalonia. It is clear from his book that the success of the CNT and anarchism in general was that it met the needs of those who joined it. He paints a vivid picture of this movement, where even the act of not marrying your partner was an extremely political act (the anarchist press reported on those who formed “free unions” to show their solidarity and to encourage others). Rather than being “primitivists” or “irrational extremists,” the anarchists Mintz presents come across as sensible, intelligent human beings who believed in a better life and were willing to apply their ideas in their everyday life.

The Moltzer Press is trying to get Parets’ work published as a proper book (currently available in spiral bound format) and send donations to The Moltzer Press, PO Box 55, Hastings, Sussex T93 0DX.
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Industrial Workers of the World (Britain)
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PO Box 152
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PO Box 341
Birmingham B1 1QD

Wolverhampton Solidarity Group
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Wolverhampton WV1

SOUTH EAST
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PO Box 2416
London N8 9HJ

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35 Kingsland High Street
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London E8 2SD

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56a Compton Street
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West Country Anarchist
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PO Box 43, Rotherham Street
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(Books to Prisoners)
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AK Press
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PO Box 12766
Edinburgh EH8
T: 0131 205 5165

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BM Archive
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