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The Enemy Within
Goldfield's Labor Troubles and the 1907 Miners Strike

No Facing probable redundancy in his mid-fifties, South Elmsall miner Arthur Wakefield, fought for jobs and communities throughout the great strike of 1984/85. He also kept a marvellous diary, recording his experiences, impressions and events in considerable detail. The diary is a unique personal day by day account of the most bitter industrial dispute of the 20th century. Armed with nothing more than determination and a camera, he by-passed countless blockades and in the early hours of the morning he would join his colleagues at picket lines at pits, ports, power stations and works in many parts of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and the Midlands. He also attended many rallies and marches, and was a regular 'support the miners' collector in London. Arthur Wakefield was a key witness at the 'Battle of Orgreave', on 18 June 1984, which he describes as 'Monday, Bloody Monday', the 100th day of the strike. His descriptions of the 'Battle' contained here in this book have also helped produce an historical live re-enactment to be shown on Channel 4 in April.
In addition to being the most bitter industrial dispute the coalminers' strike of 1984/5 was the longest national strike in British history. For a year over 100,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers, their families and supporters, in hundreds of communities, battled to...
prevent the decimation of the coal industry on which their livelihoods and communities depended. Margaret Thatcher's government aimed to smash the most militant section of the British working class. She wanted to usher in a new era of greater management control at work and pave the way for a radical refashioning of society in favour of neo-liberal objectives that three decades later have crippled the world economy. Victory required draconian restrictions on picketing and the development of a militarised national police force that made widespread arrests as part of its criminalisation policy. The attacks on the miners also involved the use of the courts and anti-trade union laws, restrictions on welfare benefits, the secret financing by industrialists of working miners and the involvement of the security services. All of which was supported by a compliant mass media but resisted by the collective courage of miners and mining communities in which the role of Women against Pit Closures in combating poverty and starvation was heroic. Thus inspired by the struggle for jobs and communities an unparalleled movement of support groups right across Britain and in other parts of the world was born and helped bring about a situation where the miners long struggle came close on occasions to winning. At the heart of the conflict was the Yorkshire region, where even at the end in March 1985, 83 per cent of 56,000 miners were still out on strike. The official Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) area photographer in 1984-85 was the late Martin Jenkinson and this book of his photographs — some never previously seen before - serves as a unique social document on the dispute that changed the face of Britain. As featured in The Yorkshire Times, Sheffield Telegraph and NUJ News Leeds. This book analyses the 1984-5 miners’ strike by focusing on its vital Scottish dimensions, especially the role of workplace politics and community mobilisation. The year-long strike began in Scotland, with workers defending the moral economy of the coalfields, and resisting pit closures and management attacks on trade unionism. The book relates the strike to an analysis of changing coalfield community and industrial structures from the 1960s to the 1980s. It challenges the stereotyped view that the strike began in March 1984 as a confrontation between Arthur Scargill, the miners’ leader, and Margaret Thatcher’s Conservative government. Before this point, in fact, 50 per cent of Scottish miners were already on strike or engaged in a significant pit-level dispute with their managers, who were far more confrontational than their counterparts in England and Wales. The book explores the key features of the strike that followed in Scotland: the unusual industrial politics; the strong initial pattern of general solidarity; and then the emergence of varieties of pit-level commitment. These were shaped by differential access to community-level moral and material resources, including the economic and cultural role of women, and pre-strike pit-level economic performance.
Against the trend elsewhere, notably in the English Midlands, relatively good performance prior to 1984 was a positive factor in building strike endurance in Scotland. The book shows that the outcome of the strike was also distinctive in Scotland, with an unusually high level of victimisation of activists, and the acceleration of deindustrialisation consolidating support for devolution, contributing to the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999.

Abstract:
Examining the creation and peopling of the Consolidated Coal Company (CCC) company town Muchakinock, Iowa through the industrial labor migrations of Welsh, Swedes and African-American residents, this thesis focuses upon the social contestations between workers, owners and unions during four bituminous coal miners' strike incitement events in town history (1879-1900). Presenting some of the most comprehensive historical geography research to date on the company town of Muchakinock, the thesis presents eight claims for resident's strike resistance and ultimate capitulation and union affiliation; and the associated spread of capitalism and trade-unionism across Iowa's coal mining landscapes during the Gilded Age. Seeking a normalization of historical discourse, findings revealed the presence of conflicting discourses in existent historical communications content between predominantly white and African American historical communications content, and identified the emergence of a hegemonic discourse largely based on the representations of the former. More than just a micro-history of the relict company town of Muchakinock, Iowa, the thesis variously explores Muchakinock's wider network of connected geographies across Iowa terrains and the United States.

This book contains articles about the Labor Troubles and Miners Strikes that occurred in 1907 published in the Mining and Scientific Press "An Illustrated Journal of Mining, Popular Science, and Progressive Industry". Margaret Thatcher branded the leaders of the 1984-85 miners strike "the enemy within." With the publication of this book, the full irony of that accusation became clear. Seumas Milne revealed for the first time the astonishing lengths to which the government and its intelligence machine were prepared to go to destroy the power of Britain's miners' union. There was an enemy within. It was the secret services of the British state, operating inside the NUM itself. In this edition, published for the twentieth anniversary of the strike, new material brings the story up to date. A national strike was called for July 4, 1897, by the United Mine Workers of America, which had been formed just seven years earlier. At the time the union had less than 10,000 members, but 150,000 miners went out on strike, infuriated by the horrible conditions they faced. Mother Jones and Eugene Debs were among the famous labor organizers. As a result of the strike the United Mine Workers became the nation's largest trade union, with over 100,000 members. The bituminous (soft) coal operators in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois
recognized the UMWA as the representative of the miners and their bargaining agent. In Illinois, throughout 1987, Alexander Bradley, a coal miner who held no official union position, led "Bradley's Army" of coal miners in support of union, in a successful effort to get Illinois coal miners to strike. In 1918, after suffering from various ailments, Alexander Bradley was laid to rest in Mount Olive's Union Miner's Cemetery. This innovative study provides an exciting, challenging and accessible critical introduction to cultural representations of 1984–5 and analyses the ways in which these representations articulate an essential dialogic exchange of issues central to both the coal dispute and the development of literary and cultural studies over the past twenty five years. Focusing closely on the politics of form, the study interrogates the significance of the mode, means and function of strikers’ writings, as well as alternative representations of the conflict offered by established writers, musicians, artists and film-makers in the wake of the coal dispute. These representations are worthy of study due to the critical interventions they offer, their evidence of the cultural pressures and forces of not only the strike period, but the post-strike years of industrial and labour change and their remarkable contribution to existing social, political and literary histories. Engaging with these works, many of which have never been subject to previous academic analysis, the study enables twenty-first-century readers to re-conceptualise paradigms of received wisdom concerning 1984–5. The significance of the competing representations offered by these very different cultural modes as they engage in a wider battle to ‘author’ the conflict is central to this study. Through a detailed analysis of these representations, as well as the socio-cultural contexts of their production and dissemination, this book explores a range of attempts to capture the sensibilities of late twentieth century society and contributes to an ongoing debate regarding cultural representations of this period in British history. Influenced by critical theory, the text is the first secondary resource concerning cultural representations of the 1984–5 UK miners’ strike available to the reading public the world over. In addition to being the most bitter industrial dispute the coalminers' strike of 1984/5 was the longest national strike in British history. For a year over 100,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers, their families and supporters, in hundreds of communities, battled to prevent the decimation of the coal industry on which their livelihoods and communities depended. Margaret Thatcher's government aimed to smash the most militant section of the British working class. She wanted to usher in a new era of greater management control at work and pave the way for a radical refashioning of society in favour of neo-liberal objectives that three decades later have crippled the world economy. Victory required draconian restrictions on picketing and the development of a militarised national police force that made
widespread arrests as part of its criminalisation policy. The attacks on the miners also involved the use of the courts and anti-trade union laws, restrictions on welfare benefits, the secret financing by industrialists of working miners and the involvement of the security services. All of which was supported by a compliant mass media but resisted by the collective courage of miners and mining communities in which the role of Women against Pit Closures in combating poverty and starvation was heroic. Thus inspired by the struggle for jobs and communities an unparalleled movement of support groups right across Britain and in other parts of the world was born and helped bring about a situation where the miners long struggle came close on occasions to winning. At the heart of the conflict was the Yorkshire region, where even at the end in March 1985, 83 per cent of 56,000 miners were still out on strike. The official Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) area photographer in 1984-85 was the late Martin Jenkinson and this book of his photographs some never previously seen before - serves as a unique social document on the dispute that changed the face of Britain. As featured in The Yorkshire Times, Sheffield Telegraph and NUJ News Leeds. A class analysis of policing practices and state regulatory power in the long British coal miners’ strike of 1984-85, based upon the voices of the miners themselves. Green (law, U. of Southampton) describes the political consciousness of the politically criminalized and the changes in that consciousness resulting from repressive policing and social regulation. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR Margaret Thatcher branded the leaders of the 1984-85 miners strike “the enemy within.” With the publication of this book, the full irony of that accusation became clear. Seumas Milne revealed for the first time the astonishing lengths to which the government and its intelligence machine were prepared to go to destroy the power of Britain’s miners’ union. There was an enemy within. It was the secret services of the British state, operating inside the NUM itself. Milne revealed for the first time the astonishing lengths to which the government and its intelligence machine were prepared to go to destroy the power of Britain’s miners’ union. Using phoney bank deposits, staged cash drops, forged documents, agents provocateurs and unrelenting surveillance, M15 and police Special Branch set out to discredit Scargill and other miners’ leaders. Planted tales of corruption were seized on by the media and both Tory and Labour politicians in what became an unprecedentedly savage smear campaign. The writing of this book came as many friends and acquaintances told me that I should write a book on my experiences of the miners’ strike in 1984-85 and how it changed my life forever. I never gave this idea much thought until early in 2013 when a BBC TV journalist suggested that it would make good reading. I realised that the 30th Anniversary was very soon to be upon us, and felt that this would
be the end for me with regard to TV interviews about the family break up caused by the Miner’s strike. The thirty year
mark seemed a good a point in time as any to round it off as it were. Having said that I could find myself doing interviews
at the Fortieth anniversary. I could not believe even now just how raw this industrial dispute would feel even after all this
time. When one looks at other industrial disputes you could be forgiven for not remembering one Two years ago let alone
Thirty. The reason I think that the miners’ strike lasted so long in people’s hearts and minds was that it wasn’t just a job,
it was a way of life, a heritage, an industry that was so vital to the economic wellbeing of Great Britain. Whatever your
views on the miner’s strike this book is to give you an insight into the experiences of a normal unassuming coal miner
and how his world was turned upside down and thrown into the public eye through the normal act of going to work but
with a twist doing a non-normal act in a very unordinary climate. Crossing a picket line of over 800 angry miner’s is not
an easy thing to do. The dilemma I found myself in was quite simple, I did not believe that a strike would solve anything, I
felt that holding the country to ransom was immoral. The casing point that made the decision once and for all was Arthur
Scargill’s refusal to give us, his member’s, the fundamental right of a national ballot. Although I was against the strike
from the outset had we been given a national ballot and had that ballot resulted in a majority in favour of strike action
then I like all the other miners that crossed the picket lines in 1984 would be out on strike without question. That after all
is democracy. Men and Women in English history have died fighting for the right of a democratic vote, in a lesser way
that is what I and others like me did, we fought for democracy. My closing remark on that, is that the only way to have
kept the pits open albeit lesser in numbers was to work them, not abandon them for a whole year."The miner's strike came
to be called the "Great Strike", with good reason. It was the largest, longest, trade union struggle in Britain, and the most
far reaching in its consequences since the 1926 General Strike. For a year 170,000 miners, plus the women in the mining
communities, battled against everything the government and the police threw at them." "Only 30 miners out of 2,500 from
Leicestershire coal-field struck against the pit closure programme. They became renowned as The Dirty Thirty and
travelled the world for the strike fund selling badges, mugs and plates, making speeches and supporting the other striking
miner." "David Bell has interviewed many of the members of the Dirty Thirty and the women's support group to find out
why they struck, and why they held out for so long. Published to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1984-85 Miner's Strike,
this is the story of the miners and their wives and families' courage, humour and an unbreakable will to win" --Book
Jacket.An exploration into the Alabama miners' strike of 1894 during an economic depression; study of unionizatoin in
the South. In 1984, a small group of metropolitan homosexual men and lesbian women stepped away from the vibrant culture and hedonism of London's defiant gay scene to befriend and support the beleaguered villages of a very traditional mining community in the remote valleys of South Wales. They did so in the midst of the 1984 miners' strike - the most bitter and divisive dispute for more than half a century, and in one of the most turbulent periods in modern British history. In the 1980s Margaret Thatcher's hardcore social and fiscal policies devastated Britain's traditional industries, and at the same time, AIDS began to claim lives across the nation. At the very height of this perfect storm, as the government and police battled 'the enemy within' in communities across the land and newspapers whipped up fear of the gay 'perverts' who were supposedly responsible for inflicting this lethal new pestilence upon the entire population, two groups who ostensibly had nothing in common - miners and homosexuals - unexpectedly made a stand together and forged a lasting friendship. It was an alliance which helped keep an entire valley clothed and fed during the darkest months of the strike. And it led directly to a long-overdue acceptance by trades unions and the Labour Party that homosexual equality was a cause to be championed. Pride tells the inspiring true story of how two very different communities - each struggling to overcome its own bitter internal arguments and long-established fault lines, as well as facing the power of a hostile government and press found common cause against overwhelming odds. And how this one simple but unlikely act of friendship would, in time, help change life in Britain - forever. Triona Holden takes the reader into the lives of the remarkable women involved in the coal strikes in Great Britain in 1984-85, revealing that what was good about the mining communities lives on in these women's articulate, funny and frank stories. This paper describes the 1946 Marquette Iron Range miners' strike, inspired by the nationwide strike of the United Steelworkers that same year. Never before in the industrial history of the world has there been such a remarkable exhibition of solidarity among the workers of any craft as has been displayed by the United Mine Workers of America in the present strike of coal miners. Having survived a coal mine cave-in, undercover Pinkerton detective Matt Ansaro is recovering from a broken leg. However, the union has called a coal strike, and Matt needs to walk a thin line to remain undercover and not let his employers know Matt is working in his hometown of Eckart Mines, Maryland. The 1922 national coal strike is even more violent in the Western Maryland coal fields as the non-union miners make an all-out effort to unionize. As strikebreakers are brought in to replace striking miners, tension turns into violence between Pinkerton agents and union miners. Matt is caught between both sides as he pretends to be a miner among his family and friends while funneling information to his employers. To make matter worse
another Pinkerton agent knows who Matt is. David Lakehurst has a grudge against Matt and is determined to settle a score with him. Joseph McCord, the mine superintendent in Eckhart Mines, is more than happy to let Lakehurst attack miners as long as it keeps his mine operating. He is also seducing Matt's former girlfriend, Laura Spencer. While this worries Matt, he has more than enough problems from the other women in his life. His girlfriend Samantha Havencroft has caught the eye of a young college professor, and he may have caught Samantha's attention as well. Matt's aunt, Toni Starner, knows Matt's secret and is uncertain how to handle it. Jenny Washington, Matt's friend, is trying to make a new life for herself but can't get past what Lakehurst did to her.

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