

# Marxism Today

December 81

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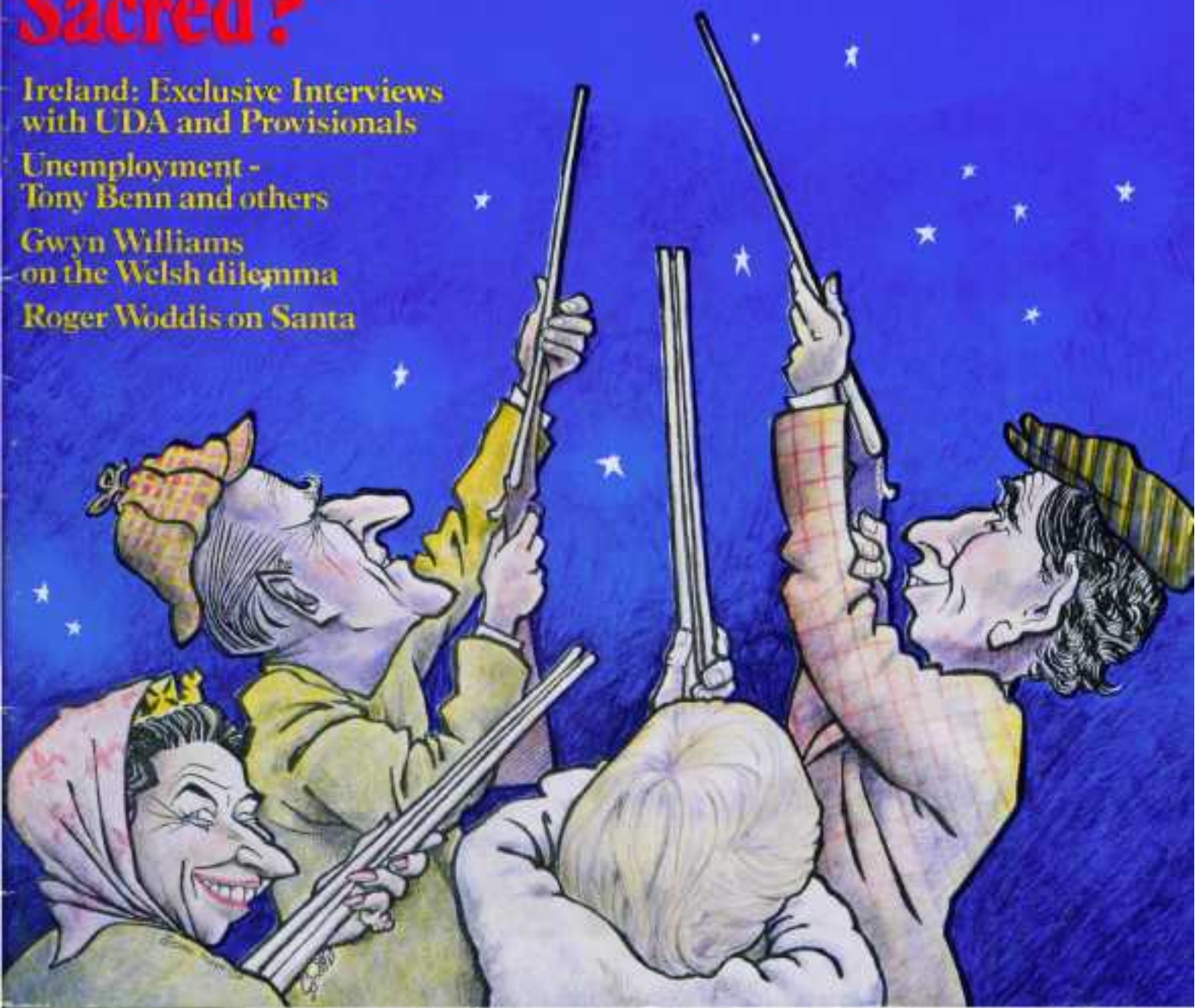
## Is Nothing Sacred?

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with UDA and Provisionals

Unemployment -  
Tony Benn and others

Gwyn Williams  
on the Welsh dilemma

Roger Woddis on Santa



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\* Tuesday Dec 8th 7.00pm: The Foyer, The Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Rd, NW1

\* Saturday Dec 12th 8.00pm: The Montefiore Centre, Deal St, E1

\* Thursday Dec 17th 7.30pm: The Hollyhall, Hollypark Estate, N4

\* Friday Dec 18th 9.00pm: The Clockhouse Community Centre, Defiance Walk, Woolwich Dockyard, SE18

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Theoretical and discussion journal of the Communist Party

# Contents

December 1981 Volume 25 Number 12

## Focus 2

European Peace Movement • Private Rented Housing  
Polish Economic Crisis • Cancun — Third World Last?

## Coming in from the Cold 6

A roundtable discussion with **Tony Benn**, **Pete Carter** and **Jack Dromey**  
The People's March for Jobs was an extraordinary success. Here Tony Benn discusses with two of its national co-ordinators why it was so successful and what lessons the labour movement should draw from it.

Gwyn Williams

## Mother Wales, get off me back ? 14

The image of Wales as a militant socialist country lives on. Gwyn Williams, Professor of History at University College Cardiff, argues this is now quite false: Wales is very different from what it was.

Roger Woddis

## Santa in Crisis 21

Even Santa Claus has hit hard times.

George Catephores

## Greece in the hour of change 23

Greece has shifted dramatically to the left. But George Catephores, a Greek economist living in Britain, argues that its most likely consequence will be to transform Greece into a modern European country.

## Ireland's Intractable Crisis 26

Interviews with the UDA and the Provisional IRA

Northern Ireland remains in a state of permanent crisis. Andy Tyrie and John McMichael from the UDA and Danny Morrison from the Provisional IRA, in exclusive interviews with Bob Rowthorn, discuss relations between the two communities and the prospects for a settlement.

## Channel Five 36

Musicals — Bruce Cole

Imperial Architecture Revisited — Rodney Mace

The Indian Tour — Mihir Bose

## Reviews 41

Michael Bleaney — The Political Economy of British Capitalism

Theo Nichols — Architect or Bee? Living Thinkwork

## Notes 44

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# Socialist Society

Working Group for a Socialist Society c/o 7 Carlisle Street, London W1. Tel 01-437 8240 fl

**We believe that there is an urgent need for a new Socialist Society, dedicated to research, debate, education and polemic. We are convening a Conference early in the New Year for the purpose of founding such a Society.**

The aim of the new Society will be to regain the initiative for socialist ideas and help them become the common sense of the age. It will contribute to research and educational work allied to the labour movement and other progressive movements. It will seek to counter the reactionary ideologies bred by the persistent capitalist crisis and the new Cold War. It will seek to promote awareness of socialist alternatives and encourage debate on the strategic and policy dimensions of socialist research and theory. It will work to break down barriers between activists and intellectuals. It will develop its own workshops, local groups, programme of publication and national network, while making use of every available platform for advancing socialist culture. It will work closely with already established socialist and radical research groups.

We believe that a new and more open political situation offers great scope to socialist researchers, teachers, writers and activists. We have a rich diversity of socialist publications and research groups but no common meeting ground for discussing the new prospects facing the labour movement, or for allowing us to contribute collectively to the birth of a broad socialist movement. Within the labour movement top-heavy official structures and the water-logged politics of consensus are being strongly contested by local activists. There are encouraging signs of the beginning of a wide-ranging and outward-going response to the many desperate problems of a decaying social order. The dramatic re-birth of CND on a new European basis, and the widening scope of the women's movement and of feminist programmes, raise vital issues of socialist responsibility and commitment.

In a more diffuse way there is a widespread willingness to question the workings of the British state, the commercialism and paternalism of the media, the savage cuts in social provision, the continuing war and repression in Northern Ireland. There has been manifest popular anger at mass unemployment, the desolation of inner cities and the destruction of industrial and cultural resources. There is a growing wish for more democratic and accountable structures of self-activity in every area of social life. The search for new answers gives new openings for the Left and could furnish the impulse for building a popular, anti-capitalist movement. Yet, so far, the Social Democrats have been able to make the running in public debate and exploit discontent with the traditional pattern of politics.

## FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

**23/24 January**

**Institute of Education**

**20 Bedford Way,  
London WC1**

We believe that the formation of a new Socialist Society could help the Left to meet the great challenge and opportunity it now faces. Without seeking to create a new party or faction the Society would encourage socialist renewal inside the labour movement and help those fighting for socialist ideas in the Labour Party. It would help create a new forum and common framework for considering fundamental questions of socialist programme and purpose. It would address itself to the implications of new radical currents of thought. It would bring together intellectual workers and worker intellectuals, in the common task of developing the programme and promise of socialism. It would be open to all those prepared to subscribe to a Charter of socialist principles.

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a Socialist Society:

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**Please send me further information about the Socialist Society**  D  
**Please send me registration documents for the founding Conference of the Socialist Society**  D

**I enclose a donation of £.....towards the cost of the Conference.**

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**The founding Conference of the Socialist Society will be held in London in January, 1982. If you would like further information, please fill in this form and return to: Working Group for a Socialist Society, 7 Carlisle Street, London W1V 6NL.**

**Cheques should be made payable to 'Working Group for a Socialist Society'.**