



**B** BRITISH ONLINE  
ARCHIVES

+44 (0)1924 825700

info@britishonlinearchives.digital

www.britishonlinearchives.digital



AGITATION AND THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF  
BRITISH COMMUNISM, 1907-1977

**B** BRITISH ONLINE  
ARCHIVES



## Harry Pollitt from strikes and industrial action...

British Online Archives updated collection, *Agitation and the Internal Politics of British Communism, 1907-1977* is drawn from the personal papers of one of the titans of British communism, Harry Pollitt.

Harry Pollitt served as General Secretary of the CPGB from 1929 until 1956. During his early tenure, he strongly advocated fascist resistance to Franco's Spain and Hitler's Germany in the 1930s.



This collection is one of many CPGB resources hosted on the British Online Archives website.

### POLLITT stands for UNITY

Here, in East Rhondda, WHERE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY of a Capitalist Candidate (Conservative or Liberal) getting in, we have to choose whether POLLITT or MAINWARING will be the MOST USEFUL to the working-class interests in a Labour Government or in opposition.

The return of MAINWARING would mean NO CHANGE, NO NEW LIFE, NO EXTRA ENERGY FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

POLLITT IN PARLIAMENT means NEW COURAGE! NEW DETERMINATION! MORE POWER TO LABOUR'S ELBOW!

The collection contains over 14500 unique images.

The material found in this collection initially coalesces around Pollitt's personal life and his position in British trade unionism, namely his role in the Boilermakers Society and the National Minority Movement.

As his significance within the CPGB grew, the material shows how Pollitt became a crucial agent in shaping the party's policy both during the Second World War and during the emergence of the Cold War in the 1940s and 1950s.

"Though Pollitt took some time to establish his authority, by the mid-1930s he functioned as de facto party 'leader' and a sort of tribune of the anti-fascist left."

Professor Kevin Morgan.

## ...to building a 'United Front' against fascism

LETTER FROM R. P. DUTT  
TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, C.P.G.B.

15th Sept./31.

Dear Comrades,

We are faced with the necessity of meeting a big situation without lagging behind. The new stage of fight, of which we have given continuous warning during the past twelve months, and for which we have striven to prepare and awaken the working class through the Charter Campaign, is now upon us. The reality, the intensity of the crisis and the character of the consequent political transformation, is in fact very much greater than we warned. We have to review our whole line in relation to the new situation; we have to fulfill our

The collection hosts extensive correspondence from the 1930s, largely pertaining to the transition from Stalin's policy of 'Class Against Class' to the building of a 'United Front'

1939 - 1941

These Notes are to the best of my recollection the events which took place in the period of the outbreak of war in 1939, and the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

They are written for the information of my family, so that they may be aware in case of any press representation, where I stood in relation to these historical events, in view of many things that have been said in the past, and may be said at some future time.

They are not to be used publicly under any account, and also in no circumstances are they to be used for propaganda in the capitalist press or for any financial gain.

From the time of the advent of Hitler to power in Germany, the Communist Party has stood out as the champion of anti-fascism in Britain. It has fought for the United Front, and a Popular Front so as to widen the whole of the anti-fascist forces. It unhesitatingly led the fight against Mosley Fascism in Britain; it

Pollitt was a staunch advocate of war against Nazi Germany, and lost his role as General Secretary for two years for his refusal to back the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

GREETINGS TO 20TH CONGRESS OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

MY DEAR COMRADES,

On behalf of the British Communist Party, ~~and~~ <sup>an</sup> Delegation is proud and honoured to bring to this 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, our warm and heartfelt greetings.

We do so with all the more happiness because of the magnificent achievements of Socialism which

During his twilight years Pollitt travelled on speaking tours to the Soviet Union, India, China, Australia, and New Zealand.

## Over 4 million records covering 1000 years of world history: from politics & warfare, to slavery & revolution.



www.britishonlinearchives.digital