

AMBULANCE STRIKE.

As we go to press Ambulance staff in Liverpool are on all out strike and are awaiting the outcome of a national ballot on the crummy "deal" Roger Poole and co have been offered.

Merseyside Ambulance crews have organised their own accident and emergency service and are now in a position to provide fully equipped ambulances, paramedic crews and radio and telephone communication. By doing this they hope to bypass the police and army scab service and offer fully competent cover.

Contact it by phoning this number - (24 hours)

051- 709- 0255.

BASIC ANARCHISM

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it. Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them.

Now that the dispute has escalated it is important for strike support and fund-raising to increase. A support group meets every other on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7pm in the Hardman St TU Centre and now is the time to be forming community and workplace strike support groups. Two events coming up are -

BENEFIT NIGHT FOR AMBULANCE STRIKERS, at the Grafton Rooms, West Derby Rd, L6, on **SUNDAY MARCH 4th** from 8.30pm - 1am. Tickets £3 + donation, from the TU Centre.

PUBLIC MEETING at St Annes School, Prescott Rd, Old Swan. Organised by OSCA (Old Swan Community Activists). **WEDNESDAY MARCH 7th**. Speakers invited - Old Swan Ambulance Station, Broadgreen Accident & Emergency Ward, and Old Swan Health Centre. 7.30pm.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which go from the original Soviets of the Russian Revolution to the Miner's Support Groups of the 1984/85 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to ruling class power is continual and widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP

AS EVER WE MUST POINT OUT THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP AS A WHOLE.

NEWSLETTER P.O. BOX 110, LIVERPOOL, L69 6AU. MERSEYSIDE.

EASTERN EUROPE.

STATE SOCIALISM IN CRISIS

What is happening in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union? What does the future hold for the working class?

East European Communism (state socialism) is in deep crisis. One by one the communist monopoly on power is being smashed: In Poland, Solidarity, the once mass militant union of the working class has become the new government and the enemy of that class, leading the country towards free market capitalism. In East Germany as the hated Berlin Wall came tumbling down, the old leadership of the Communist Party were disgraced and negotiations were set in motion for German re-unification. Hungary took the road to social democracy with the Communist Party ensuring that they had a part to play in the future of the country. Not so in Romania, where armed struggle led to the smashing of the Party and also to the independent organisation of the working class and peasantry (although new and inevitably politically disorganised in a time of momentous change and mass struggle).

Communism is attempting to survive this crisis which was inevitable, but what are the reasons for this crisis? and what is the main impetus for these extraordinary events?

Struggles in the Eastern Bloc such as the 1953 demonstrations in East Germany, the 1956 Hungarian Uprising, the 1968 'Prague Spring' or even the class struggles in Poland in the early 80's were all crushed militarily by the Soviet Union - It was the economic crisis of state socialism within the Soviet Union itself which led to these great changes in the Eastern Bloc.

Two things, the policy of 'Peacefull Co-existence' and the resulting arms race between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and secondly the Marxist theory of a centralised economy and state planning of industry, production and distribution (as opposed to the Anarchist arguments



Anarchists at Solidarnosc demo.

for full working class participation and control of industry through the system of Federalism), led to the stagnation of the Soviet economy and society. This was in contrast to capitalism's relentless plunder and exploitation of the world, which built up a mass of wealth concentrated in the major capitalist countries; the United States, Japan and Western Europe.

And so this crisis of state socialism led to the appointment of Gorbachev to the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985. His two major policies of 'Perestroika' (restructuring) and 'Glasnost' (openness) were his answer to the problems in the Soviet Union, as opposed to the real answer, that of social revolution and workers democracy - but of course, this option could never be considered by Gorbachev or the Soviet ruling class within the Communist Party. So the only other path was towards a free market economy with full Communist Party participation as in Hungary, as opposed to what could happen as seen in Romania; the total destruction of the Party with all its privileges and power.

But as can be seen, these policies of re-structuring and openness have not led to any advance in the living conditions of the working class, but to the inevitable break up of the Soviet Union itself. With every crisis comes a polarisation of

4 politics; left and right, revolution and reaction - the rise in the Soviet Union of nationalism, progressive and in some cases reactionary, as well as mass working class upheavals.

The National Question cannot be ignored and was bound to be raised, especially in the Soviet Union and Germany, and will hold back class politics until resolved.

The events of the past year have shown the total bankruptcy of state socialism as a system for the fulfilment of working class aspirations and for the defence of the working class. We have also seen the strength of capitalism in its drive for new markets and its attempts to get a firm grip of events through the new so-called revolutionary movements like 'New Forum' in East Germany and the 'National Salvation Front' in Romania, not forgetting 'Solidarity' in Poland who are nothing more than lackeys and puppets of western



capitalism and imperialism, showing the real need for independent and revolutionary working class organisation and struggle. Under totalitarian rule such events and organisations could always be stamped upon before getting off the ground, but the answer cannot be a unified capitalist Europe, for this would mean exploitation as never experienced before across the world and a massive step back for the working class as a whole.

In the Eastern Bloc, millions of people will lose their jobs through the new reforms, living standards will be slashed as state subsidies in housing and food production are abolished, food prices will soar and working hours will be increased for lower wages as competition is

introduced. The multi-nationals will have a free hand in these 'new democracies' as the 'new governments' beg for investment.

Japan has already announced its investment plans worth \$2 billion in Poland and Hungary and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), never far behind world events, are negotiating loans to Poland and Romania. The only alternative to full blown capitalism for the working class of Eastern Europe is social revolution and libertarian communism.



Anarchism in Eastern Europe & the USSR

These momentous changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have opened up great possibilities for freer political organisation after years of repression and Anarchism is re-emerging to take its place in the struggles ahead. Anarchists have suffered execution and imprisonment on a large scale, especially in the Soviet Union, and so their new political freedoms will create many difficulties, some necessary for the creation of a mass organised Anarchist movement within the working class. This is one of the greatest challenges for Anarchism and the class as a whole, one which must be won.

**MERSEYSIDE
ANARCHIST**

We welcome articles, letters and graphics for publication. Please send stuff to
**PO BOX 110
LIVERPOOL L69 8DP**

before MARCH 26th.....Thanks.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM.

Below we reprint the text of 'Anarcho-Syndicalism', a leaflet recently produced by the Liverpool branch of the Direct Action Movement.

How long are we going to put up with this miserable world we live in, with unemployment, poverty, cuts in services, wars and pollution? Why must we struggle to survive with the DHSS and the bosses on our backs along with the police, courts and prisons? Something must be done to stop the rich and powerful from completely destroying our lives and our world.

'Capitalism'

The society we live in is badly organised and chaotic, divided into a class system: the ruling class and the working class. The rulers own and control most of the means of production and distribution, they have stolen all necessities and wealth from us after we, the working class, have produced that wealth. Instead of the producers being in direct control to distribute things according to need, it's all taken off us and used for profit. Money is the means the bosses use to make a profit, a means of exploiting our labour.

When their profits are under threat from competition, or they want yet more money, it is us who suffer through redundancies, high unemployment, low wages and privatisations, by the introduction of new technology, by the collaboration of the present unions and through capitalism shifting its investments into poorer countries etc.

'The State'

To get away with this legal robbery, the rulers have an organisation to protect their wealth. This organisation is government or the state, comprised of the legislature, courts, prisons, police, civil service, the armed forces, the media, the church and the present education system.

The sole purpose of the state, no matter what it calls itself, is to pro-



tect the class society of rulers and ruled. Under such a system of obedience and deprivation, the strains and pressures of life lead to frustration and anger. This though is diverted so that we take it out on our own class, black people, immigrants, gays, women, the old, skilled workers against unskilled etc, the list is endless: it's the old game of divide and rule. All our lives we are cheated and fooled through religion, the media and education, we are encouraged to believe and obey the rules of a society that breeds division, competition and subjection amongst us.

This, along with exploitation and profit, causes the class struggle. The bosses want to remain in place while working class people want freedom and justice. This is why there are strikes, riots, demo's and occupations: as expressions of class anger. When the bosses fail to subdue us, the state intervenes and shows its true face of violence and terrorism. Through the police and if need be the armed forces, working class struggles are beaten into submission.

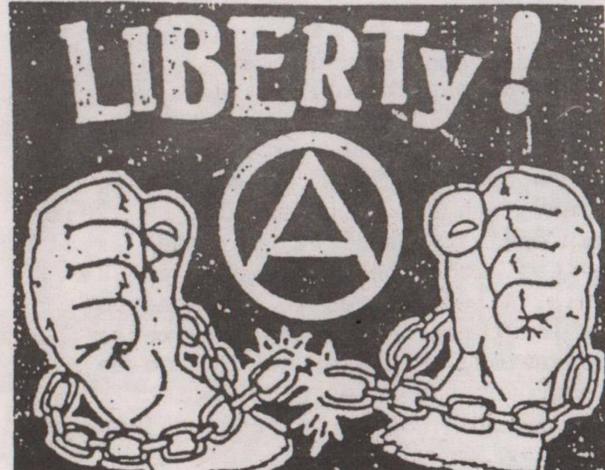
The rulers have other means to suppress us - parliament and the present reformist trade unions. Instead of people organising themselves and using direct action to

bring about a change, it's left to the political parties and the bureaucrats. In reality the big capitalist enterprises simply wouldn't let a bunch of politicians or union leaders to change society, even if they really wanted to. The real running of society rests with these multinational businesses as well as with top civil servants, police chiefs and generals. Governments may come and go but the system stays the same.

Alternatives are needed to this insanity and a drastic change in the way society is run and organised. Turning a blind eye to this state of affairs won't change things, nor will religion or the church, and history shows that never in a million years will we change society by changing the government. A complete social transformation is what we need, not merely a swap-over of bosses. No government has ever brought about any good in this world. The only alternative to this mess is anarchy.

'Anarchism'

Anarchism is the abolition of the state, obedience, exploitation and capitalism. In their place we advocate an ordered society without bosses, rich



and poor. A classless society ordered from the bottom upwards. Anarchy is a society where people have control over their own lives, communities and workplaces. All the land and everything on it should be held in common ownership for production for need, not profit. It's a society where decisions are made collectively, practising mutual aid and co-operation.

Anarchy not only means freedom for the individual but collective freedom, an association of equals that relate to each other on the same level. The society we want is where domination and competition has been gradually replaced

by solidarity. What we are saying is that people are quite capable of thinking for themselves and organising their own responsibilities according to their own collective interest. So if solidarity is an instinct, what need for government? How could the state add to our social instinct for self-preservation? If the people have seized control of wealth through direct action, what need for legislation?

Anarchism is also known as libertarian communism/socialism which is totally opposed to Marxist STATE socialism. Socialism cannot be achieved by political means, ie through parliament or dictatorship. It cannot be achieved from the top downwards by a group of intellectuals. The state can't be used to free us, its nature is to enslave. The state won't 'wither away' if captured by a 'revolutionary party' as Marxists say, it will have to be smashed: bosses do not give up their power freely.

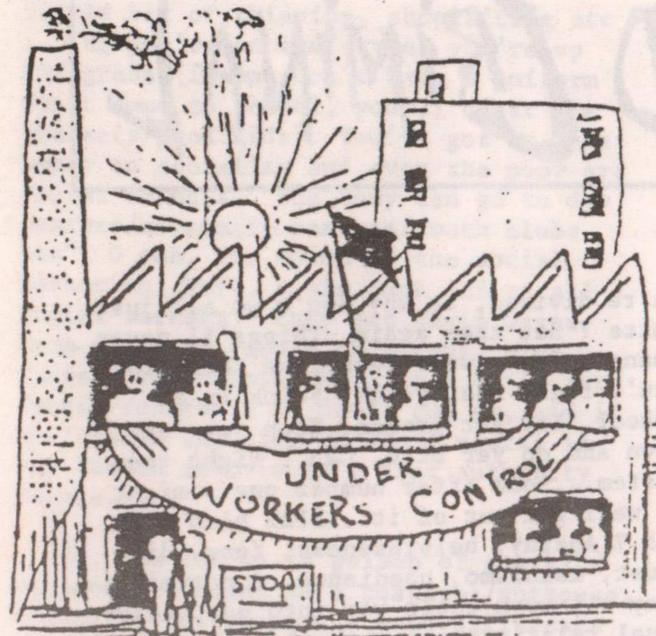
True socialism is total equality, brought about by a mass working class movement that desires and freely accepts socialism. Socialism will only be brought about through a change in values and beliefs, from the grassroots. Because socialism/anarchy is a new condition that reflects changed ideas and which cannot be imposed, it's only reasonable to say that by being free, people learn how to be free. For if people can't be trusted to live without rulers, how can anyone be entrusted to rule?

'Organisation'

Although we reject political parties we advocate an independent working class movement, organised and prepared for a social revolution as the only way to change society and to gain control over our lives and our environment. This is where syndicalism comes in.

'Syndicalism'

Syndicalism, originally used by the French to mean trade unionism, is revolutionary unionism. On its own it's only concerned with improvements in the workplace, but also aims for workers control of industry. The revolutionary union unites all workers together in the same industry, workplace and locality. Instead of bureaucrats there'd be delegates subject to instant recall. The revolutionary union is horizontally structured, a federation of autonomous sections working as one, co-ordinated through a network of



STRIKE, OCCUPY,
TAKE OVER

committees that have no power over the workers. Decisions therefore are made by workers themselves at assemblies.

Opposed to all forms of boss control (either private or state), direct action is the method to achieve our demands, not the ballot box or any political party. Seizing control over the wealth being fundamental, it's essential that workers are prepared for this act and make sure that no-one takes over "on our behalf".

'Anarchist-Syndicalism'

Anarcho-Syndicalism is not solely interested in workplace struggles against the system. The class struggle also takes place in the streets, communities, schools and colleges. Like syndicalism, anarcho-syndicalism opposes the artificial boundaries and ideals of nationalism, patriotism and militarism used by the state. We fight for our class not our country, we are internationalists united with our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Therefore we also oppose racism, sexism, anti-gay and lesbian witch-hunts and any other attitude which divides our class.

Anarcho-syndicalism is the building of a revolutionary working class movement in our communities and workplaces. It's a movement that fights against the attacks of the bosses, improves conditions, and when ready, consciously and physically overthrows the state and capitalism. We aim for an entirely new system, a feder-

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ation of self-organised communities and workplaces co-ordinated through free workers councils to meet our various needs. These councils organise locally, by district, regionally, nationally and internationally. They carry out the decisions made at the base, they have no power. They co-ordinate the affairs of society without ruling it.

Sadly at the moment, our class is divided and disorganised, the ruling class are smashing us and there's no effective organisation to stop the onslaught. We appeal to you the workers and the unemployed, to get organised and to fight back.

Direct Action Movement
c/o P.O. Box 110,
Liverpool,
L69 8DP.



'Suggested Reading'

Anarcho-Syndicalism, by Rudolph Rocker.
Programme of Anarcho-Syndicalism, by G.P. Maximoff.

also read 'Direct Action', the monthly paper of the D.A.M.

The next CLASS STRUGGLE ANARCHIST NETWORK MEETING will be held on March 10th at THE CVS BUILDING (first floor) 95 FISHERGATE PRESTON LANCs.
People are asked to arrive at 12.30 for a 1pm start.
For more details contact CSAN, P.O. Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY.

THE EDUCATED CRIMINAL

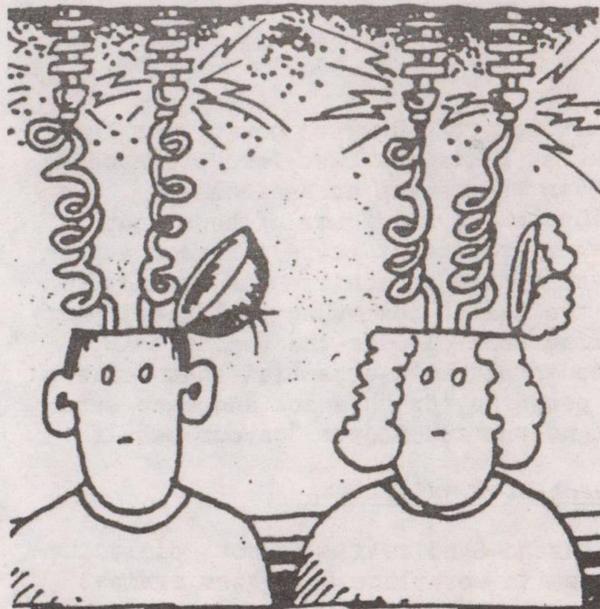
Very often in left and anarchist literature the prison system is described as a means of revenge or punishment. Of course both take place in prisons but are not in themselves an adequate explanation of why prisons exist. This article is an attempt to explore the fundamental reasons for the existence of prisons.

It's essential to understand that prisons don't exist in isolation. The police/judicial/prison system is one institution in the whole structure of institutions which make up the state. The state exists to maintain the conditions necessary for the continuation of class domination and exploitation... wherever the state exists, whatever the label attached, its function remains the same. Every institution, including the apparently benign ones, such as education, social security, NHS, etc are controlled by the same people who control the police/judicial/prison system, and they all have exactly the same purpose. The aims of education are identical to and inseparable from those of prisons. The one can't exist without the other.

Most if not all of the numerous Revolutionary Middle Class Git Parties are misled by their better off positions within the system into thinking that the idea of the state, albeit with a different label, is basically ok and that the institutions simply need a bit of restructuring here and there. They might find it useful to envisage the state as the outward, material expression of ideas and relationships. The oppressed and exploited people on this planet vastly outnumber the exploiters... the only threat to their power is conscious, collective self-action.

Their strategy of course is divide and rule. Trouble is, it seems to have worked ok for a few hundred years. How come? We all know we're ruled cos

we're divided, so why don't we all just unite? But then again, Things'll never change, Its always been like this, You can't fight the system, Stick in at school, Eat yer greens, Keep yer 'ead down and do yer bird. Can't fight the system...look after number one...might as well get out of it...blah blah blah, yeh? Apathy, helplessness, fear, distrust, machismo, obedience, conformity. They all work their way into our individual relationships with the state, authority and each other.



All of these attitudes are instilled through education and are enforced in prison (they're also the guiding principles of Thatcherite Yuppiedom). Most people in prison have either rejected or have been rejected by the education system. Working class people without education certificates are poor, live in the shittiest housing or are homeless (homework? space to study or wot!) and do the shittiest, lowest paid jobs or survive on the dole (hey me, buy a book eh? its only 20 quid). Poor people are necessarily criminals. The only way to survive is to have a fiddle or a scam ("cheating" they call it at school, if

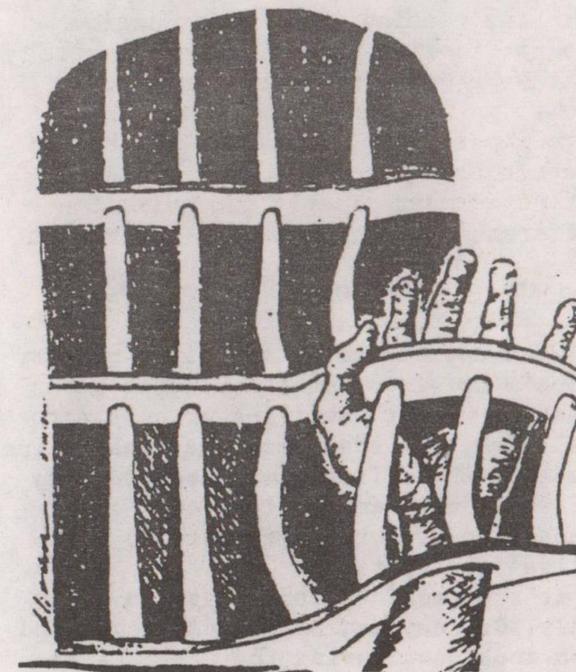
you get caught you get punished), do a little bit of thieving, shoplifting etc ... if you're on the street you're up for grabs (if you don't have a uniform don't come to school, you'll upset the prefects/good kids). You've got to have money to socialise and even the poor are social animals. "But they can go to day centres/community centres/youth clubs etc". O yeh, the voice of the social worker eh. Well, a big fuck off to all social workers - they get their wages from the same people as screws, pigs judges, teachers... We didn't build yer fuckin centres, we don't run em, and if we learned anything remotely useful in yer fuckin schools it's that authority stinks.

So, you end up in prison of one kind or another (might be a hospital/nuthouse, custodial institution - same difference in the end). It probably won't come as much of a surprise - you're expectations for the future are formed at school. For most people in prison it's merely an extension of their educational experience after all, what's school if its not 10 years more or less in the daily custody of the state...learning obedience to authority and the futility of rebellion and an enduring belief in your own worthlessness and inferiority*. Free education? Try saying "No" and see how fuckin free it is. Fact is, as far as the system's concerned, we're born criminals - dangerous nasty ignorant scum. Yeh, ok, so why do they lavish so much cash (which could be much better used; more tax cuts for the rich perhaps...) on our education, health, welfare, dole money, and all these new prisons? Why not leave us to get on with it ourselves? After all we're so genetically unsuited for "proper" living that we'd soon die off and they'd have it all for themselves. Ha! We're fuckin dangerous! We've nothing to lose and the most to gain by rejecting the system in all its forms. All we have to do is discover we have the power to do it by and for ourselves. All the billions of quids that they so kindly push down our throats are to stop us, whatever the cost in human and material terms,

*Of course the degrees of worthlessness and inferiority go all the way up the social/economic scale to the arrogant superiority of the upper-middle and ruling class.

from making this one simple, revolutionary discovery, and acting on it.

The most effective way to prevent the emergence of independence is to engender or prolong feelings of dependence. The state does this by manipulating the social and material environment so that every aspect of our existence is as far as possible under the control of the state. We're effectively dependent on the state for food, shelter, medicine, science, technology, energy, religion and day to day info - if we don't actually have to go on our knees to some government department for all of these, the state makes the rules under which we can have access to themand the rules are backed up by Violence (with a big V) or, as they'd have it, Law and Criminal Justice....



Prison is a completely artificial social and material environment. As far as the concept of institutions as material expressions of ideas and relationships go, prison is the furthest developed example. The attitudes and relationships which are taught in school are refined and enforced in prison. The same hierarchical structure of authority... the same accents and levels of "education" at different levels of the hierarchy form the "social" side the environment, the impersonal buildings, isolated from the surrounding communities make the material environment within which authority functions.

ANTI-FASCISM ANTI-RACISM

Many people are aware of the widespread nature of racism in this country but as yet, few appreciate the danger of that being channelled into organised fascist activity.

Recent issues of this newsletter have featured debate on ways of countering racism and fascism and this article, in continuing that, argues that the two, though linked, are not the same and must be tackled by very different methods.

Anarchists have always been amongst the most active opponents of fascism and have often led the way in the development of the tactics needed to defeat it. This unbroken tradition, along with the continuing need for action against fascist groups, makes it vital that we never forget what fascism is, how it gains support and power, and more importantly, what must be done to prevent that happening. To remain effective we must clearly recognise the differences between fascism and racism.

FASCISM.....

When capitalism in any given country faces a crisis which the elected government is either unwilling or unable to deal with, the state machine, the ruling class or the military may look towards a fascist movement to take over and impose the measures necessary to 'stabilise' the system.

It's no accident that fascism in Italy, Germany and Spain mushroomed and then took power during the Great Depression of the 1920's and 30's when those countries faced economic collapse and/or the threat of revolution. Equally, it is not by chance that today's fascist regimes are to be found in countries enduring massive exploitation and poverty.

Despite all its difficulties this century, the British state hasn't had to turn to fascism and so the mask of 'democracy' has remained in place. It is significant however that in the 30's, Mosley's 'Blackshirts' were receiving considerable support from powerful people inside the state, the Conservative Party, the media and the military: they were being prepared for power in exactly the same way (and for the same reasons) that Hitler and Mussolini had been.



"HANDS UP WHO WANTS TO DIE!"

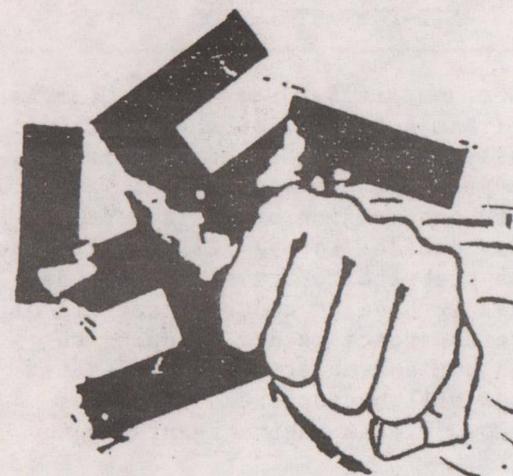
British fascism was on the move once more in the 1970's with the rise of the National Front. Again the right-wing press fanned racial tensions and money flowed into the party from big business. Why? It came as no surprise to learn from Peter Wright's book 'Spycatcher' and other sources, that all this coincided with plans for a military coup, made by establishment figures who were alarmed at the failure of both Labour and Tory governments to deal with the economic crisis and industrial militancy. However, the victory of the 'radical' Tories, firstly inside the Conservative Party and then at the polls, made both the Front and the coup unnecessary. For the time being, both were ditched.

.....AND RACISM

Racism is a very different phenomena and isn't always part of fascism. For example, a South American dictator may justifiably be labelled 'fascist' but is unlikely to be overtly racist. Sim-

ilarly while it is correct to call the average 'Sun' reader who tells anti-black and Irish jokes a racist, they are not (yet) fascist. Obviously in Britain, still suffering with a racist hangover from its imperial past and enduring tensions whipped-up between different racial groups, any fascist movement will try to get support from the disillusioned white working class by 'playing the race card'. But this still doesn't mean that fascism and racism are identical and can be challenged in the same way. It just shows how fascism will exploit any division amongst us to build itself up.

Racism is the product of ignorance and prejudice, it is used by the state to dilute our anger and keep our class apart by providing us with convenient scapegoats and opponents. Because of this, and because racism on its own has no foundation or politics to back it up, it can in most cases be countered by education, by exposure, by ridicule, by



integration, by identifying the real enemy and by plain common sense. At the end of the day, if challenged correctly, racism cannot stand alone.

But while we might view racists as at best the modern day equivalent of the 'village idiot' and at worst a violent product of a sick society, it would be fatal not to realise that fascism has far more to it than the outdated dogma of the racist. Though it may grow from prejudice it is a distinct political theory, a stepping stone to power and ultimately, state and government in their most vicious guise.

To oppose fascist groups simply on the grounds of the racism they use to get recruits is to misunderstand why they exist in the first place. It's

like opposing the Tories only because they play on people's greed to get support. As anarchists we're not against just the manufactured tensions in society that these groups use, but the whole rotten structure that breeds them. Anti-fascism carried out by anarchists isn't just aimed at destroying a source of racist and anti-working class propaganda, but ultimately at removing one of the state's options when its next big crisis arrives. For these reasons we have a duty to keep the pressure on the NF and the BNP etc by never letting them organise.

PHYSICAL FORCE ANTI-FASCISM

Though at present few in number, the British fascists will remain a threat as long as their organisations continue to exist because they are putting out a dangerously simple message and appealing to the strong racist currents in our society. It is too risky to ignore them or give them a breathing space to mobilise.

In almost every case fascism grows through control of the streets. It draws people to it by creating an aura of toughness around itself and plays on their fears and prejudices by directing its violence at racial minorities and/or the revolutionary left. Because it is offering a drastic solution to problems and conflicts in society, it needs this image of strength to give it credibility and it is precisely for these reasons that it must be opposed in physical terms.

In Italy and Germany, when faced with the challenge of a growing fascist movement, large sections of the left bottled out and refused to take the action necessary to crush their opponents. Many looked to the law, parliaments or their party leaders for protection, and so those people who did stand up to fascism were able only to do too little, too late.

We have no excuses, we can't say we don't know what fascism brings and we must learn from history that to prevent it gaining ground, fascism must be smashed every time it comes onto the streets.

Thankfully many of these lessons have been taken on board by anarchists and other anti-fascists and have proved their worth in Britain over the last few years. By going on the offensive and actively seeking confrontation, the

anti-fascist movement has not only reduced the activity of the NF and the BNP, but has now begun to break their will to fight.

To give a few examples: Remembrance Day used to be the biggest fascist outing of the year with the NF marching in London and the BNP in York. Through opposition and intimidation the London march has declined from 2,000 a few years ago to 250 last November, and in York the BNP have been driven out of town by sheer weight of numbers. Fascists cannot now turn out anywhere on Remembrance Day without risking a beating. Also in London, the NF have abandoned their annual 'Albert Mariner' commemoration and have had marches smashed up in Stockport and Bury St Edmunds. The inability of the Front to make public appearances contributed greatly to the split in their ranks a couple of years back and it recently emerged that the leadership of one faction (based around the 'NF News' paper) have caved in altogether and gone to live in France!

In addition to this the nazi music venture 'Blood & Honour', is in retreat having been forced out of numerous venues and pubs. Their biggest setback came last year when they tried to hold a major gig in London which attracted fascists from all over Europe. Though they tried to keep the venue secret, anti-fascists occupied the place where the audience was supposed to meet beforehand and would-be gig goers were kicked senseless, had their coaches bricked and never saw a single band! 'Blood & Honour' is in disarray.

VICTORY

Despite the obvious success of these tactics we shouldn't believe that they are the be-all and end-all. They have evolved over the last few years and will no doubt continue to do so as we go on. However, while we must constantly be re-assessing our tactics and ensuring that all anti-fascists have a role to play, we must never allow ourselves to be diverted or guilt-tripped from our new-found confidence and effectiveness. We are winning this fight but full victory will only come when the last fascist organisation is dissolved, and our pressure must be kept up until that happens.

Any let up or hesitancy on our part may give fascists the false hope that there is some alternative to them being placed in the dustbin of history when in fact, this must and will be the only outcome.

ANTI-FASCIST ACTION - NEWS

The nearest Saturday to St Georges Day (that's April 21st this year) is usually marked by NF and BNP marches. This year the two may combine, and at the recent meeting of North West AFA it was decided to ask all anti-fascists to be prepared to travel on that day. As yet we have no concrete details of where the fascists are planning to march but anarchist and anti-fascist groups will be notified as soon as we know. Please begin organising now.

CAPITALISM + IMPERIALISM

'Introduction'

In a crisis situation, when world markets are shrinking, each imperialist country attempts to solve its problems at the expense of the others and an intense inter-imperialist rivalry develops in the search for profits. This rivalry, as in the past, develops into a power struggle to dominate and control the weaker capitalist economies, especially in the poorer developing nations. This can, as it usually does, lead to war as the strongest of the imperialist powers attempt to overcome their rivals, re-divide the world into new spheres of influence and reclaim former colonial possessions.

The fightback against imperialism, as in the Russian Revolution of 1917, and its betrayal by the Communist Party, had created another redivision of the world through competing military and economic blocs, led by US imperialism and Soviet hegemony.

The main aim of capitalism is an 'economic monopoly', the formation of the EEC was for this sole purpose. With the crisis of Communism in Eastern Europe and the arrival in 1992 of the Single European Market, this aim looks nearer than ever before. The re-emergence of a free market economy in Eastern Europe and the almost inevitable collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union, has left the world open to wholesale exploitation as never seen before, by the three economic superpowers - the United States, Japan and a unified European state. But this situation also creates a new destabilisation in the world, and in the capitalist system.

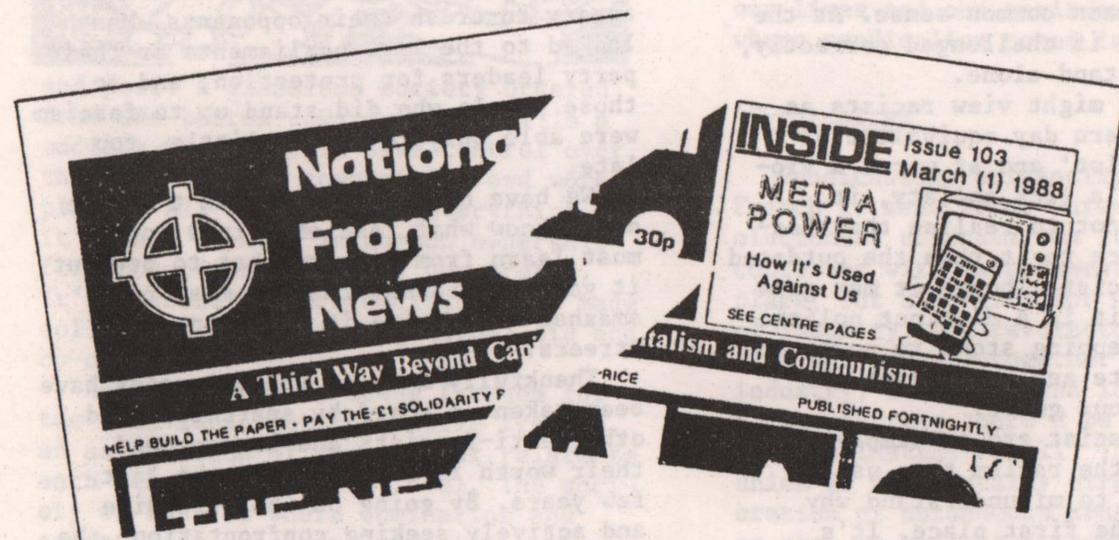
'The growth of the imperialist banks'

Capitalism in its imperialist phase is a decaying and parasitic system. The fall in the rate of profit (1) has led to an enormously strengthened role for banking capital, and through the export of capital has increased imperialism's stranglehold over the oppressed.



As industrial production and manufacturing output decline, as millions of workers find themselves without work or livelihood and as millions of children die from malnutrition and disease, the banks keep growing. Yet banks produce no wealth. They simply control and move around vast quantities of money and make enormous profits out of doing so. Their financial power has gained for them an increasing share of the profits which arise from the exploitation of workers in industry, mining and agriculture throughout the world. The banks are totally parasitic. They foster and feed off the backs of the poor. This is a characteristic of imperialism - parasitic and decaying capitalism.

These monopolistic banks by virtue of their size and the extent of their operations, by their ability to give and restrict credits, through their connections



ONE DOWN.....

with industry and commerce can exercise a dominant control over capitalist society.

As the rate of profit falls, capitalists turn to the banks to finance their expansion, and increasingly just to survive. The Eurocurrency market is a central source of loan capital throughout the world. The ever increasing international banking business, controlled by US banks, has reached a staggering lending rate to foreign countries of US\$ 2,400 billion.

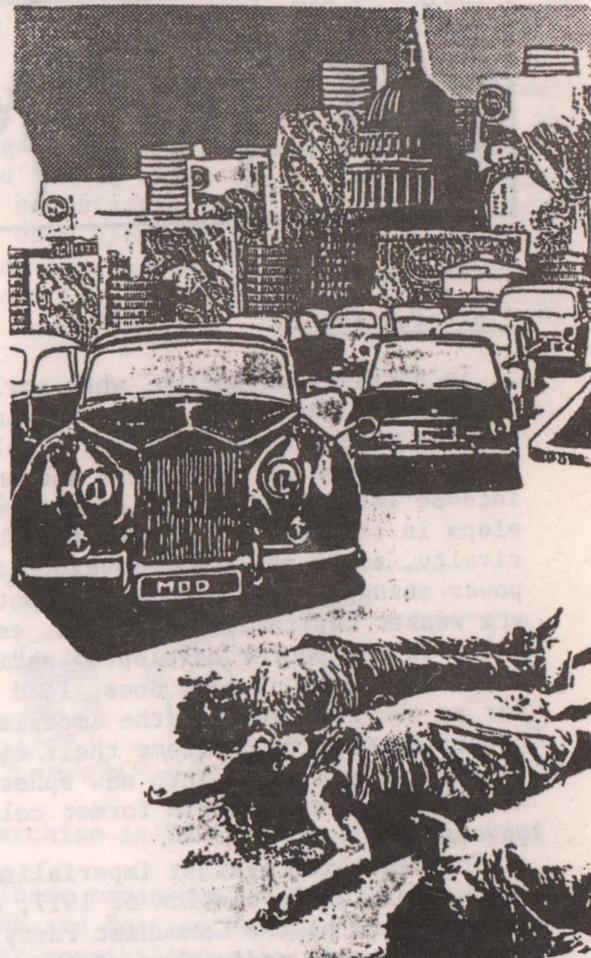
The importance of these international markets for banking is that they are beyond the control of any government and allow many domestic credit restrictions to be by-passed. They are also a source of enormous profits for the banks. London is the main international centre for the Eurocurrency market and one of the main centres of banking throughout the world.

Confronted by the insurmountable debt problems of the oppressed nations, the imperialist banks have begun to curb their lending and the proportion going to the oppressed nations has fallen to under 50%. Today they have to borrow even more at a higher rate of interest just to service the debts they've already got. Eventually many countries will be forced to default and the whole monetary system, built on the basis of international bank lending, will collapse. The capitalist system will then be faced with the biggest crisis in its history.

'The crisis of British imperialism'

Britain, which has bulldozed its way through most of the world, which still brutalises the people of Ireland, its oldest colony, which is the major backer of the racist South African state and whose banks are amongst the most profitable in the world, is called by many in the Labour movement (and certain left wing parties), a colony itself, a colony of US imperialism. They say that the IMF decide our monetary policy, the international multinational companies decide our industrial policy and the EEC decide our legislative and taxation policies. The reality is quite the opposite.

British imperialism, far from being undermined in the past two decades, has moved from strength to strength under both Labour and Conservative governments. Although the rate of profit on industrial and commercial companies (excluding North Sea Oil) has fallen dramatically and manufacturing profitability has fallen even



more so, in the same period North Sea Oil profits have grown from an insignificant £50 million to a huge £12.6 billion (1982) and are growing every year. Meanwhile profits from overseas investment have increased ten-fold from the early 1970's.

The collapse of profitability in British industry has led to a rapid increase in the export of capital abroad each year.

Vast sums of money are borrowed abroad by banks based in Britain to lend out at a higher rate of interest to other countries. The sums involved are so enormous that they have made banking and commercial claims the largest component of Britain's private sector external assets.

UK banking and commercial claims abroad alone were equalivalent in amount to 87% of the gross national product (GNP) in 1972 and to 167% of the GNP ten years later. Can anyone doubt the growing strength of British banking, and hence of British imperialism?

The activities of the banks allow them to obtain an increasing share of the profits produced world-wide, even though they themselves produce no wealth at all. Money which makes more money - capital in its most parasitic form.

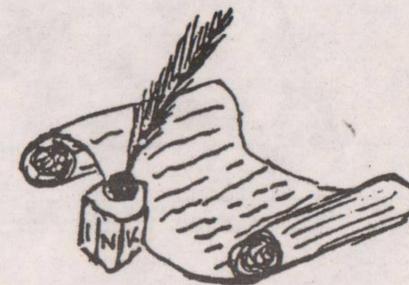
Imperialist banks exercise a dominant role and control over capitalist society

and in the wake of the world crisis, the record level of bankruptcies in Britain and the growing threat of major defaults on international loans, the profits of the four major British banks (Barclays, NatWest, Midland and Lloyds) were still staggering but the banks are increasingly dependant on international operations for their income and profits.

British companies have nearly always financed the greater proportion of their investment (60-70%) out of their profits from home and abroad - out of internal funds. With the growing crisis of capitalism, the fall in the rate of profit, and the increase in inflation, companies were forced more and more to borrow from the banks, leading to a dramatic increase in the dependence of British companies on them. The hold of the banks over even the larger companies is greater than ever before. Banks can force companies into liquidation by restricting credits if the profit outlook of the firm doesn't merit further loans. Production of material goods is at the mercy of a handful of powerful banks.

Another indication of the parasitic nature of British imperialism is Britain's "invisible earnings" - (earnings from the provision of services to people living abroad), including the profits from overseas investment as well as income from activities of the City of London, insurance and other financial services, transport, shipping, royalties and consultancy earnings from overseas and so on. These invisible earnings account for over a third of Britain's total foreign earnings (including those from exports). Britain is a creditor nation. As the wealth from North Sea Oil begins to dry up, so British capitalism will be forced to depend more and more on the profits from its investments abroad, particularly those from its banks, and the living standards of major sections of the working class will be drastically reduced, more than they already have been over the last ten years. The conditions which have nourished and sustained a privileged section of the working class over the last forty years in Britain will no longer exist and the domination of opportunist currents in that class such as the Labour Party and the Trade Union leadership will be undermined. New forces of revolution will begin to emerge.

Notes - (1) See 'Capitalism' article, Merseyside Anarchist Newsletter no 14.



Dear Merseyside Anarchist,

I don't want to see this letters page turn into an 'arguments over Class War' page, but there are a couple of points in the recent debate which need following up.

As the Liverpool DAM/IWA member pointed out, the Anarchist movement is in many ways getting itself sorted. We can all agree that this is a good thing. 'Merseyside Anarchist' say that they support revolutionary anti-state socialism, which is good. The Class War Federation has yet to come up with a sentence such as this. But debate along these lines is being thrashed out now (not before time) and that was what the article 'The End of Anarchism?' in The Heavy Stuff (Class War's theoretical journal) was pointing towards. It almost goes without saying that the articles in The Heavy Stuff only represent the views of the person writing them, (stated on page 1) and obviously have to comply with Class War's 'Where We Stand' statement. No anarchist group, DAM, ACF, AWG or Merseyside Anarchist do, or even should, sit down and thrash out every article as wholly representative of everyone in that group's point of view.

The world's working class aren't looking for the right 'catch phrases' to sum up an ultimate political position. Nor should the Anarchist movement be going overboard on seeking out one philosophy to be repeated with one voice by Anarchists everywhere. Maybe I'm just an old hippy! but our class are diverse and contradictory. So then will be our ideas and struggle. This I accept as a reality that no single ideology can accommodate.

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