

# WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Number 85 - March 2005

Twenty One Years of Irish Anarchist News

<http://www.struggle.ws/wsm>



## the murder machine

25 year old Robert Pugh died on March 2nd this year when an 'improvised explosive device' detonated near his military vehicle in Iskandariyah, Iraq. A native of Meridian, Mississippi Robert was the 1642nd U.S. soldier sent to be killed by the Bush government.

"He was just one of those great, personable guys" said Chris Coffin, with whom Pugh worked at United Blood Services in Meridian. "He would just light up a room and he could lighten the spirit."

Pugh, who had been married almost a year, was a licensed paramedic who worked for United Blood Services in Meridian, Coffin said. He was also a member of the Mississippi National Guard.

The National Guard is a reserve and back up to the regular army, in times of peace its members complete a basic training programme and then take part in activities on occasional weekends. However when America goes to war so does its reserve, and like Robert Pugh many members of the National Guard have found themselves serving in Iraq putting their lives on their line - and taking others - so Bush and his capitalist cronies can reap the profit.

Like the other branches of the U.S. military, the National Guard advertises heavily for recruits. As well as offering to pay college and education expenses they promise "good pay while you learn important job skills, gain critical life experiences and acquire the kind of leadership training that future employers look for." In fact, 31% more veterans are

unemployed than non-veterans. Likewise at least two thirds of those who apply for college funding fail to receive it.

The Irish government are complicit in the deaths of these U.S. soldiers, not to mention the 100,000 or so Iraqis the troops have slaughtered. In 2004 more than 158,000 US Troops flew through Shannon Airport, most on their way to Iraq. During much of that same period of time approximately 5,500 US Troops have deserted, gone into hiding, been sent to jail and some have escaped to Canada. Another 1,700 have deserted their posts in Iraq itself.

In a situation where their government is more than happy to see them kill and die for political gain we can only hope that more choose to do the same.



News and Opinion from Irish Anarchists



# The Iraqi 'Resistance'

## A Closer Look at the Forces Fighting the US in Iraq

George Bush declared major combat operations to be over on May 1st, 2003. 139 US soldiers had been killed by that date. Two years later over ten times that number have died. No one knows how many Iraqis have been killed, as the Americans aren't even bothering to count. Estimates like that published in *Lancet* last October suggested a likely death toll of around 100,000.

The Socialist Workers Party leadership of the official Irish Anti-War Movement have become very excited by this - to the point of putting 'victory to the resistance' stickers all around Dublin. There is a logic to this as any military defeat for US imperialism will reduce the ability of the imperialist powers to engage in future interventions. The intensity of the resistance in Iraq has almost certainly prevented or slowed down the Bush administration moving on to its next target whether that be Iran or Syria. And if the U.S. ends up being driven out of Iraq as it was driven out of Vietnam, then the willingness of the US public to support interventions elsewhere would collapse.

So from the point of view of the western left simply cheering on the resistance might make a certain sense. But for those interested in freedom for the people of Iraq rather than simply giving the US army a bloody nose the question is much more complex.

It is clear that there is no single 'resistance' in Iraq but rather a network of organizations often with conflicting end goals once you look beyond the question of removing the US presence. Few if any of these represent anything that would bring freedom to the people of Iraq. The worst, including those Islamists grouped around Al - Zaraqawi, openly look forward to creating a theocratic state where women would be oppressed, where there would be no democracy and where the majority Shia religion would be suppressed. This 'faction' of the resistance is not waiting to take power, they have already carried out car bombings against Shia religious events in a bid to stoke up a sectarian civil war.

Over 1,000 Iraqi women have abandoned their university studies. Hinadi, the star dancer of the group 'el-Portoqala' was killed by Islamists while visiting her family. Apparently "el-Portoqala sings modern songs, which outraged some Islamists who said the songs were pornographic, liberal



and 'alien to conservative Iraqi society'. In reality the songs merely showed women dancing and posing as lovers"<sup>1</sup>

The other major factor of the resistance built around the Ba'athist party would seem to offer nothing but a return to dictatorship - and the sort of dictatorship that in the past was more than happy to become a regional ally of the US. At the end of February, *Time magazine* revealed that there have been at least two secret meetings in the 'Green zone' between US military of-

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### 'It is clear that there is no single "resistance" in Iraq'

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ficials and a 'senior insurgent negotiator'. Presumably the US is trying to ensure that if they are forced to withdraw they can hand over power to their preferred faction of the resistance - probably the Ba'athists whom they previously supported for the decades before the 1991 war.

The role of activists in the west has to be to undermine the war effort of our governments and thus force an end to the occupation. In Ireland this means concentrating on the ongoing vital support refuelling at Shannon plays for the US army's supply chain. But rather than blindly cheering on a resistance in Iraq which includes elements that have nothing to offer the Iraqi people we should offer concrete solidarity to those in Iraq who oppose the occupation and are struggling for freedom for Iraqi workers and women.

Although it has not received much coverage in either the left or mainstream press there are significant workers struggles taking place within Iraq. There is a real attempt to put forward a progressive agenda in the interests of Iraqi workers. Independent unions like that of the oil workers in Basra are being built as are organizations of the unemployed and women. Any real post-occupation hope for the people of Iraq lies in these sort of projects.

*Slaving your life away just so you can make ends meet; having no say in the major decisions that affect your life; criminal politicians and businessmen plundering the country. Try to do something about it and they'll lock you up. Yes,*



### Bank Robbers and Robbing Bankers

Allied Irish Bank has posted a 40% increase in profits, up to a record €1.42 billion, for last year. At the same time they announced that had paid back €14.5 million of the €25.6 million due to customers who were deliberately overcharged for foreign currency transactions. We don't know how much other scams are costing customers but we do know that no senior manager (i.e. those who give the orders) has been before the courts.

### Brazen Wolves, Obedient Sheep

Although at this stage we shouldn't be surprised at the U.S. government's hypocrisy, it is hard to believe that they had the gall to criticise Syria for its military presence in Lebanon at the same time as they are responsible for the disastrous occupation of Iraq. The many TV and radio interviewers who allowed such hypocrisy to go unchallenged seemed unaware of any similarities between Syria's control of Lebanon and Israel's harsher control of the West Bank or the American occupation of Iraq. The extent to which these otherwise intelligent people can internalise the values of their own political leadership constantly amazes.

# The Great Housing Rip-Offs

## Or When Property Becomes Theft

Whether we pay rent or a mortgage, the cost of keeping a roof over our heads takes up a huge proportion of our income - those of us who are 'lucky' enough to be in a position to do so. Everywhere we look - both in Dublin and other cities and also in small rural villages and towns - the skyline is dotted with cranes and houses and apartments seem to be springing up everywhere.

Yet the cost of buying a home - or even of renting one - is proving to be beyond the reach of many people. There are nearly 60,000 families on the housing waiting lists of local authorities throughout the state. The Simon Community estimates that an additional 10,000 people experience homelessness every year.

### The tax incentive' rip-off'

According to an article by journalist Maev-Ann Wren in 'The Village' (4th December 2004) up to 40,000 of the 80,000 homes built in 2004 were built as second homes - "either holiday homes, which are empty for most of the year, or houses and apartments, whose purchasers intend them to remain empty, since they are persuaded to buy by generous tax subsidies and their anticipation that an eventual sale will realise a speculative gain."

All of these second homes are being built by wealthy people availing of various government 'tax incentive schemes'. In other words, they are allowed to write off a proportion of the money they spend from their tax bill. The rest of us - those of us who can hardly afford one home, never mind two - suffer on the double. In the first place, huge amounts of money that could be spent on building local authority and social housing is foregone by the state (It is reckoned that one scheme alone - the Resort Relief Scheme - cost the exchequer approximately €317.4 million between 1995 and 2000). And secondly, the proliferation of second homes has the effect of driving up house prices for the rest of us.

### The rezoning rip-off

From the evidence that has come out at the tribunals, everyone is now aware of the great rip-off that is involved in the rezoning of land. If someone owns a few acres of farming land and can persuade/lobby

the local authority to rezone it residential, attempting to buy or rent the houses or



he/she stands to make an absolute killing, sometimes up to 12 or 13 times the previous value. And as the tribunals illustrate, there are plenty of corrupt politicians like Liam Lawlor or Ray Burke willing to be 'persuaded'. This rip-off profit eventually comes out of the pockets of the people

apartments built on the land.

The housing rip-off is one of the greatest scandals of the capitalist system, and a clear example of the fact that when profit rather than need is the deciding factor, those that have most will always be in a position to fleece the rest of us.

## Water Tax

### They Want us to Pay Twice

They want to take more money away from us. The British government plans to impose a water charge averaging £340 a year in Northern Ireland. That's for 2006, and we can be sure it will rise every year.

We already pay for water supply through the rates - 37% goes to water - but the government wants us to pay twice. Nobody will be exempt. Pensioners and families on low income or benefits will have to pay 75% of the bill.

A new water company is being formed. We expect it to be sold to big business. This charge is all about taking as much as possible from working people and using it to boost the bank accounts of wealthy shareholders.

In Britain the poll tax was defeated through non-payment. In the South their water charge was defeated through non-payment. There is no reason we can't do the same here.

For more information: Communities Against the Water Tax, 185 Clifton Park Avenue, Belfast BT14 6DT.  
E-mail: [cawt@btconnect.com](mailto:cawt@btconnect.com)

# Postal Workers Under Fire

## Interview: An Post and the Threat of Privatisation

Over the last year or so, the working conditions of staff in An Post have been the subject of cutbacks and attacks by its management and ultimately the government. This includes shutting the SDS Courier service, withholding pay-rises, and understaffing many sorting offices. The strategy is to undermine workers' morale and thereby to facilitate either privatisation or simply to weaken An Post in order to benefit private competitors. **Kevin Doyle** interviews a postal worker in Cork to find out the mood on the shop floor.

### **What is the situation in An Post now?**

Right now they are the focus of privatisation efforts in the public sector. They are not needed like ESB workers who can stop power, nor are they seen as essential like health workers. They are perceived as an easier target and are weaker.

### **Was the recent shutting down of SDS a part of this strategy?**

Yes, it had to do with the opening of the markets wider for the private mail companies that are already working in Ireland and making profit - like DHL, Federal Express etc. These companies only deal with parcels and packets and it's a profitable business. SDS provided the same service at low cost, which is what you expect of a public service, but now with SDS out of the way, it will be even better for the private operators. People need to realise how dangerous privatisation will be. Right now wherever you live in Ireland you get the service that anyone else gets... it's even. But privatisation will change that. The money is to be made in the high population density areas where post can be moved in bulk easily. So a lot of people and a lot of communities will lose out if privatisation happens. The service will become uneven and unequal.

### **How is the privatisation issue being pushed?**

An Post management is trying to convince the workforce that privatisation is the only way forward for the company. It is a EU directive, they claim, that cannot be ignored. It's a method of bullying. As part of this we see all the new investment in technology. But the new technology has not increased productivity. Similarly, they want to leave a lot of workers go, on the grounds that it would make An Post more efficient. Management claim they have no money to pay workers and yet they give themselves huge bonuses and salaries.

### **Speaking of investment, the Cork Mail Centre (CMC) is the big new operation with An Post, but it sounds like a harsh place to work.**

The situation is crazy. Everyone down there



says one thing: too many chiefs and no Indians. That's what it is like there. A lot of supervisors and managers for just 200 people. That is where the inefficiency is. Supervisors watching, watching, watching. Which is even odd because the place is covered with cameras, monitoring everyone.

### **What is the situation with the union in An Post now?**

The union in An Post is very strong if you look at the numbers. It has a big membership. But for the average worker the opinion is not just that the union does very little for the members, it actually does nothing. There is a lot of mistrust.

### **How can the union be doing nothing in the present situation, what with the drive to privatisation?**

The union as I said is strong in An Post, but instead of taking strength in that fact, and putting the real issues on the table for the government and the management of An Post it is just staying quiet. And it is not because they have no perspective. The union leadership know how things are going and where they are going... An Post workers have been hit under the belt a number of times in the last few years, but the union instead of taking the opportunity to defend its members, it is just ignoring the situation. For example, some of the money due to workers under the last national agreement has not been paid yet. But instead of taking the opportunity not to agree to any talks on a new agreement with the government and the management until this money is paid, they accept the situation and make promises to the workers. So now we are in the ludicrous situation where we are being asked to agree to a new pay deal and

we still haven't got what is our due from the last! It is a joke.

### **It's sound crazy all right. What sort of input does the ordinary member of the union have into all of this?**

There is no real democracy in the union. We do have elections once a year but if issues arise in the interim, there is nobody to discuss them. The reps are not doing the jobs that they should. They don't seem to care. For example at the CMC a lot of issues have arisen with shift work, salaries, and the treatment by the management, but the union has been incapable to handling them. There is no decision making process. There is not the gathering of the workers in the short term for us all to be informed of what is going on and what is happening. Or to vote. It is authoritarian. It is and it is getting worse. Because you see the more you give to the management they more they will walk all over you. Little things make a difference, you see.

### **There was almost a national strike after the recent stand-off over SDS?**

The situation is a paradox. There were a lot of people in SDS working hard, 24/7, and they knew they benefited the company. It was well known. But the management just decided that this was the branch to be cut off, even though as I say it was the branch that bore fruit. So it was crazy and especially to those who worked in SDS and knew what the truth was. You just can't do that. People were angry about that but they were also afraid. The union also spun the line that to strike would make An Post even more susceptible to privatisation because a strike would hurt the company financially. So the situation really was not good. It was very disappointing. The union is not doing the job it should do. I think a lot of members don't realise the union leaders are playing games behind our back - their agenda is different.

### **Where do you see things going?**

An Post Worker: I hope things will come around and that at the end of the day we will manage to save An Post from privatisation. You don't want to think the opposite, because it is your job. But the truth is that all the signs, everything is pointing the other way around; in other words that the government and the management will manage to get what they want - privatisation. The problems are manifold but the lack of solidarity between the union members and the general problem with the union as I spoke about earlier - these are central. If we are united there is no way management could get away with what they are planning to do. So the big challenge is to build solidarity and to make the union our union.

## EVENTS & CONTACTS

### ANARCHIST GROUPS

#### Workers Solidarity Movement

Platformist Anarchist Organisation

Publishes *this paper*

PO box 1528, Dublin 8, Ireland

[www.struggle.ws/wsm](http://www.struggle.ws/wsm) [wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.com) [corkwsm@eircom.net](mailto:corkwsm@eircom.net)

#### Organise! Working Class Resistance

Class Struggle Anarchist Organisation

Publishes "Working Class Resistance" PO Box 505, Belfast, BT12 6BQ

[www.organiseireland.org](http://www.organiseireland.org)

### LIBERTARIAN NETWORKS

Networks and collectives with a libertarian ethos in which anarchists are involved

#### Grassroots Network

<http://flag.blackened.net/infocenter/grassroots>

Non-hierarchical Direct-Action Network

Network of grassroots social justice activists with groups in Dublin, Cork & Galway.

#### Indymedia Ireland

[www.indymedia.ie](http://www.indymedia.ie)

Irish Branch of Global Media Collective

The place to find Irish campaign news.

#### Red Ink Infoshop

4 Upper Fownes St. Temple Bar

Anarchist / Radical Book & Zine Store

### ACTIVIST GROUPS

Activist groups fighting for social justice

#### Alliance For Choice

Campaign for women's freedom to choose

[www.struggle.ws/ireland/allianceforchoice/index.html](http://www.struggle.ws/ireland/allianceforchoice/index.html)

#### Residents Against Racism

Campaign against racism & deportations

Meets every Friday at 7pm in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square in Dublin [www.residentsagainstracism.org](http://www.residentsagainstracism.org)

### EVENTS

#### WSM Dublin Anarchist Films

Anarchist Cultural Afternoons.

First Sunday of every month, contact WSM Dublin for details

#### Grassroots Drag Bingo!

Fundraiser for Grassroots Gathering

24th of March 8pm, The Gingsman, Fenian Street, Dublin 1.

#### Mayday Legal Support Fundraiser

Gig with live music to raise money for the victims of the police hysteria last Mayday,

8pm Thursday March 31st. Boh's bar, Dalymount

#### Grassroots Gathering 9

Friday, April 1st to Sunday, April 3rd St. Nicholas of Myra Community Centre, Carmen Hall, off Francis Street, Dublin 8.

Island-wide Gathering of Libertarian Activists, with dozens of meetings, workshops and social events.

#### Opening Night Event

7pm Friday, April 1st

The Miners Strike, 30 Years On, video and talk by Dave Douglass, ex-miner, num lay official, class war member and anarchist,

### EMAIL/WEB

[irishanarchism@yahoogroups.com](mailto:irishanarchism@yahoogroups.com)

Big, high-volume anarchist discussion list

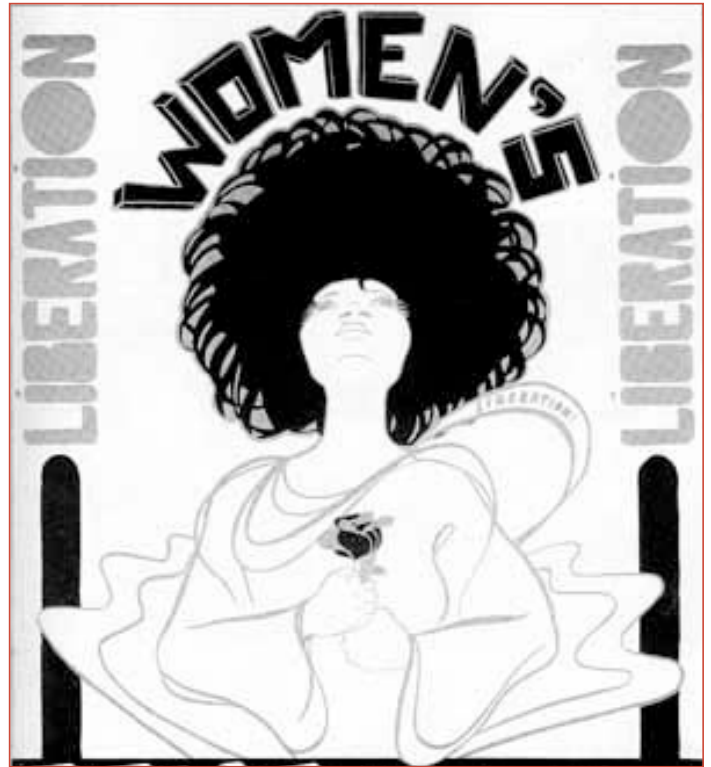
[ainriail@struggle.ws](mailto:ainriail@struggle.ws)

Low-volume newslit from the WSM

[www.anarchism.ws/ireland.html](http://www.anarchism.ws/ireland.html)

Index of Irish anarchist Internet resources.

# International Women's Day



## A Day to Highlight Women's Fight Against Oppression

International Women's Day (IWD) is on 8th March and is an inherently political event that started in 1910 when Clara Zetkin proposed that it be celebrated every year around the world at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women.

This action was inspired by national women's days in the States during the women's suffrage and trade union movement that had been organised by socialist women including the Irish American Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. The types of actions and demands on IWD have varied over the years, including a massive strike action that fuelled the Russian revolution in February 1917.

There has been an institutionalization of the IWD, such as United Nations and many governments' recognition of the day yet IWD has avoided being commodified and many grassroots actions still take place. There still is a need for the day and for the issues that an international day like this pushes forward. There are issues of care work not being paid or underpaid. There are issues with single mothers and getting back to work, with immigrant workers and the abuses they face by being bound to their employer and working in isolated and often abusive situations.

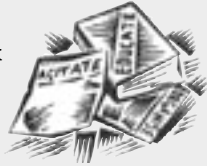
Often international women's day is seen as a chance to highlight women's oppression around the world, while avoiding our own communities. In Ireland migrant workers, care work and exploitation of flexible work are compounded with Irish women not having the basic rights over their bodies and sexuality. With abortion still illegal in Ireland there are many fights to be had here at home.

This year in Dublin there were events ranging from anarchist society talks and films in colleges to Amnesty international and Global Women's strike. The range of issues being tackled are abortion, violence, poverty, war and living wage. This is on top of on going struggles in the libertarian community on issues of gender, sexual assault, FGM and anti-racism.

by Tobie

## Getting organised for a brighter future

We are social creatures. We cannot do many things on our own, we flock together, and in most cases we solve our problems together.



In the existing system, the amount of things we have to fight against appears to grow daily. In this issue of the paper we deal with the War, a workplace fight against privatisation, and the property rip-off. As an individual you could be involved in struggles against these and other oppressive developments. But you need the unity and the strength that comes through working together. Anarchists are no different, we organise to make our views heard, to give a picture of the type of system we wish to replace the current deadly one with.

Different places and struggles all entail different types of organisations. There is the trade union movement for workplace struggles; the community group for local matters. But no matter what type of organisation it is, there is one very important trait that we seek to establish, and that is a true participatory democracy. In the WSM, we are not different. We are a group of like minded individuals who see Capitalism as being the unifying theme behind much if not all of the oppression which we see in today's world. Within the group we are stronger, and we share and develop skills which help us in our struggle.

We aim to replicate the type of society that we wish to create in our organisation by having real democracy. All have an equal say. All have the same rights. All of us work towards the same aims. We are there to encourage each other; to pick each other up, and to help each other out. Together we can produce this paper, a magazine, and have a huge website where we put a vision before people of what we want for ourselves and for the world. We wish to see a society based on the ideas of freedom and self-management. Within the organisation we work to create the type of environment where people can feel free and empowered. We are taking steps to begin to seize control of our own destiny.

You would never expect anyone to win a war without organising to take on the enemy. In the same way, we think the way that you organise and fight will determine what type of society follows on from it. The means will shape the end.

We are not asking people to join an army, where you have a hierarchy of generals and officers to salute, or to put it another way, where you have the leadership above the worker drones who sell papers and put up posters. Anarchists advocate libertarian organising, where people come together as equals and participate fully to determine the decisions and direction of the group. Organised anarchist groups like the WSM are growing because people can see that together we are all getting closer towards the ideal, a world without Capital, a world without war, and world without hunger. We work towards one where there will be freedom, economic equality and true democracy. No individual is going to achieve this for us, we must do this for ourselves: together.

## Workers Solidarity

PO box 1528, Dublin 8, Ireland

Web: <http://struggle.ws/wsm>

email: [wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.com),

[corkwsm@eircom.net](mailto:corkwsm@eircom.net)

Affiliated to International Libertarian Solidarity (ILS/SIL)

<http://www.ils-sil.org>

## Thinking about Anarchism

by Oisín Mac Gíollaí

# Liberty



It is often said that there are two types of liberty, positive liberty and negative liberty, or, roughly, 'freedom to...' and 'freedom from...' This, I believe, is a false and meaningless dichotomy. Liberty is a word that does not describe two things; it describes one singular thing, one single state of being. Liberty, like every word in every language, is a word that has developed out of the need for people to communicate. It is an idea that is in essence interpersonal, social. As Mikhail Bakunin, one of the founding fathers of modern anarchism, wrote "Man in isolation can have no liberty. Being free for man means being acknowledged considered and treated as such by another man, and by all the men around him. Liberty is therefore not a feature of isolation, not of exclusion but rather of connection."

This may at first seem to say nothing new to us about liberty; it doesn't us give a definition of liberty that will be true and valid for all eternity and it doesn't get us any closer to such a definition. However it does remind us of a few things. It reminds us that, contrary to what many people say, liberty is not a matter of being free from people, nor is it a matter of being free to do whatever you wish regardless of the effect that it might have on other people. Liberty is only meaningful when we are free with people. Liberty only makes sense when the freedom of one person does not encroach upon the other but rather re-enforces it. Liberty is not like a cake with only so many slices to go around. It is a human, living thing that only exists in society as we create it; it is a social creation.

Liberty only exists between equal human beings. Inequality implies the hierarchical positioning of one human over another and, as such, implies the subjugation of one to the other. Inequality creates slavery; it is only in a society of equals that true liberty can breathe.

### Capital's ideologues

Contrary to what many say, there is no conflict between liberty and equality. The existence of one implies the necessary co-existence of the other. It would only be possible to think otherwise if equality was confused with equation or if it was thought that liberty referred not to the whole human but only to aspects of him/her. Both these mistakes are commonly made by Capital's ideologues. They believe that equality only means either the equal subjugation of all to the State or to Capital. As such, they find any autonomous expression of individuality or difference a major threat to equality. Many then believe themselves to be the great defenders of liberty by opposing equality in favour of liberty!! But their understanding of liberty is shallow and meaningless. Capitalist 'liberty' restricts and suppresses the free unfettered self-development of the individual, the free autonomous self-management of one's own affairs and the freedom that comes with removing fear, state-violence and war from the world. Capitalist 'liberty' does not include the free interaction of individuals associating, federalising, networking and socialising, free from hierarchy and free from the ever present fear of unemployment that so many working class people feel.

No, capitalist 'liberty' refers simply to the freedom to own, to buy and to sell property, people, labour, whatever. It demands the existence of the State-machine to defend capitalist's property and their right to do with it whatever they will. Their 'liberty' refers only to the economic; it does not refer to the human as he/she exists in society.

### Liberty & Society

We, on the other hand, as revolutionary libertarian socialists, believe that humans cannot be divorced from society. Humans can only be free in society. Far from fettering liberty, it is people's sociality that sets them free.

Under capitalism, the social co-operation of humanity has set much of humanity free from disease, famine and malnutrition. But it is ironic that it is this same system that prevents this liberation from being made universal. Capitalism has shown us that we can free ourselves of the shackles that nature has put on us. It is high time that we free ourselves from the shackles of capitalism.

# Book Review: Peter Kropotkin's Masterpiece

# The Conquest of Bread

This book isn't new in any bookshop: it first appeared 1892, and was based on a series of articles written by P. Kropotkin, then a leading figure of the anarchist movement, for the French revolutionary press during the 1880s. It has been influential as few others have, and despite having been written more than 100 years ago, many of its arguments are still amazingly relevant today.

The first thing that really strikes you about the book is the simplicity of the arguments: the author describes clearly the basis of anarchist communism, without resorting to obscurities which, usually, veil one's lack of arguments.

*The Conquest of Bread* is directed to appeal to the common folk who are new to socialistic ideas, and not to satisfy the appetite for dilettante discussion between militants. Even the way he simply sums up the anarchist communist revolutionary drive in the phrase "demand the right to everyone's welfare" shows the didactic character of the book.

In this language and with well informed evidence, he demonstrates (120 years ago!) that, objectively, the conditions to create an anarchist society, a society that guarantees everyone's welfare, is not an utopian dream, but an actual possibility thanks to the advances in science and technology. He demonstrates too how society has created



so much wealth, but unfortunately, due to the existence of an insane capitalist, statist and class society, this wealth is completely squandered and distributed in a completely uneven way.

To solve this injustice and to replace this dysfunctional system, Kropotkin offers anarchism as a solution. This means the expropriation and collectivization of property and goods from the hands of the gang of capitalists that have made a fortune off the

back of the workers and to put them into the service of the whole society and not of a privileged elite; to reorganise production to fulfil the needs of society, and not profit; to reorganise society from the bottom up, with grassroots democracy, instead of an elite of politicians in government deciding for all of us....

And thus, conquering the bread, to open a whole new phase in human history in the arts, education science, etc... for the aim of revolution is not only about material things, but also about changing the life we're living.

He also smartly and passionately discusses the division between intellectual and manual labour, the de-centralisation of industry, the imperialist relationships between industrial countries and providers of raw materials and the contradiction between country and cities.

This book, despite not dealing with the practicalities faced by those who organise to change society and not giving an account of the many problems that any revolution faces (shortages in production, international boycott, etc.), gives a vivid account of the immense possibilities of social change and constitutes an appeal to transform life....

by Paddy Rua

The *Conquest of Bread* is available from the WSM book-service or Red Ink Bookshop. See 'Events and Contacts' for details.

## Inform your Dissent!

### Internet Review: Dissent Network Against the G8

The Dissent ([www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)) website offers the reader/user information on the Dissent! Network. The Dissent! Network was formed to provide a networking tool to co-ordinate radical resistance to the upcoming G8 (the 7 richest countries in the world plus Russia) Summit in Scotland. The network was founded in the autumn of 2003 by a group of people who have previously been involved in radical ecological direct action, Peoples' Global Action, the anti-war movement and the global anti-capitalist movement. The website is perhaps best described by the definition used to describe the Dissent! Network itself...

*"It's a mechanism for communication and*

*co-ordination between local groups and working groups involved in building resistance to the G8, and capitalism in general."*

Unsurprisingly it is constructed using free-ware software and has lots of features without being distractingly gimmicky and is quite easy to navigate around.

The best thing about this site though is its content. The Dissent! Network, which recently has added Dissent! Ireland to its numbers, is an ambitious and confident attempt to both positively engage activists with focus on the Summit, and to also interact with the public at large about capitalism and its ills. All too often it is the focus of what we don't want that gets most attention. This site shows the range and depth of positive actions, programmes of local community engagement and much more, for any reader who misguidedly associ-

ates summit protests with endless negatives.

Oh and if you're thinking of heading over to join the fun this July then you better stick this in your favourites folder as it's got much too much to include here. Finally, check [www.dissentaire.tk](http://www.dissentaire.tk) for details of the Dissent Ireland site.





# Red Ink Bookshop

## New Radical Bookshop in Dublin's Temple Bar

Anarchism in Ireland has been on the up in the last few years. Libertarian organised events have included large demonstrations like Mayday, RTS street parties, forcing the agenda on Shannon, as well as massively increasing our propaganda through newsletters, magazines and the internet. Sure, anarchism is still a minority past-time but as any bourgeois economist will tell you, it's the rate and direction of growth that counts!

In keeping with this decentralised growth, Dublin has acquired an anarchist inclined bookshop located on Fownes Street in Temple Bar. For years, the main source of Anarchist books in Ireland was the WSM Book-Catalogue which is obviously useful but as it's not the main focus of the group it has remained relatively small if well focussed. Red Ink which opened just under a year ago, expands greatly the selection of libertarian, commie, and plain bizarre books and magazines on offer to the dangerously curious.

It's got anarchist primers like Berkman's introduction, anarchist classics like Emma Goldman's autobiography or Kropotkin's *Mutual Aid*, as well as in-depth anarchist analysis of the Russian and Spanish revolutions. Besides all the anarchism, it stocks a selection of general anti-capitalist books, audio including Bill Hicks and the ubiquitous Chomsky, a load of zines, and a varied - in style, content and quality - collection of magazines. There's also a helpful sex guide section that's proving very popular. Who would have thought there could be such thick tomes on fellatio and cunnilingus? Clearly a revolution is happening in the bedroom if not on the streets!

Red Ink is a good example of people acting for themselves, and



reaching out towards the public, which is necessary as anarchism requires the mass involvement of a politically conscious population. How are people going to attain that mass consciousness? Well, there are many roads to enlightenment, but the quickest is through a book shop. Check it out!

# Cork City: Culture of Capital

The European Capital of Culture festival is heavy on hype. But some things just don't change. A group of artists in



Cork, aware of the lack of affordable work space, took over an empty building in the centre of Cork at the beginning of February. It wasn't just any old building, it was the former home of the

Cork School of Music and which has lain empty for nearly 15 years. The building was perfect: loads of space and close to the centre of town. Not to mention the fifteen grand pianos that were found in there that were rotting away from lack of use!

The artist group, who called themselves 'One Day', set about cleaning the building up. Nearby residents were delighted at the fresh coats of paint and the new look. But who turned up very quickly?! You guessed it: the law and the owners who happened to be Cork Institute of Technology. No, they couldn't use the building. No, they couldn't stay. NO. NO. NO. What about the Year of Culture? No again. Just about a fortnight after they occupied the

space, the 'One Day' artist collective were evicted, and now the building is empty and derelict again. Just before they left the One Day artists hung a big banner on the front of the building that said it all: *Culture of Capital*.

by Kevin Doyle

