

ORGANISE!



Where we stand.

ORGANISE! was originally formed by Anarcho-Syndicalists in the Ballymena and Antrim areas in 1985. They produced the paper of that name which reached issue 6 before folding in '89. Since then Organise! members have been in contact with various individuals in Ireland as well as Anarchists in Britain and internationally through the IWA (International Workers Association).

In 1991 Anarchists from around the north of Ireland met and discussed the prospect of forming a class struggle anarchist group. The paper was re-launched to reflect and develop the opinions and politics of those involved. Much discussion and debate has taken place within the group since then and this leaflet has been produced in order to sum up the strategy we would like to develop and the direction we are now taking.

Aims and Principles

We aim to create a free and classless society. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery and replace them with workers control of both production and distribution for NEED not profit.

We believe that only the working class can change society from the present system of chaos and inequality to a society based on cooperation, mutual aid and equality. This must be achieved by the conscious participation of the workers

themselves. We oppose all those who would set themselves up as new leaders.

The only way to achieve this is by the formation of independent workers organisations within industry and the community in federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to, all political parties and Trade Union leaderships.

The class struggle is worldwide and should recognise no artificial borders. We oppose all attempts by capitalism to set worker against worker, man against woman and protestant against catholic.

The armies and police of this and all states do not serve to protect us, they exist only as the repressive arm of the state.

The role of 'Organise!' is to support workers in struggle, the unemployed, women's rights and all sections of the working class in the fight against capitalism.

Putting it into Effect

What was lacking in the group was a clear and workable strategy as to how 'the formation of independent workers organisations within industry and the community' could be created. How do we go about creating the organisation that will be needed for the destruction of capitalism.

An Industrial strategy.

TRADE UNIONISM

Created to gain higher wages and a shorter working week, trade unionism achieved these and found itself at a dead end. As they openly cave-in to, or comply with, the bosses; as they become more and more divorced from the day to day reality of those they are meant to represent i.e. working class people, we see Anarcho-Syndicalist organisation as more relevant than ever.

The trade unions, north and south, have no intention to do anything beyond sell our labour power to the bosses, a road littered with compromises and sell-outs.

Obviously we still have to use the unions to defend ourselves where we can, and encourage other workers to do so; but ultimately this is not enough. We only have to look to the large numbers of ununionised low paid workers that the unions aren't even interested in, we have to organise to fight for ourselves.

INDUSTRIAL NETWORKS

We advocate the setting up of Anarcho-Syndicalist, or revolutionary, unions. This is not a trade union of only Anarchists but an Anarcho-Syndicalist union of WORKERS.

An Anarcho-Syndicalist union is one that is under the complete control of its members. Real democracy means that all decisions are by the workers on the ground. It rejects the concept of Trades unionism and instead it advocates INDUSTRIAL unions, including all the workers in that industry, whether they be cleaner, typist, mechanic, what ever.

There are no full time officials in an Anarcho-Syndicalist union, the branch instead elects delegates who are subject to immediate recall and

and are always accountable to the membership.

The workplace branch would link with others in the same industry at local, area/region and national level. This is to coordinate action and solidarity

The structure of an Anarcho-Syndicalist union with its power and decision making at the base, its system of federation and networking mean that it can fully utilise what is actually the real power of any working class organisation - vitality and initiative and the day to day involvement of its members. It is a living and continuously developing organisation.

The setting up of these unions, which unite people, not on the basis of their skill or what tool they use, but on the basis of the industry that they work in, avoiding sectionalism, will allow us to build true solidarity.

Obviously such unions are not built overnight, so we support the setting up of industrial networks. Networks bring together like-minded activists to exchange ideas and circulate information, to engage in solidarity activities, and over time to set up an Anarcho-Syndicalist union. Such Networks have already been developed in the USA and in Britain and we in Organise! would like to develop such initiatives in Ireland as well. We need to create an organisation capable of combatting the bosses and through developing networks in different industries we can begin that task.

EDUCATION WORKERS NETWORK

Some members of Organise! are currently working together to develop one such network in education. If you are interested in the ideas you have read above and work in any aspect of the education industry we would urge you to get in touch;

E.W.N. C/O JUST BOOKS,
7 WINETAVERN ST, BELFAST.

CLASS AND CONFUSION

WHILST the bosses and politicians of all persuasions encourage the myth that class and class conflict are something of the past, mealy mouthed and suspiciously well-to-do members of numerous lefty groups earnestly assure us the opposite. So what's it all about?

There's already too much bollocks talked about class, but once you ignore the 57 varieties of bullshit peddled by politicians, intellectuals and the media its essentially simple.

Class is not simply to do with accents, dress codes, where you live, your parents' occupations, whether or not you own your own house, or even your education, although there is a class element to some of these, and they may well affect how you view class.

A DIVIDED SOCIETY

When we talk about class in the SB we're talking about a major ingredient of capitalism - the division of society into two basic classes. There's the ruling class - ie the bosses, politicians, judges, royalty - in fact all those who own and control power and wealth. Then there's the rest of us, for the want of a better term, the working class, who in general make our living by working (if you can get a job), rather than by living from the profits of other peoples labour, or from inherited wealth.

Put another way, class is about the access to the means of production of wealth. Say you work in a factory or shop and produce goods/provide services which make a certain amount of money. Your wage will be a certain (small) proportion of this dosh and the rest is creamed off by the boss simply because he/she is the boss.

It's a myth that bosses or management work harder than anyone else (some work hard, plenty do sod all), just as it's a myth that anyone can be a successful capitalist through hard work alone. Apart

from anything else, if everyone was 'a successful capitalist' who would do all the work? We'd have plenty of boardrooms full of men in suits smoking cigars but they'd soon notice that there was no-one to bring the tea round or to type their letters!

MIDDLE CLASS?

The existence and role of the middle class, people who believe (or are led to believe) they have 'professions' or 'careers' rather than jobs raises many issues, not all of which can be covered in one article. Suffice it to say that it's great for the bosses if we are duped into believing certain jobs are more 'important' or highly regarded than others.

If we spend all our time worrying that our neighbours or workmates have better cars/houses/jobs/furniture than us then we won't notice that the bosses are laughing all the way to the bank, or more likely paying someone else to go to the bank for them.

A CLASSLESS SOCIETY

These days many folk aren't sure what class they are supposed to 'fit into' if any. In contrast those in power are well aware where they stand, and what they want from us. We should learn from that and stick together ourselves. The myth that class is not important must be destroyed if the concept of class itself is to be destroyed, which is our ultimate aim. But the massive inequalities of capitalist society cannot be tackled by blindfolding ourselves to it. Nor can it be fought by isolated individuals, we need to organise as a class for a world without class divisions.

DOLE OR
WAGE-
SLAVERY?



If you've liked what you've read you needn't be working in education in order to get in touch. Such networks are needed in all our industries. If you want to hear more about Organise! perhaps on the role of the unemployed in an Anarcho-Syndicalist union or in building Networks or simply for more information on ourselves please get in touch;

**ORGANISE! C/O 7 WINETAVERN STREET,
BELFAST, N. IRELAND. BT1 1JQ.**

The building of an organisation capable of fighting the bosses and politicians depends on us realising our own power and working together to find best how to utilise it.

ORGANISE



AGITATE

EDUCATE