Miners Strike | 0d44b98860d6c48009537f14eccd0394


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 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 recorded 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 coalmiers' 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, battted 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.

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.

Includes separately paged "Junior union section."

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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.
Clippings of Latin American political, social and economic news from various English language newspapers.

Considers the aftermath of the 1984-85 miners' strike. It documents and analyzes the processes of social change within a pro-strike, an anti-strike and a divided community. It focuses on the impact on everyday life and the extent to which the strike shaped attitudes to authoritative institutions.

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.

Arthur Scargill, illustrated biography.

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.

The miners' strike in Britain in 1984/85 was marked by internal division, in contrast to those of 1972 and 1974, which brought the miners substantial material gains. This book considers the outcomes of these strikes, and their implications for current cohesiveness in organised labour.

A controversial new investigation in the 1984 Miners strike and how it changed Modern Britain. The Miners' strike was a dividing line in Modern British history. Before 1984, Britain was an industrial nation, reborn from the ashes of the Second World War by Clement Atlee's vision of a welfare state. Most of the great industries were nationalised and the trade unions was one of the major forces in the land. After the strike, which ended with humiliating defeat in March 1985, Thatcher's Britain was born. In March 1984, the leader of the Miners' Union, Arthur Scargill, led his members out of the pits without a ballot to protest at planned pit closures; they would spend the next 13 months facing the utmost deprivations as they fought to keep their jobs. On picket lines the miners faced harassment and the police, which culminated in the violent Battle of Orgreave. Meanwhile Thatcher's government feared that Britain was on the verge of a civil war. It was a struggle of attrition that neither side could dare lose. Twenty five years after the strike, the debate is still controversial. Marching to the Faultline tells the full story of the strike from confidential cabinet meetings at Downing Street to backroom negotiations, and life on the picket line. The book draws on previously unseen sources from interviews with the major figures, private archives and documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act to set the record straight.

"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 Miners Strike, this is the story of the miners and their wives and families' courage, humour and an unbreakable will to win" - Book Jacket.