

Shell form: Conch tent. (for John Barker)

Rain in mist
Long forgotten tastes
Pull away from tin:
Crack-angled rust.

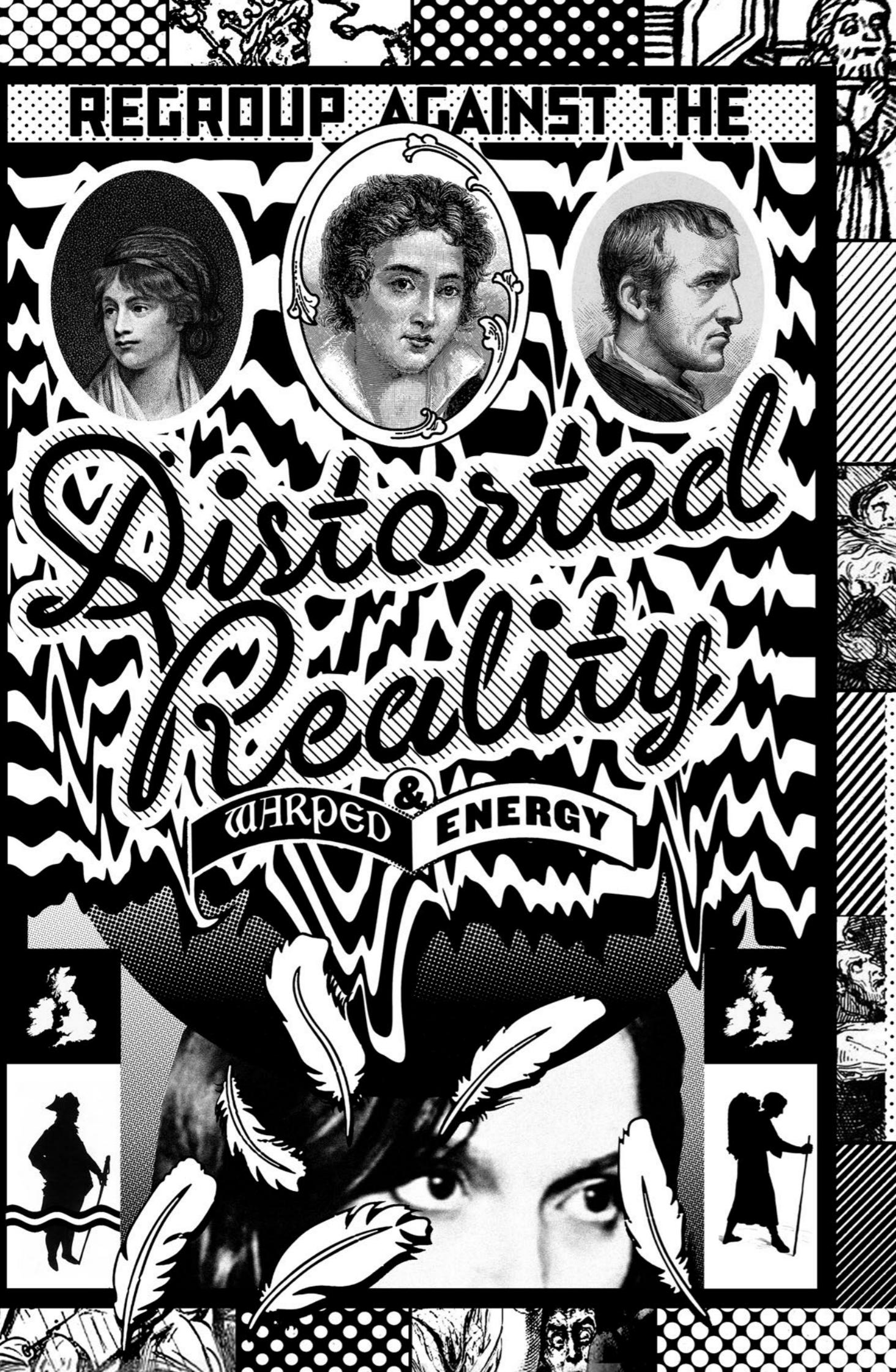
Automatic spring.
Practised apart.
A pick-up truck.

There is a beach.
We stand before the tides.
We roll over and over on the sand:
It is midnight.

There is no duty.
There is no mission.
There is n omission:

In touch.

Crystal Love: D.N.A., Anna Mendelsohn (1982)



THE COMMONWEAL

VOL. 1.—No. 2.

MARCH, 1885.

ONE PENNY.

Rouse up, O Young Men of the New Age! Set your foreheads against the ignorant hirelings! For we have hirelings in the Camp, the Court, and the University, who would, if they could, for ever depress mental, and prolong corporeal war. Painters! on you I call. Sculptors! Architects!

Milton, William Blake (1804)

After William Blake no mind was at home in both cultures [of Romantics and Radical Craftsmen], nor had the genius to interpret the two traditions to each other ... In the failure of the two traditions to come to a point of juncture, something was lost. How much we cannot be sure, for we are among the losers.

The Making of the English Working Class, EP Thompson (1963)

Wild Spirit, which art moving every where;
Destroyer and Preserver; hear, O hear!

Ode to the West Wind, Percy Bysshe Shelley (1820)



THE NERVEMETER

The history of truth

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Images: Kieron Livingstone

Contributors: Paul Sharrat, Ben Wallers*

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Nervemeter magazine, no.12, March 2018

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THE ENGLISH PREDICAMENT



The power of Anglo-Saxon culture springs in part from absorption and assimilation, thus emphasising a more general point concerning "the susceptibility of the English artist to alien influence and his willingness to tolerate and even adapt to his own purpose any acceptable new elements". This has been the pattern of the centuries, and indeed it can be maintained that English art and English literature are formed out of inspired adaptation; like the language, and like the inhabitants of the nation itself, they represent the apotheosis of the mixed style.

Albion: The Origins of the English Imagination, Peter Ackroyd (2002)

There are two ways by which the condition of the country may be ameliorated, and its happiness and greatness augmented: first, the policy of government may contribute directly to that end, or, secondly, the people, by their own energies, may work out an improvement in their situation. England has been placed in the latter predicament, her improvements have all originated with the People: it is the People that every increase in liberty, intellect, or wealth may be traced.

The Black Book, vol. 2, or Corruption Unmasked, John Wade (1823)

My innermost conviction was that anarchism was not to be conceived as a definite closed system, nor as a future millennium, but only as a particular trend in the historic development towards freedom in all fields of human thought and action, and that no strict and unalterable lines could therefore be laid down for it.

The London Years, Rudolf Rocker (1956)



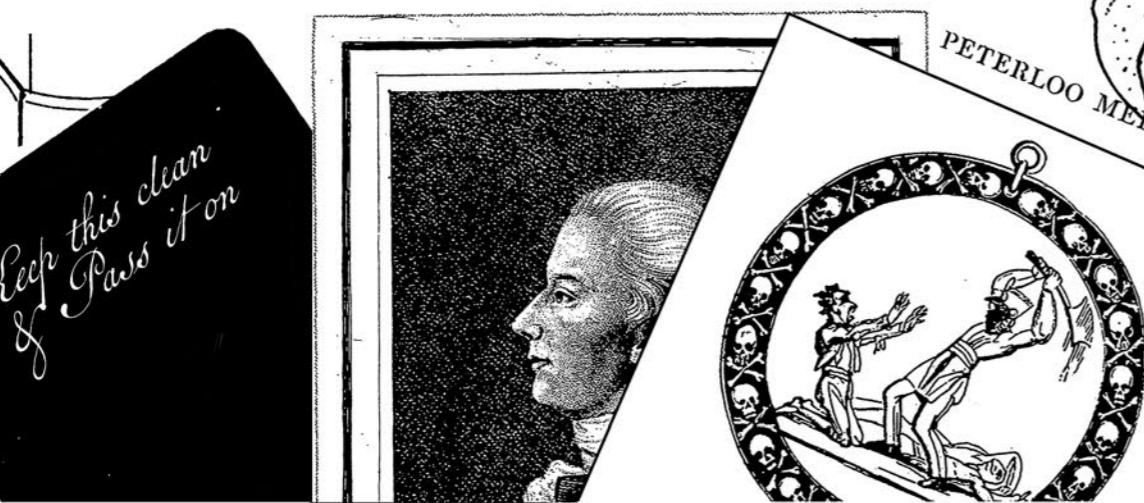
REVOLUTION IN THE AIR

In 1756 the French statesman René Louis de Paulmy, marquis d'Argenson, wrote in his diary: "Meanwhile there blows from England a philosophical wind: murmurs are heard of the words 'liberty', 'republicanism'; already minds have been penetrated and one knows the extent to which opinion governs the world."

French Revolutionaries and English Republicans: the Cordeliers Club, 1790-1794,
Rachel Hammersley (2005)

On 16 August 1819 a mass meeting took place on Saint Peter's Field in Manchester, the largest in Britain for over twenty years. Between 30,000 and 100,000 people gathered to campaign for electoral reform. Faced with such large numbers, the Manchester magistrates decided to have the main speaker Henry Hunt arrested, since – as they later argued – "the whole bore the appearance of insurrection". Yeomanry on horseback moved in to execute the order and, riding into the crowd, wounded several protestors with their sabres. When the yeomanry arrested Hunt, they found themselves surrounded by the crowd.. Hussars, who were deployed to assist the yeomanry, hewed their way through the crowd. Panic set in and a massacre ensued, which left at least 11 protestors dead and several hundred wounded. In a sarcastic allusion to the British (and Prussian) triumph over Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815 (some of the Hussars were even wearing their Waterloo medals), the left-wing press dubbed the massacre of St. Peter's Field, "Peterloo Massacre" or just "Peterloo".

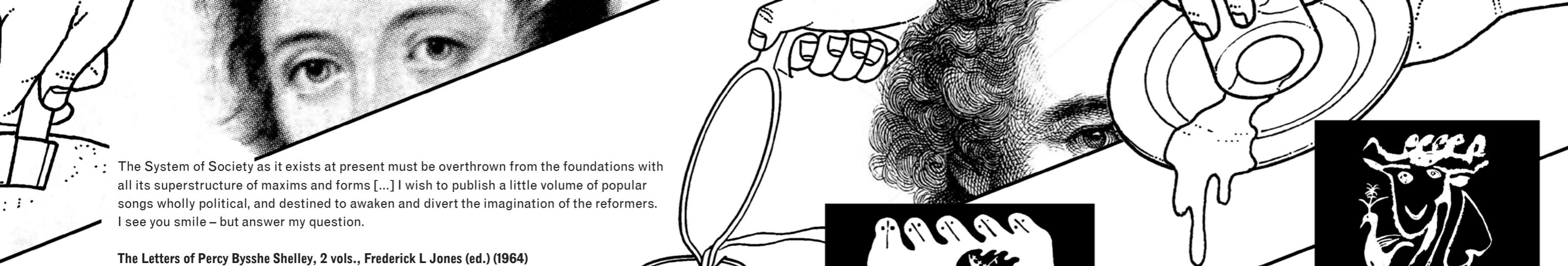
"Peterloo", Cato Street and Caroline: Poetry and Popular Protest, 1819-1821, Mark Gardner, PhD-thesis (University of Glasgow) (2002)



The fire was given an added and ferocious life by a fire engine pumping through its hose not water but gin from the stills in Langdale's cellar. Another engine, captured from its operators by an enterprising old cobbler was pumping up gin into buckets, while the cobbler did a good trade selling it to the spectators of the havoc at a penny a mug. Others, unwilling to pay for what could be got for nothing, ran into the raging building and down the stone steps into the cellar and came up choking with blackened faces and bloodshot eyes, carrying untapped casks of gin, or pails and jugs, bowls and even pig troughs overflowing with this most valued anodyne. Soon, even this effort was unnecessary for the heat below ground became so intense the stills burst and overflowed and the gin came gushing up into the streets and ran in warm streams in the gutter and between the cobbles, joining a flow of rum pouring out of a pile of enormous staved in casks. Delirious with excitement, the people knelt down and dipped their faces in the river of fiery spirits and gulped as much of it down as they could before it made them choke and burned their throats like acid. For the gin was in its raw state, unrectified. Wraxall saw men and women lying down prostrate in the streets incapably drunk; some of the women had babies in their arms or struggling near their insensible bodies, screaming in terror or pain. Several staring wide-eyed figures lay on their backs in grotesque postures, their faces blue, their swollen tongues still wet with the poisonous liquid.

King Mob: The Story of Lord George Gordon and the Riots of 1780, Christopher Hibbert (1958)





The System of Society as it exists at present must be overthrown from the foundations with all its superstructure of maxims and forms [...] I wish to publish a little volume of popular songs wholly political, and destined to awaken and divert the imagination of the reformers. I see you smile – but answer my question.

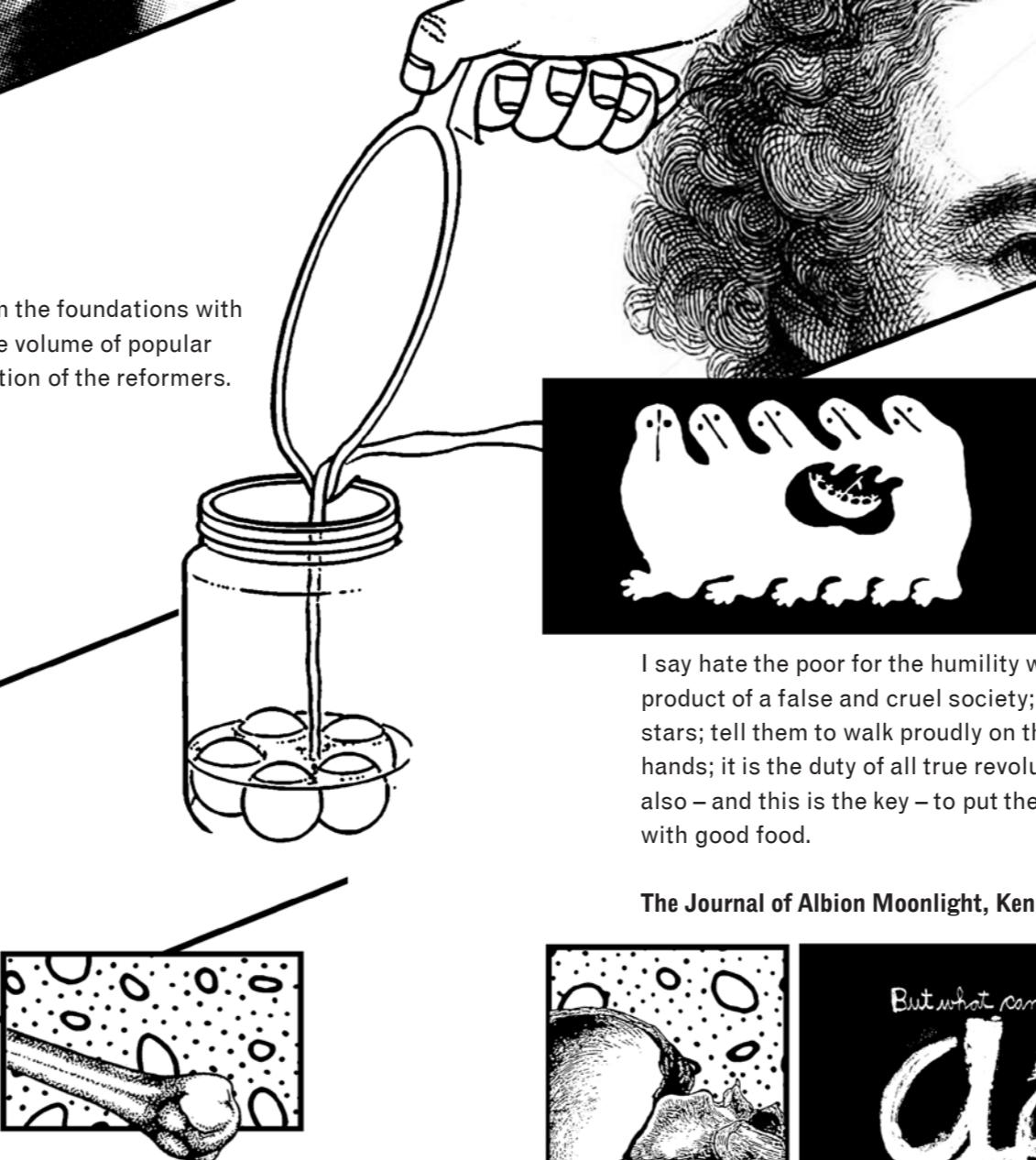
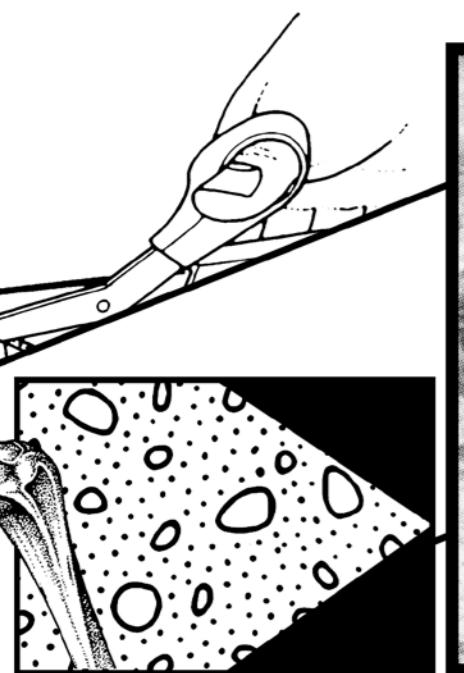
The Letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley, 2 vols., Frederick L Jones (ed.) (1964)



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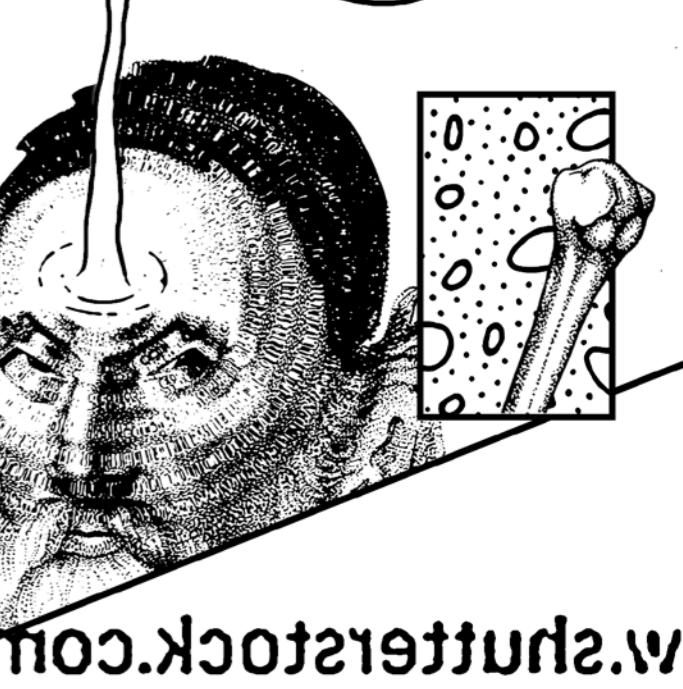
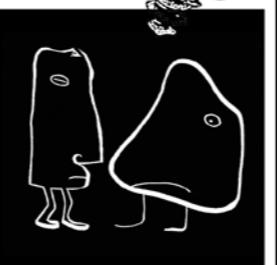
The central tenet of Paine's pamphlet is that a political change from monarchy to republic, "a general revolution in the principle and the construction of Governments", would automatically spell an end to the exploitation of the poor. For this reason mere political revolution would be sufficient to ensure social justice.

Radical Culture: Discourse, Resistance and Surveillance, 1790-1820, David Worrall (1992)



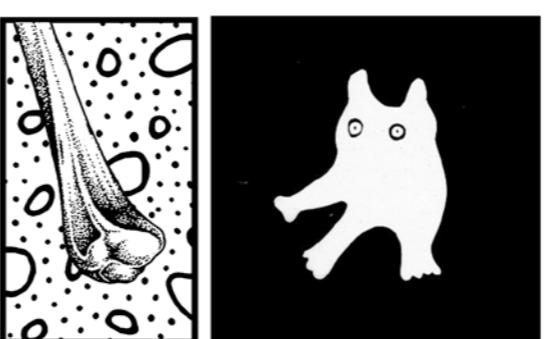
I say hate the poor for the humility which keeps their faces pressed into the mud. The poor are the product of a false and cruel society; but are also the cornerstone of that society. Lift them to the stars; tell them to walk proudly on this earth: the cathedrals and broad roads were made by their hands; it is the duty of all true revolutionists not only to restore these things into their hands but also – and this is the key – to put them into their heads. Empty stomachs, empty heads: fill both with good food.

The Journal of Albion Moonlight, Kenneth Patchen (1941)



Melancholy might answer in future mistakes,
the wind bears no answer, destiny forecast.

Crystal Love: D.N.A., Anna Mendelsohn (1982)



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ANARCHY IN THE UK

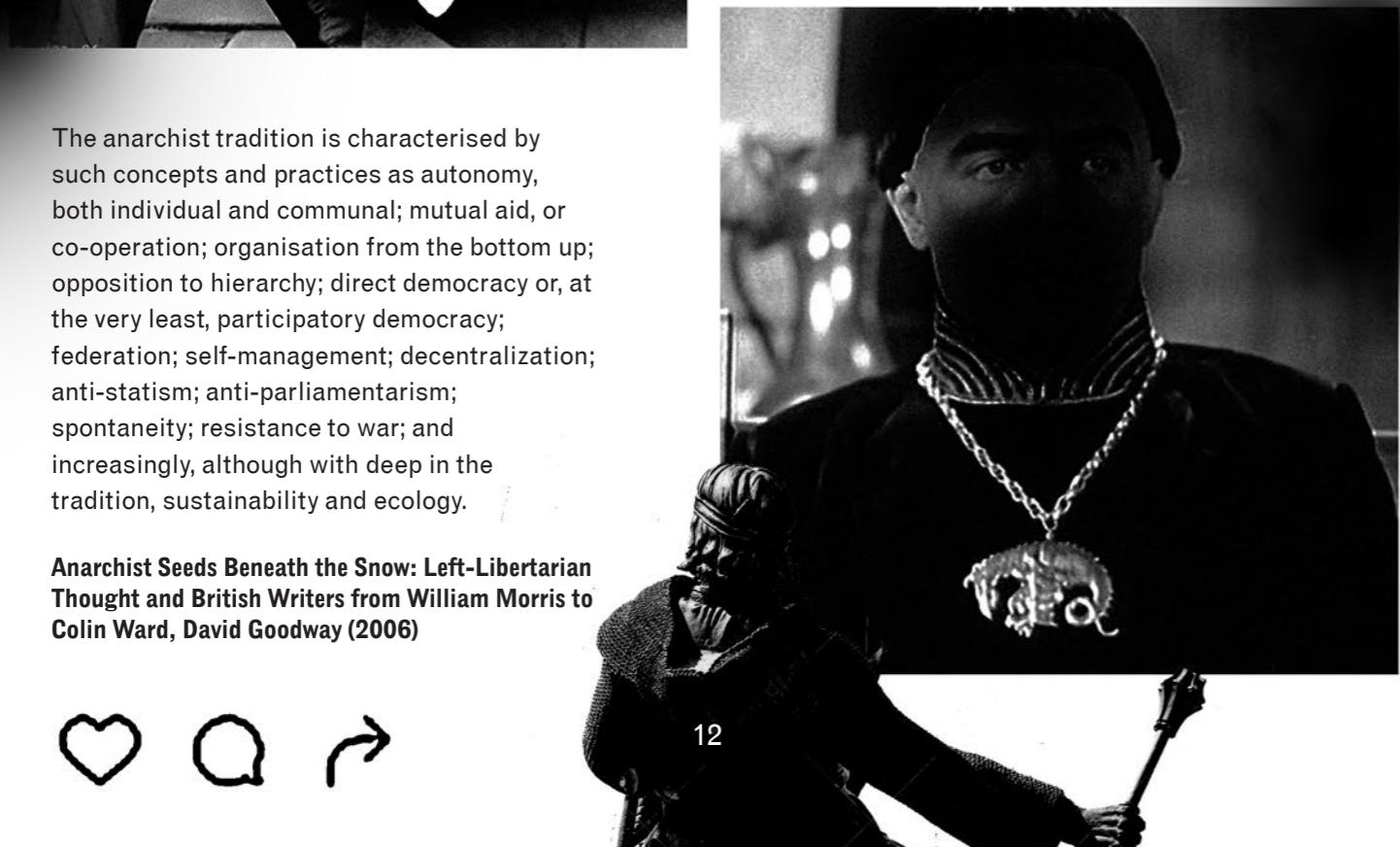
If voting changed anything, it would be abolished.

(Anarchist proverb)



The anarchist tradition is characterised by such concepts and practices as autonomy, both individual and communal; mutual aid, or co-operation; organisation from the bottom up; opposition to hierarchy; direct democracy or, at the very least, participatory democracy; federation; self-management; decentralization; anti-statism; anti-parliamentarism; spontaneity; resistance to war; and increasingly, although with deep in the tradition, sustainability and ecology.

Anarchist Seeds Beneath the Snow: Left-Libertarian Thought and British Writers from William Morris to Colin Ward, David Goodway (2006)



While he appreciates that "the meaning ordinarily attached to the word 'anarchy' is absence of principle, absence of rule; consequently, it has been regarded as synonymous with 'disorder'", he asserts that "Anarchy – the absence of a master, of a sovereign ... is the form of government to which we are everyday approximating", emphasizing that he is, "a firm friend of order". Like many anarchists to come, he considered anarchy to be the highest form of order, contrasting it with the disorder and chaos of the present.

What is Property? PJ Proudhon, quoted in (Goodway, 2006)



The major fields of Morris's practice were plastic arts, which are themselves distinctive within the forms of aesthetic composition for eluding the division between mental and manual labour. Yet at the same time, he was also a poet and a writer. Thus one might say that in his figurations of the future, Morris was able to draw on unique resources in his present, which brought him tangibly nearer to the conditions he imagined than any of his communist contemporaries: secure wealth, creative work, polymathic skills.

(Goodway, 2006)



We had to shift our premises to an old shed in Stepney green, adjoining some stables, from which we got a lot of bad smells and swarms of flies and bluebottles. Yet a miracle happened to me there, the birth of the periodical *Germinal*.

The London Years, Rudolf Rocker (1956)

I first came to London I found there was a very active anarchist movement among our English comrades. We had groups in all parts of London and in all the big provincial towns, conducting open-air propaganda at street corners and in public parks. This was something quite new to me. I don't think there was any other country with so many open-air meetings, political and religious. I was struck by the mutual toleration of the rival groups and the fair play of the crowds that gathered round the different stands. We had nothing like it in Germany.

One of the best known of the anarchist open-air speakers was Ted Leggatt, a big, burly Cockney carman, who played a big part in the Transport Workers' Union. He was a man of the people, racy of speech, with a rich Cockney humour, and a stentorian voice, which he used to good advantage to proclaim his ideas. He would start his speeches with: "I am Ted Leggatt, the anarchist".

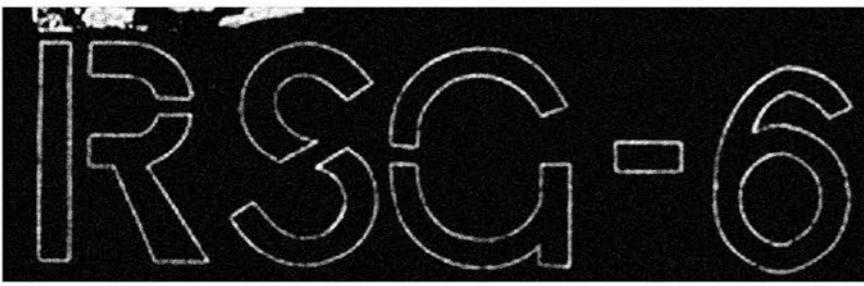
(Rocker, 1956)



PEACEFUL PROTEST

The Committee of 100 called for mass civil disobedience against preparations for nuclear war and its sit-downs in central London reached their peak in September 1961 when, with Bertrand Russell, its 89-year-old president, and thirty-one other members, including [Alex] Comfort, in prison, 12,000 sat in Trafalgar Square and 1,300 were arrested.

(Goodway, 2006)



Spies for Peace was a group of Committee of 100 members who felt that sit-downs were not having sufficient impact on the government's weapons policies. They advocated infiltration and expose: they broke into military bases and sought out unknown and secret government information.

The group first exposed detailed government preparations for the event of nuclear war. In March 1963 Spies for Peace broke into a secret government headquarters, the Regional Seat of Government Number 6 (RSG-6) and photographed and copied as many documents as they could find.

RSGs (Regional Seats of Government) were planned miniature governments, which would run the region immediately after nuclear attack. An RSG would include representatives of all the central government departments and would maintain law and order, communicate with the surviving population and control remaining resources. When Spies for Peace exposed this information the fact that government accepted thermonuclear war as a possibility and were consciously and carefully planning for it was virtually unknown to the public.

'Dreamers and Dissenters: Spies for Peace', British Library website



Direct action has its dangers, but so has every rigorous form of activity. And in our recent realisation of the importance of how we must not forget that the greatest of all dangers to a civilisation is to become stereotyped and stagnant. From this danger, at least, industrial action is likely to save us.

Uncertain Paths to Freedom: Russia and China, 1919-22, Bertrand Russell, The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, Richard A Rempel (ed.) (2000)



LOOK BACK IN ANGER

You can dream up all
the law and order you like.
But remember – you are
subject to OUR justice.
HE WHO LIVETH OFF
THE PEOPLE –
BY THE PEOPLE
SHALL HE DIE
The Wild Bunch

The Angry Brigade; A History of Britain's First Urban Guerrilla Group, Gordon Carr (2010)

Millions of silent, anonymous, or unpublicised acts of disobedience or sabotage take place throughout the world each day, no doubt. But occasionally there are times and places when it feels appropriate, necessary even, to make more high-profile gestures in defence of what you believe to be right.

Stuart Christie, preface to The Angry Brigade; A History of Britain's First Urban Guerrilla Group, Gordon Carr (2010)

The radical movements of the 1960s – of which the Angry Brigade was one tiny part – did have their little victories [...] they highlighted the weaknesses and emphasised the dual standards of Western liberal democracy and the current limits of protest – and they also subjected authoritarianism in all its forms, including sexism and racism, to strong scrutiny.

(Carr, 2010)

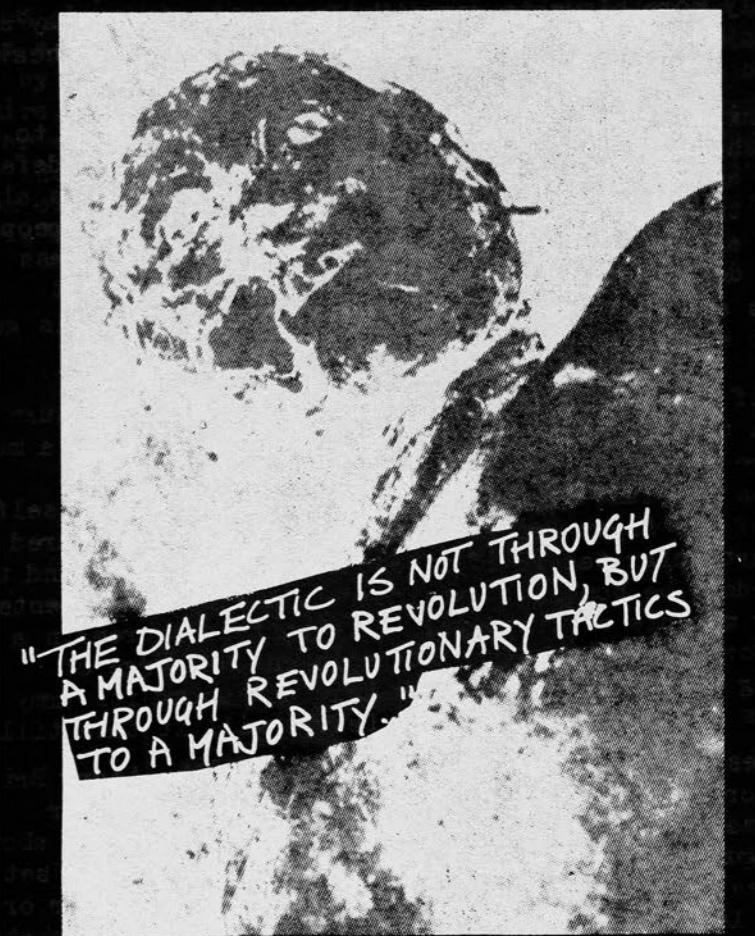
Exactly what was going through the minds of Barker, Greenfield and the others as they walked down Whitechapel High Street on the way back to their flats in Notting Hill and North London, no one can tell. But around that time, certainly within weeks of the meeting, they had made a decision to follow the First of May's example and start some sort of armed resistance against the state.

(Carr, 2010)



IF YOU CONVICT WE ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE. WE WILL
STILL BE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE. I KNOW
THAT THE PEOPLE IN THIS DOCK WITH ME ARE PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HAPPIER & MORE PEACEFUL
WORLD. THAT IS WHO WE ARE.
(DEFENDANT IN STOKE NEWINGTON 8 TRIAL)

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



The body of Rosa Luxemburg, dragged from a canal in March 1919, three weeks after her murder. The reality-principle is not quite over...





KING MOB

This year Christmas can't even pretend to be fun. You can hardly afford to get pissed and forget it. They want more from you: more blood, tears and sweat. And more smiles. Don't let on that you're cold and tired, sick to the bloody back teeth of all the trash they try and sell you, sick of the kids who are trained to sing in chorus a whole lot of lies about love and mercy mild. It's your duty to carry on buying, even though they have hardly left you enough cash to get a coffin and opt out of it all. Let's smash the whole great deception. Occupy the fun palace and set the swings going. Grab the gifts, and really give them. Light up Oxford Street. Dance around the fire. Exult in the funeral: the final show-down of the Christmas con.

'Confessions: S Clause 1968', King Mob Echo, No2 (1968)

CHAPTER REPORT ON THE S.D.S. REGIONAL COUNCIL OF MARCH 10
A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL
IS A BOTTLE FILLED WITH
THREE PARTS KEROSINE
AND ONE PART MOTOR OIL
IT IS CAPPED
AND WRAPPED
WITH COTTON
SOAKED WITH GASOLINE
TO USE -
LIGHT COTTON
THROW BOTTLE
FIRE AND EXPLOSION OCCUR
ON IMPACT WITH TARGET
A "WHITE RADICAL"
IS THREE PARTS BULLSHIT
AND ONE PART HESITATION
IT IS NOT REVOLUTIONARY
AND SHOULD NOT BE
STOCKPILED
AT THIS TIME
Respectfully submitted
UP AGAINST THE WALL MOTHERFUCKER
King Mob Echo, no 3 (1968)

King Mob Echo, no 3 (1968)



THE CLAIMANTS' UNION

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Claimants' Union and what made it attractive to Barker was the fact that they believed in total control of the union by all members in it. Everyone had an equal say in decision making. There was no hierarchy, no leadership.

(Carr, 2010)

Strikers told how to live off the State
By Michael Morden

A DOCUMENT advising Post Office workers how to obtain maximum social security benefit while on strike has been widely circulated without the knowledge or approval of the Union of Post Office Workers.

At the union's Clapham headquarters a spokesman said yesterday: "Whoever prepared this knows the social security position backwards, but it is nothing to do with us."

The information, dated Jan. 17 – three days before the strike began – explains how the strikers can live off the State. According to the Department of Health and Social Security the information is correct.

Suggested are ways of securing grants for bedding, clothing, and household equipment, free milk and school meals for children, and repayments on mortgage interest. It also supports ways obtaining an income tax refund and rent and rates rebates.

A section stresses that if strikers are not satisfied with their State aid they can demand an explanation from the manager of their local supplementary benefits office "stating that they wish to appeal to the Local Appeals Tribunal".

The Daily Telegraph, reprinted in, Claimants' Handbook for Strikers (1974)

THE CLAIMANTS UNION CHARTER

- 1) The right to an adequate income without means-test for all people.
- 2) A free welfare state for all with its services controlled by the people who use it
- 3) No secrets and the right to full information
- 4) No distinction between the so-called "deserving" and "undeserving".

Claimants' HB (1974)



If the police are called to evict you tell them that:

- 1) You are there in pursuit of a claim so you have an absolute right to stay until your claim is dealt with, or until the manager is free if you've asked to see him;
- 2) In any case the place is a public building so you can't be trespassing on private property;
- 3) Even if it was trespass, this is still a civil offence, so the police need a warrant to remove you. Tell the police your reasons for refusing to leave and tell them they can only intervene as members of the public, not as policemen. Tell them that the SS [Social Security] are breaking the 1966 SS Act and suggest that they arrest them. Don't give them any grounds for getting you on breach of the peace, threatening behaviour, assault, abuse. Offensive language etc.

A Handbook from the Claimants' Union Movement (1979)

The SS don't like squatters. They say it's because they shouldn't encourage "illegal" activities. In areas where squatting is a new thing, they will tell you that they don't pay anything to squatters. In cities with established squatting groups the SS will try to classify you as nonhouseholders. Both these excuses are bullshit. Squatting should be no different from any other housing situation ... the cost of running a squat is no different, it's just the rent that is missing. In the same way as the SS act as strike-breakers by trying to refuse payment benefit to strikers, they act as squat-breakers by trying to refuse payment, by refusing to give grants and perhaps more importantly by conniving with the local council, the owners and the fuel authorities to get you out. It is therefore vitally important to tell them as little information as possible about your situation just tell them the address..

A Handbook from the Claimants' Union Movement (1979)



CROWBAR

Probably the best publication in the world

"Fuck off you scabby scum," I yelled at the officers yet again. "Go on strike, they'll have you murdering Jews next week."

Indeed the pigs were not enjoying this one as they were met in the last street by buckets of cold water.

"We want petrol," we shouted as the sound system blared "Anarchy in the UK" from the barricaded flat.

"Southwark Pullens Victory", Crowbar (1986)

The School Stoppers handbook has been reprinted under the title FUCK SCHOOL and distributed by Ⓛ groups all over England, amidst a rising tide of school disruptions. In Bradford 2 people were nicked distributing pamphlets and are facing serious charges. Afterwards the school was stopped and students blockaded the road. School Burned Down One of Crowbar's army of correspondents heard on radio last night of another school being burned down by students, but got no details. Today we searched the straight press without any luck.

Crowbar (1985)

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School Burned Down

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Crowbar (1985)



ZD.9
b.99

CROWBAR

SQUTTING NEWS No 47 BM Box Hurricane London WC1

UPRISING 86

SWELL GLOW SPLAT!

REMEMBER YOU SAW IT BURST IN CROWBAR

On June 16th (Soweto day) a group of about 25 comrades occupied five City Centre. We started with the shopping centre Barclays, went on to the city branch which we managed to close down for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour. The employees (50 or so) were quickly told to leave by the management and the doors locked. Passers-by were quickly told by a notice that this was in commemoration of the massacre at Soweto. Other banks occupied were Barclays (International), Standard Chartered and the Clifton Barclays - in this one phone calls were answered on behalf of those comrades murdered by the South African police! - As usual there was a press blackout.

The Bristol Young Comrades

AT least 18 prisons were hit by rioting which erupted during the night and left a trail of destruction. One prison was mostly destroyed by fire. 1.5.16.



Dear reader ... up and down the country kids are burning down their schools, tearing them to pieces, beating up their teachers, and generally raising hell ... On the facing page is a condensed copy of the FUCK SCHOOL pamphlet. Please photocopy it and hand it out to kids. Please pass this paper on to kids after you have finished with it. People have been nicked for distributing it, and may be sent down, so be really careful. The best place to distribute it is on the top of buses as kids are going to or leaving school. The press and TV don't talk about it, 'cos they don't want the idea to spread ... let's make it so won't be able to ignore it.

Crowbar (1985)

All over the country more and more people are becoming homeless due to poverty and also sadistic local councils. One of the main forms of protest is squatting.

Some of us in Haringey feel that it is about time that all interested groups and individuals got together to share news, ideas etc. But mainly to plan some form of mass actions for the summer ... Let us show that not all of us are prepared to sleep under the arches or in death-trap hostels.

Crowbar (1985)

CLYDESIDER ANARCHISTS

Since September last year, 12 Clydeside Anarchists have been on bail facing Breach of the Peace and Malicious Mischief following the occupation of the Glasgow offices of Price Waterhouse, the scab accountants who seized striking miner funds.



OH MY GOD - IT'S A NIGHTMARE!



WE CAME TO STAY

A MAGAZINE IS WHERE
YOU PUT YOUR BULLETS

Anarchists Jailed – ADOPT A PRISONER

The idea of this column is to write to our people in prison. This month we've picked five prisoners, more or less at random, from long lists of people incarcerated by the State.

Terry French. A Kent miner doing 5 years for assaulting a pig. Address, Terry French, B73383, HMP Wandsworth, PO Box 757, Heathfield Rd, London SW18 3HS Alexander Shatravka. A pacifist who got 3 years in a Siberian labour camp for giving out leaflets. There they work a 16 hour day weaving wire fences in sub zero temperatures. He was beaten and denied sleep. Driven to desperation he recently tried to kill himself, stabbing himself in the lung. But he survived and got an extra 5 years added on. So He'll be in till 1990 if he lives. The concentration camp address is: USSR, Dzhembulskaya obl ... g.Zhamatas, uchr 158/3. Careful what you send.

Andrew Herbury. An Animal Liberation Front prisoner serving a 2 year sentence imposed in Feb. 85 after being convicted in connection with the raid on Cock-Sparrow Fur Farms in Jan. 84. Address: Andrew Herbury, C54255, HMP Birmingham, Winson green Rd, Birmingham B184AS.

Regis Schleicher. A militant from the French Action Directe Underground. We don't know his crime or his sentence. He was in the last series of hunger strikes for political status. He signed a recent smuggled statement (for the collective) declaring unity with the Red Army Faction in an international anti-imperialist guerrilla alliance. Address: Regis Schleicher, 222024 f 2/236, 42 Rue de la Sante, 75674, Paris cedex 14, France.

If you have any friends in prison who need writing to, you can send details to.

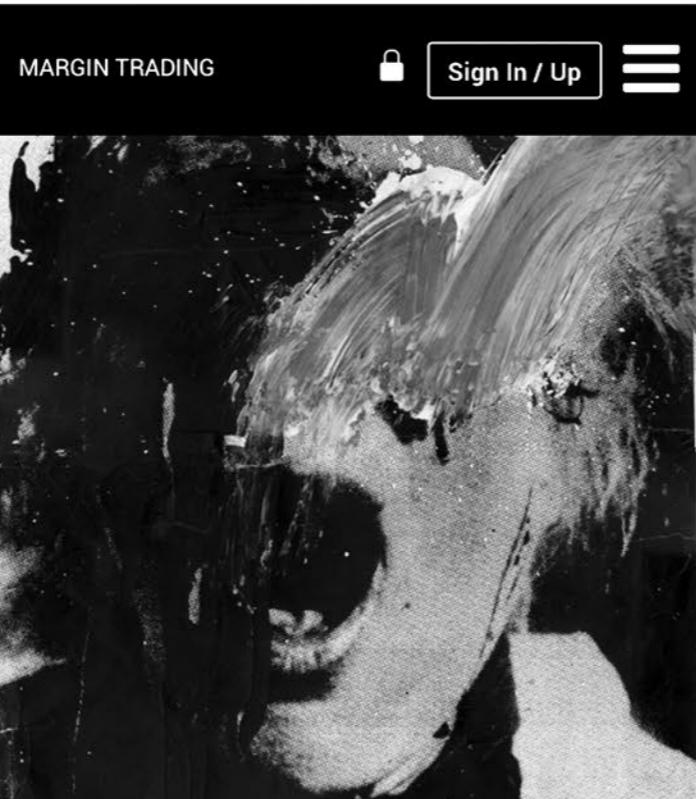
Crowbar (1985)

PRINT



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ANARCHO-CAPITALISM

Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

Satoshi Nakamoto

satoshi@gmx.com

www.bitcoin.org

Abstract. A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution. Digital signatures provide part of the solution, but the main benefits are lost if a trusted third party is still required to prevent double-spending. We propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer network. The network timestamps transactions by hashing them into an ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work. The longest chain not only serves as proof of the sequence of events witnessed, but proof that it came from the largest pool of CPU power. As long as a majority of CPU power is controlled by nodes that are not cooperating to attack the network, they'll generate the longest chain and outpace attackers. The network itself requires minimal structure. Messages are broadcast on a best effort basis, and nodes can leave and rejoin the network at will, accepting the longest proof-of-work chain as proof of what happened while they were gone.

The future will be decentralised.

Vitalik Buterin (2013)



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William Blake
(1816 - 1820)

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Illustration:
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