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NG FOR WEEK

MARXISM AFTER MARX:

**The state of Marxist theory today —
all day to rescue the theory of proletarian
the grip of armchair intellectuals. A WEEK OF
on to Marxism, Racism, Ireland, British
CP and the left, Law and order, Irish solidarity,
olic plus support Films and more workshops**

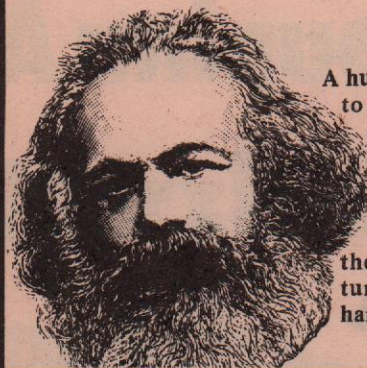
NEW CAVENDISH ST. LONDON

CE FOR THE 'EIGHTIES

RCP

PREPARING FOR POWER A LABOUR

Marxism after Marx



A hundred years after his death, Marx's theory continues to provoke heated debate and argument. The first day of *Preparing for Power* is devoted to examining the state of Marxist theory today. We do so in the conviction that Marxism retains its force in charting the way towards the overthrow of capitalist power. To develop Marxism we have first to rescue it from the clichés, dogmas and academic pretensions that have turned the theory of working class revolution into a harmless diversion for the middle classes.

Specialist courses

There will be six specialist courses, each separate sessions — 2 till 4 and 4.30 till 6.30

INTRODUCTION TO MARXISM

Convenor: *Frank Richards*
This course shows that Marxism is not an esoteric dogma but is accessible to anybody who wants to change the world. It is oriented toward those who are new to Marxism, but will be sufficiently challenging to shake up even the most complacent.

RACISM

Convenor: *Fran Eden*
From Berlin to Brick Lane racist violence is on the increase. Yet in Britain many anti-racists are confused and pessimistic and the labour movement itself remains on the sidelines. In this course we examine the roots of racism, assess the record of anti-racist campaigns and chart out an effective response.

IRELAND

Convenor: *Phil Murphy*
This course aims to lift the veil that shrouds the Irish War. We will examine the main protagonists in the conflict and answer such questions as why Britain cannot withdraw its troops, why religious differences appear to have such force and why this bitter struggle has gone on for so long.

10.00 - 12.30

2.00 - 4.30

SATURDAY

OPENING SESSION: MARXISM SINCE 1945

From Althusser to Colletti, the celebrated Marxist theoreticians of the past 30 years are academics with no direct involvement in politics. A generation of armchair intellectuals has sought to reconcile the theory of proletarian revolution with pre-Marxist philosophies and contemporary trends from psychoanalysis to structuralism. They have made a bowdlerised Marxism an acceptable posture in diverse spheres of university life, while making Marxism itself seem obscure and irrelevant to the needs of the working class. *Frank Richards* assesses the degeneration of Marxist theory and outlines an approach to retrieving its revolutionary content.

Revisionism and social democracy

In the 20 years before the First World War Marxism was systematically revised by the reformist leaders of the labour movement. *Judy Harrison* examines the debates in the Second International and their legacy today.

Marx on the Irish Question

Marx's writings on Ireland illustrate the link between revolutionary theory and practice. *Helen Simons* examines his approach to national oppression to clarify its relevance to building an anti-imperialist movement in Britain today.

SUNDAY

Workshop 1

The rise of Hitler
Fifty years after the Nazis came to power *Sabena Norton* asks why was the working class unable to stop Hitler?

Workshop 3

US imperialism: upturn or decline?
The world's most powerful imperialist state faces a protracted crisis. *Keith Thompson* draws out the implications for the USA's rivals and its victims.

Introduction to Marxism

The materialist conception of history

Workshop 2

Zionism: roots and prospects
Nurtured in the ghettos of Europe, Zionism has emerged as the scourge of the Middle East. *Judy Harrison* explores Zionism.

Workshop 4

Nuclear arms: from Hiroshima to Greenham Common
Millions stand in fear of nuclear weapons. *Fran Eden* assesses the anti-bomb movement and explains where it goes wrong.

Racism

Racial oppression and capitalism

MONDAY

Workshop 1

Germany 1923
Sabena Norton explains why the German Revolution failed and how it opened the doors to a prolonged period of reaction.

Workshop 3

Japan: the quiet imperialist
During the past decade Japan has been discreetly building up its empire. *Alan Harding* exposes the activities of Japanese imperialism.

Introduction to Marxism

Capital: the basis of scientific socialism.

Workshop 2

Lebanon after the carve up
The Beirut massacre has ushered in a new period of instability in the region. *Inez Landa* draws up a balance of forces and identifies future trends.

Workshop 4

Reagan and the working class.
Why is the American working class so divided and ineffective? *Mick Hume* provides some of the answers.

Racism

The workplace and the labour movement.

TUESDAY

Workshop 1

The Soviet Union under Andropov
Andropov has set out to solve the crisis of the Soviet economy. *Frank Richards* looks at the prospects for the Soviet Union in the 'eighties.

Workshop 3

The debt mountain and the Third World
Inez Landa shows how the banking system works to enforce imperialist domination and argues why this system is bound to collapse.

Introduction to Marxism

Marxist theory of ideology

Workshop 2

Imperialism and Central America
In virtually every country in the area anti-imperialist forces face the military might of Washington. *Phil Murphy* explores the issues at stake.

Workshop 4

The significance of the 1983 General Election
Fran Eden analyses the results of the 1983 election and points to the future pattern of class relations in Britain.

Racism

Immigrant car workers in France

WEDNESDAY

Workshop 1

The anatomy of Britain's economic crisis
Phil Murphy provides a detailed breakdown of the structural crisis of British capitalism.

Workshop 3

What's left of the Labour left
Despite its current paralysis, the Labour left remains the dominant force in the British labour movement. We look at its strategy, its composition and its future.

Introduction to Marxism

The Paris commune & Marx's theory of the state

Workshop 2

The Greens and the anti-nukes
The European ecology and peace movements have achieved widespread popularity and influence. *Sabena Norton* explains why and how far they can go.

Workshop 4

Post-war reformism and the European working class.
Frank Richards explores the forces that have sustained and shaped reformism in the post-war years.

Racism

USA: black struggles in the 'eighties

THURSDAY

Workshop 1

Thatcherism and the Tories
Who are the Tories? Is there a special brand of Thatcherism? *Rob Knight* looks behind the myths and explains what makes the Tories tick.

Workshop 3

What about the working class?
Is the working class a fast declining stagnant force? Does mass unemployment and structural change mean the end of the proletariat as a revolutionary force?

Introduction to Marxism

Marx, a working class politician

Workshop 2

The theory of value and its critics
Tony Allen reconstructs Marx's theory of value and shows why it has attracted so much criticism.

Workshop 4

The decline of the Communist Parties
Eurocommunism is dead and most of the parties face a major crisis of identity. *Frank Richards* analyses the crisis of Western Stalinism.

Racism

How to unite and fight

FRIDAY

The theme of the last day of *Preparing for Power* is *Looking Ahead*. Friday's workshops will be devoted to the different spheres of the class struggle at home and abroad. Speakers introducing the sessions will be advancing a strategy for combatting *he drive towards war*, for fighting racism and other forms of oppression in Britain and for building an effective workers' movement in industry. Details of the different sessions will be publicised during the course of the conference. *Judy Harrison* will be introducing the final plenary in the afternoon: *And now let's Prepare for Power!*

And now let's prepare for

MOVEMENT CONFERENCE FOR THE 'EIGHTIES

comprising five daily workshops. These will be held every afternoon from Sunday till Thursday, in two 6.30. Thus it will be possible to attend any two of the six specialist courses throughout the week.

BRITISH WORKING CLASS

Convenor: *Mike Freeman*
This timely course challenges all the old assumptions about the British working class, its institutions and its politics. The discussions will be particularly relevant to workers who are concerned with the decline of shop-floor organisation, new trends in industrial relations and the impact of unemployment.

WOMEN

Convenor: *Kate Marshall*
From Margaret Thatcher's 'return to Victorian values' to pro-family 'back to the home' campaigns, the rights of women are under attack. This course is designed for those who want to organise to hit back and to make the cause of women's liberation a central issue for working class politics.

AFRICA

Convenor: *Charles Longford*
The world crisis of capitalism is devastating Africa. While South Africa terrorises its neighbours, famine ravages the continent. Today imperialist rivalries threaten to engulf Africa. We look at the role of imperialism in Africa, paying particular attention to South Africa and its mission to make Africa safe for imperialism.

Workshops

Every morning – and alongside the specialist courses in the afternoon – we will be running workshops on a wide range of themes. These will include sessions on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the working class in the West, revolutions betrayed and issues in British politics. You can choose one of four workshops in the mornings and every afternoon one additional session will be running at the same time as the specialist courses.

Evening

Every evening will be packed with more discussion and debate for those who want it and films, music and entertainment for those who want to take a break. There will be food, drink and late night discos.

1.00

4.30 – 6.30

7.30

Was Stalin a Marxist? From the mid-'twenties until his death in the fifties Joseph Stalin dictated the line for a generation of Marxists. <i>Gareth Evans</i> looks at Stalin's writings to reveal how many who today denounce him, remain under his influence.	The high tide of Marxism In the five years following the 1917 Russian Revolution Marxism reached its highest point to date. <i>Frank Richards</i> traces the emergence of the Communist International under Lenin and Trotsky and assesses its relevance for today.	The theory of capitalist collapse Today's Marxists reject Marx's theory of capitalist crisis as inadequate and outdated. Yet, as <i>Phil Murphy</i> argues, it is the theory of crisis that gives Marxism its revolutionary significance.	Workers Against Racism BENEFIT The Republic Plus support
Was there a British Marxism? Marxism has always had weak roots in Britain. Traditions of working class self-education in Marxist theory have been largely destroyed. <i>Mike Freeman</i> argues that although the heritage is grim, future prospects are excellent.	Marxism and feminism Were Marx and Engels male chauvinist pigs? Did they get their facts wrong? <i>Kate Marshall</i> agrees with the critics at least on one point – Marxism cannot be reconciled with feminism.	Beyond capitalism: Marx's theory of liberation What exactly are we fighting for? <i>Inez Landa</i> examines Marx's notion of the transition from capitalism to a higher form of society.	
Ireland Why Britain partitioned Ireland	British working class Who is working class?	Africa Working class in South Africa	DEBATE <i>The Round up</i> <i>The police and Law and Order</i>
Workshop The politics of containment <i>Denise Taylor</i> examines the extensive network of state-sponsored youth employment schemes.	Women Why are we oppressed?	Workshop The USSR and the national question National divisions continue to plague the USSR. <i>Andy Clarkson</i> looks at the reasons behind the persistence of chauvinism in the Soviet Union.	
Ireland Range sectarianism – anomaly or necessity?	British working class What is the labour bureaucracy?	Africa Crisis in South Africa	DEBATE <i>Battle of Algiers</i> <i>War and peace, militarism and anti-militarism</i>
Workshop Chance: May '68 Flash in the pan or the first shot of the coming European revolution? As the far right riots in the streets of Paris, <i>James Wood</i> remembers May '68.	Women The trade unions and women's rights	Workshop Is the USSR capitalist? <i>Tony Allen</i> looks at the history of the theory of state capitalism and shows where this popular analysis goes wrong.	
Ireland Republicanism since Partition	British working class The emerging patterns of employment and unemployment	Africa Showdown in Namibia	DEBATE <i>The Labour Party</i> <i>The Longest War</i>
Workshop Revolution and counter-revolution in Spain The Spanish Civil War was the last gasp of the European revolution. <i>Rob Knight</i> looks at the legacy for today.	Women The Labour Party and women's equality	Workshop Are the NICs a threat to imperialism? The newly industrialised countries are often portrayed as a threat to the imperialist order. <i>Tony Allen</i> analyses the consequences of the new international division of labour.	
Ireland Women under imperialism	British working class Wage bargaining	Africa Zimbabwe: compromise and oppression	DEBATE <i>Ireland and Irish solidarity</i> <i>The Travelling Players</i>
Workshop The oppression of gays and the working class Are gays oppressed? Is gay oppression an issue for the workers' movement. We assess the attempts to fight for gay rights in light of the present 'back to Victorian values' offensive.	Women The Soviet Union – a new form of oppression	Workshop Policing the working class <i>Joan Phillips</i> traces the history of the British police and examines the emergence of riot-policing, community policing and the illusions of accountability.	
Ireland The longest war	British working class Union organisation and politics	Africa How the Western powers line up	DEBATE <i>WOMEN</i> <i>Kuhle Wampa (1931)</i>
Workshop Ireland since martial law <i>Gareth Evans</i> discusses the persistence of Ireland's crisis as the Pope heads home and the working class discontent simmers.	Women The women's liberation movement – an assessment	Workshop Housing and the working class Whilst the Tories press on with the right to buy council houses the number of homeless grows. <i>Mike Wall</i> looks at the politics of housing in Britain today.	

'S power!

REGISTRATION

9am 16 July
Polytechnic Central London
New Cavendish St
London W1

I would like to attend *Preparing for Power* and enclose £10 (£6 UB40).

I would like to attend the following specialist courses:

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED? ☐

CRECHIE REQUIRED? ☐

Please bring a sleeping bag.

Ages of children?

Cheques payable to RCP Association. Send to BM RCP London WC1N 3XX.
Enquiries: 01-274 3951

**A unique opportunity to find out everything you
Marxism and working class politics. Learn theory
politics, meet activists, share experiences
have fun.**

PREPARI POW

**a full
revolution from the**

**SPECIALIST COURSES: Introduction to
working class, Women, Africa. DEBATES: The Revolution
War and peace, Feminism. BENEFIT: The Republic**

16-22 JULY, POLYTECHNIC OF CENTRAL LONDON,

A LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE