

**Ruskin History Workshop 13:**  
'People's History and Socialist Theory'  
Nov 30-Dec 2, 1979. Ruskin Hall,  
Headington, Oxford.

*Raphael Samuel writes:* History is perhaps the one field in which Marxist work in Britain has shown a continuous, and many-sided, if often contradictory growth. Its strength lies as much outside the universities as inside.

The Ruskin History Workshop — which extends fraternal greetings to readers of *Marxism Today* — will be an occasion to take stock of the very different intellectual and political forces which have shaped the making of socialist historical work in the past 100 years; it will try to account for the different directions taken by work within different national traditions (a feature of the Workshop will be the participation of our close comrades from different countries in Europe); and it will try to set out the tasks to be accomplished — and the problematics which have arisen — in the wide variety of fields where Marxism is a growing force: Peasant Studies, Cultural Studies, for instance, as well as such more obvious fields as trade union and feminist history. The Workshop will be an occasion to debate some of the issues which have arisen around the publication of E P Thompson's *Poverty of*

*Theory*; and it will also discuss the rather longer-standing question of how history can be used as a weapon in class struggle. Finally the Workshop aims to give practical help to people working in local and community-based projects, with sessions on oral history, archives and sources, factory history, and (with the aid of Eddie and Ruth Frow) collecting labour history libraries. In all, participants have a choice of two of thirteen one day sessions, together with three plenary sessions. 'Position papers' will be circulated a month beforehand. The programme and tickets (£3 for the week-end plus £2 for position papers) are obtainable from Ruskin History Workshop Collective, Walton Street, Oxford. Free sleeping floor accommodation is offered to those who are prepared to rough it, and there are creche facilities.

**Steve Iliffe writes:** Opposition to the Tory government's cutback in spending on the NHS has begun to serve as a focus for reaction against its policies amongst a wide spectrum of the population. At the community level, the closure of local facilities is being resisted with some degree of success. Within the health service itself, there are welcome signs that staff from different sectors and levels are recognising the need for a common commitment to the extension and

development of existing facilities. The TUC has overwhelmingly demonstrated its concern about the threat of redundancies in the health service, and with the consequences these will have for the provision of adequate health care available to all sections of the population.

Opposition to Tory cuts is not in itself, sufficient. The recent Royal Commission revealed some of the inadequacies of the NHS as it existed before the present onslaught. To be successful, a campaign to defend the NHS must combine immediate demands with a clear vision of what kind of health service we want; such a campaign must find ways of integrating the struggles of all those who work to expand and democratise the NHS.

To this end, the Communist Party is convening a national aggregate conference for Communist health workers, labour movement and community activists. Speakers will include Dr M Rapoport, Dr R Wilson, Irene Swan, and Steve Iliffe, who will assess Tory policy on health, the kind of health service we should be fighting for, and what the CP's strategy should be. The conference will take place on Saturday 20 October, from 11 am to 4.30 pm at the Polytechnic of Central London (Regent St Building). Admission is by CP/YCL card only — creche facilities will be available.

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# CRITIQUE

## Defend Rudolf Bahro: a conference on the socialist alternative & in defence of Rudolf Bahro

12/13th OCTOBER, 1979

RED LION SQUARE, CONWAY HALL, LONDON.

FRIDAY OCT. 12

9.30 — 10.30 am. Registration  
10.30 prompt Opening Address in Support  
of Rudolf Bahro — *Zhores Medvedev*

11.30 The State in Late Capitalism:  
Can the state be gradually  
transformed? Has the essence  
of the state changed?  
*Tom Litterick — Ernest Mandel — John Saville*

1.30 Lunch  
3.00 Workshops

1) New Theories of the State  
(*Convenor — Michael Cox*)  
2) Economic & Political  
Irrationality in the USSR  
(*Convenor — Sandy Smith*)  
3) Gramsci & Eurocommunism  
(*Convenor — Quintin Hoare*)  
4) Theories of the Present  
Crisis (*Convenors — Paul Walton & Andrew Gamble*)

5.30 Dinner  
7.00 prompt The Relevance of Leninism  
Today: Did Lenin make the  
crucial undemocratic errors  
which led to Stalinism?  
*Monty Johnstone — Rudi  
Dutschke — Chris Harman*

10.00 pm. Close

SATURDAY OCT. 13

10.00 am. prompt Is Market Socialism Possible  
or Necessary: Is a market  
required in the next stage in  
Eastern Europe or in the  
West, or is non-market social-  
ism the only form of alterna-  
tive socialist society?  
*Wlodzimierz Brus & Hillel Ticktin*

Lunch  
Workshops  
(As on Friday)  
Dinner  
The Lessons & Consequences  
of Chile: Is a new form of  
organisation required? Is  
Eurocommunism viable?  
*Andre Gundar. Frank —  
Ernesto Laclau — Michel  
Raptis*

10.00 pm. Close  
\* FEES — £5 for weekend; £2.50 per day  
Critique subscribers, students & unemployed  
— £3.50 weekend, £2.50 per day.  
We shall try to provide creche facilities, please indicate if you  
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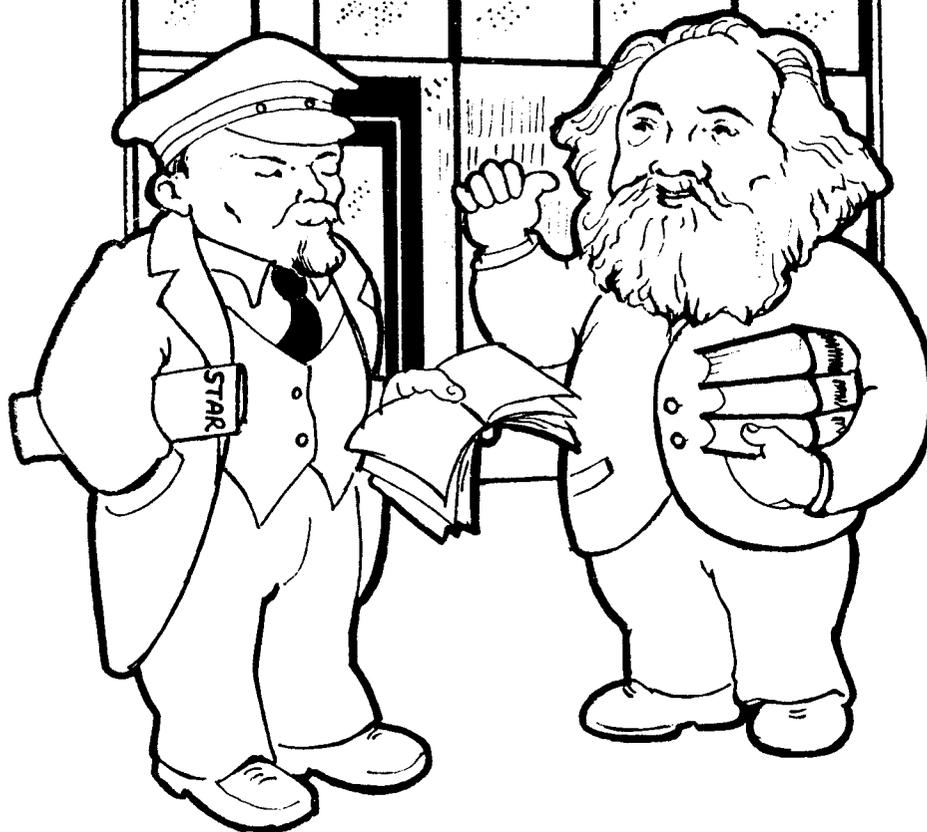
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