

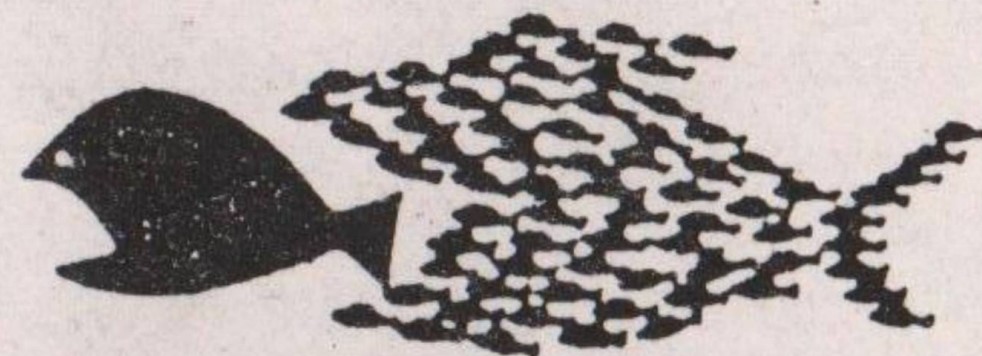
SHORT FUSE

VOICE OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM

No. 6.



FOR DIRECT WORKERS
AND COMMUNITY CONTROL



REMEMBER MAY DAY

SINCE 1889 May 1st has been a day of international workers solidarity held in commemoration of the events of 1886, which were inspired and led by anarchists. On May 1st 1886 Chicago was disrupted by a General Strike - over 300,000 people from all sections of the working class community struck in an effort to obtain an eight hour day. It was Chicago that took the lead and developed what became known as the "Chicago Idea", concentrating on direct action and workplace organisation.

1886

In February of 1886, the workers of McCormick Harvester Machine Co. went on strike. On Monday 3rd May a mass meeting was in progress attended by 500 to 600 strikers, addressed by anarchist August Spiers.

Whilst strikers were trying to prevent strike breakers from leaving the police arrived and opened fire on the strikers, killing one and wounding others.

Horrified, Spiers called for a meeting to take place at the Haymarket Square, Chicago, on May 4th.

THE HAYMARKET MEETING

Two to three thousand turned up to the meeting, by the time the third speaker, Samuel Fielden, had finished the police advanced and demanded that the crowd disperse peacefully. Fielden protested "We are peaceful" as he climbed down from the stand.

At this moment a bomb exploded killing one policeman and wounding 70 others. The police responded by opening fire on the crowd, the numbers of dead and

wounded are unknown.

A reign of terror descended upon Chicago - anyone with anarchist, socialist, or even trade union affiliations was arrested. Raids were made, homes and offices ransacked, suspects beaten up. In the end, only 8 were brought to trial - as the State's attorney put it "Anarchy is on trial...these men...are no more guilty than thousands who follow them...hang them and you save our society". Here was the real reason for the whole farce. One of the accused, Albert Parsons, said "If I am to be executed at all it is because I am an anarchist, not because I am a murderer; it is because of what I have taught and spoken and written in the past".

THE EXECUTION

On November 11th, 1887, four of the eight were hanged. 500,000 people lined the route of the funeral procession to show respect.

In 1893 the rest were all released, the charges dropped and the trial denounced as a farce by the U.S. Government.

LESSONS

What happened all those years ago was just another incident in the class war. Since then the authorities have shown only too well their continued willingness to spill working peoples blood when necessary, or when profitable. From accidents at work by cost cutting employers, to last years poll tax riot - little has changed.

The program our Chicago comrades took a stand on was: a free and classless society based on co-operative production for need not profit, sexual and racial equality, and community and workplace directly controlled federations.

The anarchists not only knew what they wanted from their struggles, but also how to get it - "the direct action of the rank and file... for the complete destruction of capitalism and as the nucleus for the formation of the new society".

Today's political struggles contrast badly, whilst the bosses and politicians use the 24 hours of the day to enslave us working people to their aim, we who have the key to emancipation play about electing them to high positions in parliament and Trade Unions. Today these careerists and parasites do their best to obscure May Day and its principles - solidarity, direct action and grassroots workplace and community organisation. Just as they try to devalue these principles, they do their utmost to win us over to the myth of parliamentary "democracy".

We should not let them. May Day is for remembrance, but more importantly for education and action. We look forward to the day when we have regained the confidence to re-establish the tradition of the General Strike on May Day and join with our sisters and brothers across the world to create a society without parasitic bosses and conning politicians.

T-SHIRTS.

XL size with flag in red and black. Various colours, please state preferences.

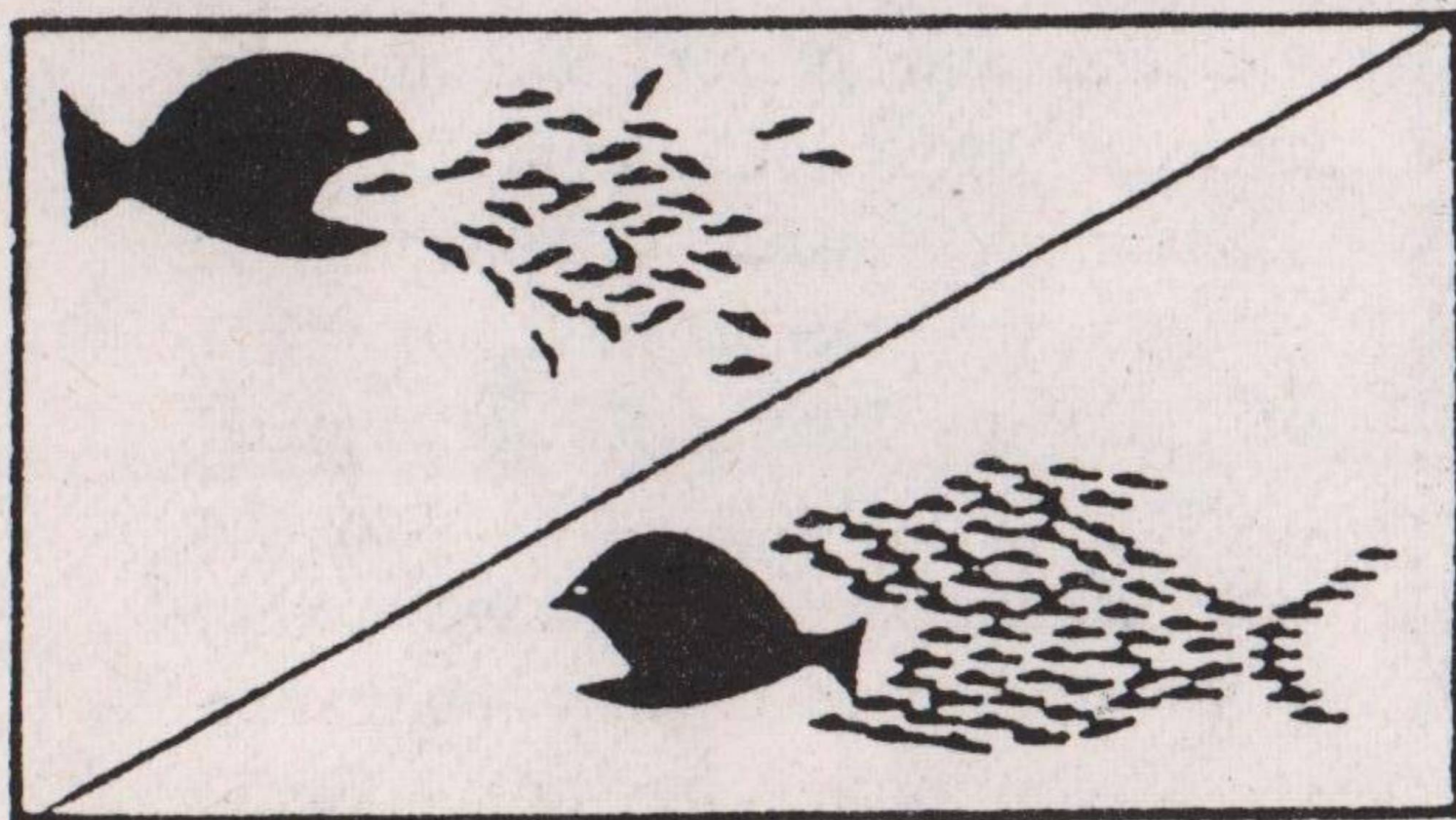
Prices: Norwich ~~5.00~~, elsewhere ~~£6.00~~ (includes p&p). Cheques payable to

"Norwich Direct Action Movement".



SOLIDARITY

IS NOT A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY



ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM

Write for a list of books, pamphlets & badges. Free leaflets & newsletters always available, send an SAE.

DAM

IWA

REVIEW: WINNING THE CLASS WAR: An Anarcho-Syndicalist Strategy by the Direct Action Movement.

Winning the Class War, as it says in the introduction, is not a blueprint for the creation of a revolutionary working class movement. It is though, the first step towards introducing the idea of such a movement to the public.

For too long our class initiatives and actions have been hijacked, Winning the Class War clearly states what is wrong with current organisations which purport to be working class and how activity within the workplace is attacked not only by the bosses, but also by the bosses in the unions.

We all know the system is wrong, we don't need books and pamphlets to tell us that. Winning the Class War goes beyond criticism to consider the idea of networks as a means of bringing a new society, and an end to capitalism, closer. These networks cut across all false divisions created to divide us - trade, paid work/unpaid work, workplace activity/local activity.

These networks are non-hierarchical, they are a means of taking control and responsibility for our lives. These are the seeds which will grow into a formidable force for change.

Winning the Class War is a valuable tool in the fight to destroy capitalism and create an anarchist society.

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NORWICH DAM
P.O. BOX 73
NORWICH NR1 2EB.

PUBLIC MEETING

SOUTH ASIA-

THE STRUGGLE FOR FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL CHANGE

Speaker - Achin Vaniak, from India



Thursday 9th May

8pm

Duke Street Centre

Norwich

Hosted by Norwich Direct Action Movement (Anarcho-Syndicalists), British section of the International Workers Association. P.O.Box 73, Norwich.

The rapid growth of nationalist violence and horror of communal carnage throughout India; Beijing's Tiananman massacre of students and workers; the possible return to power of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime; the mass brutalities inflicted by the Burmese military dictatorship are but a few examples of the debilitating crisis confronted by post-colonial societies in Asia.

Although the denial of human rights and civil liberties remains fundamentally a concern for workers and peoples, the issues affecting this vast continent have wider economic, political and social consequences.

Achin Vaniak, a prominent Indian political analyst and activist, has been invited from India by the *International Forum for Asia* to address public meetings on the current crisis facing the Indian sub-continent. His first book, *"The Painful Transition - Bourgeois Democracy in India"* has recently been published and has already been praised as a seminal text by academics and activists alike.