

# **NATIONALISATION**

*and the new  
boss class*

**By Tom Brown**

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'DIRECT ACTION'  
PAMPHLETS No.3

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE UNIONS?

TRADE UNIONISM OR SYNDICALISM?

THE BRITISH GENERAL STRIKE

THE SOCIAL GENERAL STRIKE

**Industrial Workers of the World  
Chicago Branch  
713 Armitage  
Chicago, Illinois 60614**

x128738  
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## Victory over Toryism

THE AIR RAID sirens had hardly sounded the last all-clear when Britain was thrust into the hurly-burly of a General Election. Before the world's first atom bombs had fallen on Japanese cities, a Labour Government with an overwhelming majority ruled the House of Commons, and when victory over Japan followed victory over Germany, a Labour Prime Minister, head of a victorious Labour Government, rose to tell a House of Commons packed to the roof with his jubilant comrades.

The road was now open, the way to the New Jerusalem was clear.

The older members of the Labour Party, who had canvassed on doorsteps after hard days in the factories, who had spoken from boxes on street corners to hostile or indifferent audiences, or to no audience at all, who had given precious coppers from their weekly doles to make this possible, were now about to see the fruit of their work. The hard work, the victimisations, the disappointments, were all as nothing in the bright promise of the new day.

But to millions of young Labour voters, casting a vote for the first time, such memories meant nothing. Their ideas were few and vague. They wanted a change and would "give Labour a chance". They expected a better life than their fathers had had, but as to what they wanted the Labour Party to do, they were not sure. They had been too busy at war to formulate any ideas about peace.

## In search of a programme

BUT WERE their elders, the pioneers, any clearer about Labour's programme? Peace has its victories, no less embarrassing than those of war. The Labour Government had a vast majority in Parliament and the support of the workers, expressed through big and wealthy trade unions.

The Tory enemy was cast down in defeat. Now to deliver the goods.

The Labour Government's economic programme was based on two principles—a give-away programme and state control of economic functions.

The first was expressed in family allowances, free health service, house, food and other subsidies.

The second principle led to state control of imports and exports, work licences, control of investment, direction of labour, price control and the nationalisation of some industries.

**SOLIDARITY BOOKSHOP  
1644 MEYER COURT  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614**

