

From The British Road to Socialism...

British Online Archives' updated collection, *Political Programmes of British Communism*, 1944–1990 is drawn from the papers of several commissions of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB).

The collection focuses on the CPGB's main political programme: *The British Road to Socialism*. First published in 1951 with the personal approval of the leader of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin, *The British Road* was redrafted



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

several times as the CPGB wrestled with factionalism and tried to keep the manifesto relevant to British and international politics.

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Parliament its exclusive sovereign right to control the country's fin- ancial, economic and military policy, close the country to foreign capitalist penetration and restore	independent with a foreign policy of peace;	transformed into an instrument ex- pressing the interests of the people

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The redrafting process was often long and arduous. Minutes, reports, and correspondence offer an exclusive look at how *The British Road* took shape.

The collection also features material from other Party commissions. These wrestled with issues such as the democratic deficit in Britain, class unity, and the organisation of the Party. These sources demonstrate how communist plans to reshape Britain developed over time.

"The basic problems facing the British people... can only be solved when the capitalist system is replaced by social ownership of the means of production" – The British Road to Socialism (1968 edn.).

...to commissions on internal Party issues.

LOOKING AT THE LEFT

'Post-Fordism'

Old ideas for New Times

Mike Freeman and Gemma Forest take a critical look at the most fashionable theory on the left

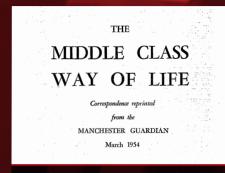
Shortly after he became Labour leader in 1983 Neil Kinnock paid homage to professor Eric Hobsbawm, historian and leading Communist Party intellectual, as 'my favourite Marxist'. Kinnock adopted Hobsbawm's thesis that Labour's apparently inexorable post-war electoral slippage was attributable to the decline in the manual workforce and the rise of white-collar employment. Despite its internal strife, the loss of its daily paper and the departure of its mambars in

Now the Communist Party has come up with a new theory for its friends at Walworth Road—'post Fordism', the mode of social organisation at the heart of what Marxism Today styles today's 'New Times'. This characterisation of a new phase of capitalist development justifies the redefinition of socialism in terms which accept the capitalist market and a trimmed-down welfare state. The Communist Party now puts its hopes for a better future in the exercise of choice by individual

the New Times analysis), and Labour's policy review, the first report of which was endorsed at the Blackpool conference last month.

The key to the New Times is the transition from 'Fordism' to 'post-Fordism'. According to the Marxism Today thesis, borrowed from the French economists Michel Aglietta and Alain Lipietz, Fordism means an economy dominated by mass production and mass consumption, with centralised management and wage hareaining and extensive state.

In the CPGB's later years, many of the commissions became battlegrounds between various factions of the Party. The *Manifesto for New Times* signaled an end to the CPGB's flagship political programme: *The British Road to Socialism*.



The "Commission on the Middle Classes" investigated ways in which an alliance could be built between the middle class and the working class in Britain.

PROM: GDE. TOWILL, EIMONTON BRANCH



PARTY ORGANISATION SUGGESTIONS

- The acceptance of the idea that this is in the main a "propaganda war" winning people's minds and to achieve this every channel of communication the public must be used. Deliberately meeting the green (in fact agitating ry favourable situation in order to inform the press and T.V. of our views)
- 5. If every reader of the <u>Daily Worker</u> were to leave the paper after reading every day in a railway carriage, etc. this would enable an even greater coverage by the <u>Daily Morker</u> (and other Communist literature).
- The need to get good sites in every area somewhere to push Communist post-drs. Is one good site better than a dozen poorer sites?"If we make enough coine we will be heard."
- 5. Organisation of members to attend general meetings in Hyde Park followed ap with a mass demonstration of the BBO/ATV every month if mosssary.
- f. Is there any possibilities of pushing the commercial angle through to the public for e.g. a Communist footbell pool comes to mind as boing a realistic commercial success. Note how the charities have moved in on the

Internal commissions like the "Committee on Party Organisation" looked at streamlining the structure and methods of the CPGB.

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