

# Marxism Today

October 1987 £1.10

David Edgar On

Morality

Vietnam

Nightclubbing

Booker Prize

Derek Jarman

Interview

Marxism Today's  
30th Birthday  
Special Student  
Supplement

# Is Socialism Dead...

Eric Hobsbawm On Labour's Future

# Glyndebourne

*Touring Opera*

sponsored by  
**BARCLAYS**

WORLD PREMIERE - NIGEL OSBORNE

**THE ELECTRIFICATION**

**OF THE SOVIET**

**UNION**

A PRODUCTION SPONSORED BY VINCENT WYER  
COMMISSIONED FOR GLYNDEBOURNE IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH THE BBC



**7 PERFORMANCES ONLY - 5 OCT - 21 NOV 1987**

**GLYNDEBOURNE  
OXFORD  
SOUTHAMPTON  
MANCHESTER  
BIRMINGHAM**

**BOOKING NOW**

For a leaflet giving full  
details please write to  
Marketing Office  
Glyndebourne Touring Opera  
FREEPOST W1 226  
Lower East Green BN1 4BQ  
No Stamp required  
or phone Lati Powell  
on 0273 812321

WORDS BY CRAIG RAINE BASED ON BORIS PASTERNAK'S THE LAST SUMMER AND SPECTORSKY  
DIRECTED BY PETER SELLARS  
THE LONDON SINFONETTA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Theoretical and discussion journal of the Communist Party

Editorial Office  
16 St John Street, London  
EC1M4AY  
Telephone 01 6080265

Editor  
Martin Jacques  
Deputy Editor  
Sally Townsend  
Production Editor  
Richard Johnson  
Focus  
Jane Taylor  
Letters  
Maria Loftus  
Supplement Editor  
Joanna Coakley  
Channels  
Sally Townsend  
Books

Mark Perryman, Mary Braithwaite  
Closeup  
Paul Webster  
Business  
Jane Critchley  
Circulation Manager  
Mark Perryman  
Outfitters

CCO  
Research  
Dave Osier  
Julian Turner  
Art Editor  
Jan Brown  
Cover  
Design by Keith Ablitt

Editorial Board  
Jon Bloomfield, Ros Brunt, Beatrix Campbell, Cynthia Cockburn, Ticia Davis, David Edgar, Hywel Francis, Katy Gardner, Stuart Hall, Steve Hart, Jacky Heywood, Eric Hobsbawm, Alan Hunt, Monty Johnstone, Paula Lanning, Betty Matthews, Bert Pearce, Mark Perryman, Dave Priscott, Bob Rowthorn, Vishnu Sharma, Fred Steward, Willy Thompson.

Advertising  
Advertising Manager  
Malcolm Clark  
Advertising Executive  
Lavina Kennett  
Classified Advertising  
John Edj vet

Distribution  
Newstrade  
Magnum Distribution Ltd.  
22-26 Farringdon Lane,  
London EC1R3AU

Bookshops  
Central Books Ltd,  
14 The Leathermarket  
London SE1 3ER  
Subscriptions  
Magnum Subscriptions  
Division, Unit 8, Grove Ash,  
Bletchley, Milton Keynes  
MK1 1BZ. Tel: 0908 71981  
Subscription Rates

for one year  
Inland  
individuals £11.40,  
institutions £16, students  
one-year introductory  
rate £7.50, supporting  
subscribers £25.  
Overseas airspeeded  
individuals £20, institutions  
£26, supporting subscribers

Contributions  
The editor welcomes  
contributions and letters for  
publication in the journal.  
Further details if required  
from the editorial office.  
Please send SAE if you want  
an acknowledgement or  
manuscript returned. The  
views expressed by authors  
are personal and not  
necessarily those of the  
editor or editorial board.

Typeset  
Type Generation Ltd  
Printed  
Birmingham Printers,  
Birmingham.



Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Published by the Communist Party  
16 St John Street, London  
EC1M4AY  
© World Copyright  
October 1987  
Marxism Today  
ISBN 0026-4118  
Volume 31 Number 10

## FOCUS

2

### Conservative Commitments

The Queen's speech in June outlined 17 bills the Tories hope to enact in the next parliamentary session. **Andrew Gamble** looks at the new Tory agenda

3

### Che Guevara: Assessing his



significance 20 years after his death

3

### Power To The Parents: Dewsbury has pushed education into the headlines

5

### China: The 13th party congress and the future course of Chinese reform

6

### Poll tax: Tory own-goal?

7

### Brum Brum Birmingham Superprix: the motor race with a difference

## BEALINE

9

### Why is Labour afraid of Liverpool's popular socialism?

## LETTERS

10

### Union initiatives by Tom Sawyer, human rights, Northern Ireland, MTads

## FEATURES

12

### OutOfThe Wilderness

Eric **Hobsbawm** argues that the problem now facing the Left is nothing less than the reconstruction of its programme

20

### The Morals Dilemma

The personal has never been more political. **David Edgar** looks at the Left's attitude towards morality

26

### Women's Fertility Rights



Over 1m people in Britain today suffer from infertility. **Michelle Stanworth** looks at the solutions on offer

i-iv

### Student Supplement

Completely dispensable satchel-sized guide for those in higher education

32

### Happy Birthday To Us

Vox pop to celebrate *Marxism Today's* 30th birthday. Some loved us, some hated us, some had never even heard of us

34

### After The Apocalypse

How is it that the country that defeated the Americans could make such a mess of the peace? **Adam Fforde** looks at Vietnam's current problems

## CHANNEL 5

40

Home Movie Man; **Derek Jarman's** new film, *Last of England*, is as controversial as one would expect. **Simon Watney** interviews the man behind the super 8 camera

41

Winning the **Booker Prize** means more than prestige: in the cut throat publishing world of the 80s it means big bucks

43

Nightclubbing the sexuality of



people and places that go bump in the night

45

The tv argument direct from Edinburgh: is public or free market the way forward?

46

Hogarth and the manners of the 18th century British school of painting

## BOOKS

49

**Anthony Barnett** on Livingstone and Blunkett; **Brenda Polan** on Fay Weldon; Women in the media; plus Northern Ireland

## COMMENT

S3

**Peter Hain** and **Martin Jacques** on the left unity statement

## CLOSE-UP

60

**Martin Kettle** on **Tony Benn**

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Andrew Gamble** is professor of politics at Sheffield University.

**Brian Pollitt** is a lecturer at the Institute of Latin American Studies, Glasgow University.

**Angela McRobbie** is a lecturer in sociology at Ealing College of Higher Education.

**Cyril Zhiren Lin** is a research fellow in Chinese economics at St Antony's College, Oxford.

**Peter Harvey** is the former motor racing correspondent of the *Morning Star*.

**Christian Wolmar** is writing a book on the rise of the municipal Left to be published next year by Macmillan.

**Beatrix Campbell** is a journalist on *City Limits* and is a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board.

**Eric Hobsbawm** is author of the *Age of Empire* published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson in October and a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board.

**David Edgar** is a playwright and a member of *Marxism Today's* editorial board.

**Michelle Stanworth** is the editor of *Reproductive Technologies, Gender, Motherhood And Medicine* published by Polity Press and she edits their *Feminist Perspective* series.

**Joanna Coakley** is a postgraduate student.

**Marek Kohn** is a freelance journalist and author of *Norcomania*, published by Faber.

**Richard Johnson** is political editor of *FSM* and the production editor of *Marxism Today*.

**Duncan Webster** lectures in American literature at Warwick University and works as a

freelance writer. His book, *Looka Yonder!: The Imaginary America Of Populist Culture*, will be published by Comedia and Methuen next year.

**Darryl Moore** is an arbiter of style and works for CCO.

**Chris Granlund** is a researcher for *Marxism Today*.

**Adam Fforde** is a development economist and in 1985-6 was a visiting fellow at the National Economics University, Hanoi. He is co-author of *The Limits Of National Liberation*.

**Paddy Farrington** worked on *Marxism Today* until recently and spent two years in Vietnam in the early 80s.

**Simon Watney** teaches at the Polytechnic of Central London and works for the **Terrence Higgins** Trust.

**Derek Jarman** is a film director.

**Nicci Gerrard** is a freelance writer.

**Chris Savage King** is a freelance writer.

**Georgina Born** lectures in communications at Brunei University and is an anthropologist and musician.

**Anthony Barnett** is writing a book on the Soviet Union.

**Maggie Brown** is the media editor of *The Independent*.

**Brenda Polan** is the women's page editor of *The Guardian*.

**Robin Wilson** is the editor of *Fortnight*.

**Peter Hain** is an executive member of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee.

**Martin Jacques** is the editor of *Marxism Today*.

**Martin Kettle** is a leader writer on *The Guardian*.

# The Far Horizons



## Trans-Siberia & Central Asia

Only £495 for 22 days with full board and daily programme by air to Moscow, trans-Siberian train to Irkutsk and Lake Baikal, then flight over Mongolia to Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, Tashkent, Samarkand, Khiva and the Silk Road. Other three-week programmes at similar prices January/March.

## Cuba Festivals

Havana and Pinar del Rio for 16 days departing 29th November, plus programme of study and holiday tours. Special tours and study courses for groups (min. ten) and free-ranging individual travel available at any time.

## Specialist Travel

We specialise in organising group study tours and holidays with a purpose for student, labour movement or school groups, particularly to the USSR and Eastern Europe, Algeria, France, Italy and Cuba. Phone or write to Landon Temple for details.

## USSR Offers

### *October Half-Term*

7 days in Moscow and Leningrad 24th—31 st October, £315.

### *November Celebrations*

70th Anniversary of Soviet Revolution, 1 st-8th November, and several other dates, to watch November Parade either in Moscow or Leningrad. From £265.

### **70th Anniversary in Moscow for £225 only.**

2nd-8th November

Special economy 6 day tour with 2 days in Vladimir and Suzdal, meetings and discussions with Soviet people, and places for the parade on November 7th near the Kremlin walls. Includes full board and daily programme. Twin bedded room with private bath.

### *Xmas and New Year*

Moscow, Novgorod and Leningrad, 8 days from £275. Other tours to Moscow and Leningrad only.

### *Russian Language*

Year-round programme of one and three-month courses in the USSR; next departures:

Moscow 21st November—19th December, and Leningrad 19th December to 10th January.

Other one month courses in 1988:

February (Leningrad), March/April (Moscow), July (Moscow, Volgograd, Kalinin and Leningrad), August (Leningrad and Moscow) and September (Krasnodar).

Also three-month courses, April/June, in Kiev, Kranodar and Yaroslavl.

## *Progressive Tours Ltd.*

12 Porchester Place, Marble Arch, London W2 2BS.  
Telephone 01-262 1676. Telex 25135.



# THE EAST-WEST COLLECTION



**Baseball Cap** with Red Star Badge. Reversible red/black. One size. £6.99  
**C.C.O. Long-Sleeve Shirt.** Beige or grey. One Size. £12.99  
**Customised Knap-Sack.** Yellow & black (See detail). £11.99

**Baseball Cap.** Yellow & black. £6.99  
**Customised Flying Jacket (L/XL)** £35.99

**Red Star Zip-Top Sweatshirt (L/XL)** £17.99

**Customised Flying Jacket. (L/XL)** £35.99  
**Baseball Cap. £6.99**



**Customised Knap-Sack** available in red & black or yellow & black. £11.99

"Commercial Secrets" are strictly guarded and it is very difficult for the uninitiated to penetrate the "mysteries" of how riches are piled up.  
 Pravda No. 131, May 1913

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OUTFITTERS



CLOTHING FOR AUTONOMY

Item	Size/Colour	Price	Qty	Total
Customised Flying Jacket	L/XL*	£35.99		
Baseball Cap with Red Star Badge (reversible)	Black & Yellow Red & Black	£6.99 £6.99		
C.C.O. Long-Sleeve Shirt	Beige/Grey*	£12.99		
Red Star Zip-Top Sweatshirt	L/XL*	£17.99		
Customised Knap-Sack	Red & Black Yellow & Black	£11.99 £11.99		

\*Delete as appropriate

**Goods Total**  
 p&p 10% (overseas 20%)  
**Grand Total**

**Send to**  
 C.C.O. Dept E, FREEPOST, 16St John Street, London EC1R1JB  
 Cheques payable to C.C.O. • Please send me catalogue

Name

Address

Postcode

Access/Visa

Signature

Please allow 28 days for delivery