

Political Megastar

CLR James' meticulous class analysis sometimes obscures the black perspective and analysis of racism which one would expect from a man of his history and experience. But his intellect, breadth of interests and sheer longevity make CLR James one of the political megastars of this century.

CLR James, His Life and Work edited by Paul Buhle Allison & Busby £5.95 pbk. offers a fascinating collection of critiques, reviews and speculations about James' life and work. The jigsaw spans his influence and involve-



ment in African, American, European and Caribbean politics, as well as his output as a fiction and sports writer.

Indeed it's as James the cricket writer that his political analysis comes across best. **Cricket Allison & Busby** £14.95 hbk. is a collection of his writings on the subject. For James, to analyse cricket is to analyse the class nature of British society and one of the symbols of colonialism. A comment made in 1957 sums it up: 'By cricket I mean not only the game but the code connected with it'. ●

Trevor Carter

Women world-wide Women in the World: an international atlas by Joni Seager and Ann Olson Pan £7.95 pbk. gives a pretty but impressionistic view of women's lives world-wide, reducing reality to maps and numbers. Some interesting correlations emerge; seclusion and early marriages occurring in countries where there is no sex tourism or beauty queen contests.

But when women's oppressions and freedoms vary so fundamentally throughout the world perhaps any attempt to quantify and compare across cultures will provoke the banal. An example: 'high status' is attributed to women in the West, while 'unknown status' is attributed to those in the USSR.

Women in the World may be useful for highlighting some less complex points, but it is a disappointing depiction of women's many varied lives. ●

Haleh Afshar

Body Packaging

The Conran of cosmetics, Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop has in 10 years created one of the most successful franchise businesses of the 80s. In **The Body Shop** by G Mackay and A Corke Pan, Anita Roddick's story is told. Or as she puts it: 'Natural' products, no animal testing, no advertising, and a refusal to 'create false needs by playing on women's fears of lost beauty'.

But part of the Body Shop's success is that it plays on our distrust of the glossy sophistication of cosmetic companies, while relying on their advertising to create demand for its beauty products.

Yet environmentally concerned and successful is a great thing to be. The charm of the 'natural' is enhanced by attractive packaging, constant product development, sophisticated merchandising and creative PR - producing a dynamic retail concept with enormous appeal.

As a book **The Body Shop** won't tell you *how* it's been done - or about the 'hard' details of franchising and finance. Glossy descriptions of the business's development make it clear that Anita Roddick is a zealous entrepreneur with a superb feel for hype. It's no wonder that a book about her reads like an over-long press release. ●

Catherine Luyster

Vines and Wines

Just as winemakers are tempted to increase the alcohol level of their product by adding sugar (or worse), so wine writers too often fall into the trap of a language larded with pretentious and inappropriate adjectives. Not so, I'm glad to say, **Jancis Robinson**, best known for her path-breaking tv series on wine.

Vines, Grapes and Wines Mitchell Beazley £16.95 hbk. is, astonishingly, the first comprehensive English-language survey of the most important material element in the make-up of a particular wine - the grape variety or varieties used by the grower. Beside this, the 'south-facing slope', 'vigneron's craft' or 'flinty soil' so beloved of traditional wine writers is of minor importance.

Informatively but with a light touch, Jancis Robinson takes us through both the famous varieties which make up the great wines of France and also hundreds of lesser, but equally interesting, grape types used elsewhere in France, other European countries and wherever else wine is made and enjoyed, from China to Sussex. ●

Stephen Hayward

Child Sexual Exploitation

Judith Ennew's The Sexual Exploitation of Children, Polity Press £5.95 pbk and **Alice Miller's 'Thou Shalt Not Be Aware': society's betrayal of the child** Pluto £5.95 pbk both tackle the increasingly publicised subject of child sexual abuse. Psychoanalyst Alice Miller rightly challenges some of the basic tenets of orthodox psycho-analytic theory (such as the drive and Oedipus theories) which have dominated in a very negative way our perception and handling of sexual abuse this century. The book promises a radical reappraisal of approaches to child sexuality. But Miller's deep roots in those same psycho-analytic modes of thought, and her esoteric meandering into, among others, Kafka's psyche makes for heavy reading.

As a result some valid points, such as our reluctance to face up to the abused child's rage, lose their impact. Sadly 'Thou Shalt Not Be Aware' is destined to gather dust on the shelves of academics and psychiatrists.

Judith Ennew's The Sexual Exploitation of Children is, in contrast, succinct and informative. She covers a wide range of child sexual abuse, including prostitution and pornography, making comprehensive use of both historical and cross-cultural material.

Stressing children's position of

powerlessness within the family, Ennew makes no apologies for the fact that her book is as much about power as sex. Her argument that child sexual abuse is an extreme manifestation of prevailing social and sexual values is credible but very uncomfortable.

Contradictory views of child sexuality exist side by side in our society; we see children as total innocents, while also possessing a strong sensuality. In fact I think it is true to say that, while children have an awareness of pleasurable body sensations, to



equate this with adult sexuality is to attempt to excuse and rationalise our exploitation of them.

The Sexual Exploitation of Children raises difficult, complex questions to which there are no easy answers. Nevertheless, answers must be urgently found both to prevent the continued abuse of children and to give children the rights they so clearly need. ●

Kath Parr



A Proud Past

John Gorman's Banner Bright: An Illustrated History of Trade Union Banners Scorpion £19.50 hbk/£9.95 pbk shows the often proud, but also poignant, face of the British labour movement

past. Here the 'apostle of British socialism', Keir Hardie, is born aloft by the miners of Heworth colliery. Made to celebrate the nationalisation of the coal industry, the banner now lies at rest in a museum.



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Shattering Illusions:

West Indians in British Politics
Trevor Carter
with Jean Coussins

With a combination of personal testimony and political analysis, *Shattering Illusions* traces the impact of the West Indian community on British politics since the 1950s, from the period of so-called integration to the present challenge to institutional racism and the fight for genuine race equality. £3.95 paperback

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Jim Fyrth

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Autumn titles

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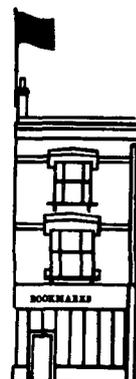
An introduction to Marxism, written in straightforward, everyday language – proving false the myth that Marxism is 'difficult' and showing it to be a set of ideas that explains the world we live in as no other set of ideas can. 96 pages. £1.95

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BLACKWELL

Trotsky

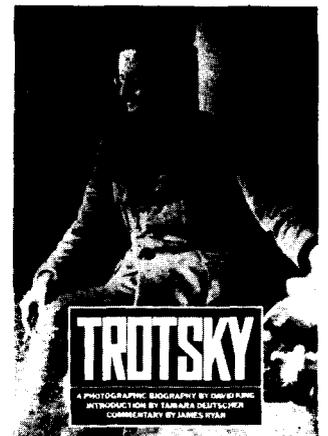
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Introduction by
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Commentary by
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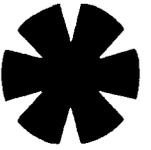
Over 400 rare photographs have been carefully structured with a parallel text by James Ryan. Here is the visual proof of the extraordinary life of the world's most brilliant 'permanent revolutionary'.

336 pages, £19.50 (0 631 14689 X)



Basil Blackwell

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PEACE MOVES

After the Icelandic summit Update yourself on the peace movement in all its different forms.

CND conference

A selection from the 100 meetings at Blackpool Winter Gardens, Nov 15-16. Open to observers.

☛ Details Martin Jones 01-250 4010.

Making Coalitions

Speakers include Ken Livingstone, Dafydd Elis Thomas MP and Martin Jacques.

CND and the political parties

Is there a clash between the interests of the peace movement and those of the political parties which support some or all of its policies?

CND and the nuclear power movement

Speakers from CND, the trades unions and George Pritchard from Greenpeace.

A New Wind from the East

Gorbachev's impact both inside the Soviet Union and on its foreign policy will be examined by Joan Ruddock, Gerard Holden and others.

Talking Sanity

A series of debates on implementing nuclear disarmament in Britain. "The peace movements and a disarming government": Ken Livingstone, Clare Short and Bruce Kent; Nov 24, Camden Town Hall.

☛ Details Colin James 01-250 4010.

Peace Tax Campaign

Dr Richard Lawson, a GP and Green Party councillor calls on GPs to join in support of a test ban treaty.

☛ Details Richard Lawson 0934 835140.

Left Unlimited

Denis Healey debates with Fedor Burlatsky, editor of *Liturnaya Gazeta*, - preference to weekend ticket holders, so book now!

NEWS

Nancy Astor Luncheon

To commemorate the entry of the first woman into the House of Commons in 1919- Nancy Astor. Organised by the 300 Group

☛ Details 01-734 3457.

A Night for the People of South Africa

Tim Curry, the Communards, David Hare, Hanif Kureishi and many more brought together by War on Want to aid refugees in the front-line states.

Nov 16.
☛ Shaftesbury Theatre, London WC2.

AIDS - a Trade Union Issue

The London Strategic Policy Unit has produced an information pack to be used by trade unionists dealing with problems associated with AIDS.

☛ Details from 15 Highstone Mansions, 84 Camden Rd, London NW1.

Marxism Today continues to expand and we need volunteer staff to help with merchandising and design. You will receive expenses and play a full and active part in every aspect of the magazine. Many thanks to Lawrence Budge, Dan

Glaister, Don Redding and John Scott for their help on this issue.
☛ Contact Jane Critchley 01-608 0265.

MEETINGS

Against the Burnings

Chile Solidarity meeting with Veronica de Negri - mother of youth burnt to death by Chilean troops - Denis Healey, Alan Beith MP and others.
Oct 30, 7.30, Conway Hall, London.

The Politics of Mental Health

Annual conference of the Socialist Health Association.

Nov 8, 10.30-4pm
☛ Details 01-703 6838.

There is an Alternative

Day seminar on formulating an alternative benefits system. Speakers include Ron Smith, Peter Essam and Joan Brown (PSI).

Nov 24, 9.30-4.30
☛ Details Camden Action on Benefits 01-831 6734.

Isaac Deutscher Memorial Lecture

Robert Brenner, winner of the 1985 Isaac Deutscher Prize will talk on "The Autonomy of the State?".

Nov 26, 7.30 pm.
☛ London School of Economics.

New Food Politics

A full menu of the contemporary issues in food politics.

Nov 29.
☛ Details from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science 01-607 9615.

Islington Remembers Spain

An evening of discussion and music to mark the part played by Islington in the Civil War. Nov 20, 7.30

☛ Red Rose Club, Seven Sisters Rd N4.

Britain at the Crossroads

Child Poverty Action Group conference with Buchi Emecheta, Malcom Wicks and Ken Livingstone.

Nov 8, 10.30-3.15, ULU, Malet St, London WC1.

☛ Details 01-242 3225.

Local Strategies for Work

The first national conference.

Speakers: David Blunkett, Margaret Hodge, Rodney Bickerstaffe and others. Nov 14-15.

☛ Details: CLES Heron Hse, Brazenose St, Manchester M2.

PUBLICATIONS

Peace Through Non-Alignment

Ben Lowe on British withdrawal from NATO. *Verso* £150.

Peace by Chris Sewell

An easy to read introduction to the issues of peace and the campaigns for civil rights and disarmament. *Spokesman* £2.50.

Hard Cash

A report by Change and War on Want on the damaging effects of racism and sexism on the aid agencies and how to combat them.

Black Woman

A monthly magazine from the perspective of anti-racist, anti-sexist, class-conscious women will be launched in November 1986.

☛ Details *Black Woman* 01-608 0447.

ANC Anniversary Calendar

To mark the 75th anniversary of

the ANC a wall calendar based on the Freedom Charter by artist Ruth Carneson is now available as well as greetings cards in the same design. Calendars £3. Greetings cards with envelopes £1, available from ANC, PO Box 38, 28 Penton St, London N1 9PR.

Part-Time Workers

One in every five workers now works part-time, the vast majority of whom are women. This booklet examines the situation and sets out legal rights and an approach for the unions. Available from Labour Research Dept., 78 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1. £1.

Critical Mess

The latest issue of Third World First's quarterly magazine examines the real costs of global nuclearisation. £1.50.

VIDEOS

Moving Away From Home

A video resource pack from Shelter for young people.

☛ Details 01-633 9377.

Northern Newsreel No 3

The main feature on this half-hour bulletin is on the Fowler Review plus items on the MSC and regular features.

☛ Details: Northern Newsreel, 36 Bottle Bank, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 2AR.

Open Eye Catalogue

Videotape catalogue now available - on women and trade unions, international issues and media representations - and other work.

☛ Details 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1 6EN.

Who's Next For Privatisation . . . ?

A video record of a campaign by local authority and hospital workers against private contractors in the North East. Available from: 5 Side (Rear), Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JE.

Entries for the December Update

should be sent to the office by November 4. For information: tel Nick Mirzoeff on 01-673 3450. Please try to ensure you give details of disabled access.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month's contributors include: **Jon Bloomfield** is a member of CND's international committee and of the Communist Party's executive committee.

Barbara Rogers edits *Everywoman* magazine. She has written several books on Southern Africa. **Jeff Ferry** is a London-based American newspaper correspondent.

Virendra Sharma is an Ealing councillor and ethnic minorities officer for the Labour Party.

Tony Levene is a freelance financial journalist.

Jackie Willis is a freelance writer. **Beatrix Campbell** is a journalist on *City Limits* magazine and she is currently completing a book called *The Iron Ladies* to be published by Virago next year.

Gerard Holden is a research officer at Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit.

Eric Hobsbawm was formerly Professor of Economic and Social History at Birkbeck College, London and is a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board.

Gareth Stedman Jones is the author of *Languages of Class* and *Outcast London*.

John Grahl is a lecturer in economics at Queen Mary College, London and a member of the Communist Party's economic committee.

Bob Rowthorn is a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board. He is Reader in economics at Cambridge University.

For *Mainstream* roundtable participants see p36.

Steve Vines is a journalist on *The Observer*. He was previously a freelance journalist specialising in Middle East affairs and secretary of the Labour Party NEC's Middle East sub-committee.

Nick Newman is a freelance writer who interviewed Nigel Mansell in Austria earlier this year.

Micheline Wandour is a playwright.

Victoria Wood is an actress and comedienne. Her series *Victoria Wood As Seen On TV* starts this month.

Rosalind Brunt lectures in communication and women's studies at Sheffield Polytechnic and is a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board.

David Berry is a freelance writer. **Stuart Cosgrove** writes for the *New Musical Express*.

Janie Glen teaches in adult education and is a member of the Communist Party executive committee.

Anthony Barnett is the author of *Iron Britannia*.

David Forgacs edited *Rethinking Italian Fascism* (Lawrence and Wishart, 1986) and is a member of the Communist Party's theory and ideology committee.

Ian Williams is a member of the Liverpool Labour Party and northern correspondent of the *New Statesman*.

Alan Leaman is a member of the Liberal Party's standing policy committee.

Hywel Francis is chair of the Wales Congress in Support of Mining Communities and also chairs the Welsh Communist Party's energy and mining advisory committee.

Joan Smith is a freelance journalist.