

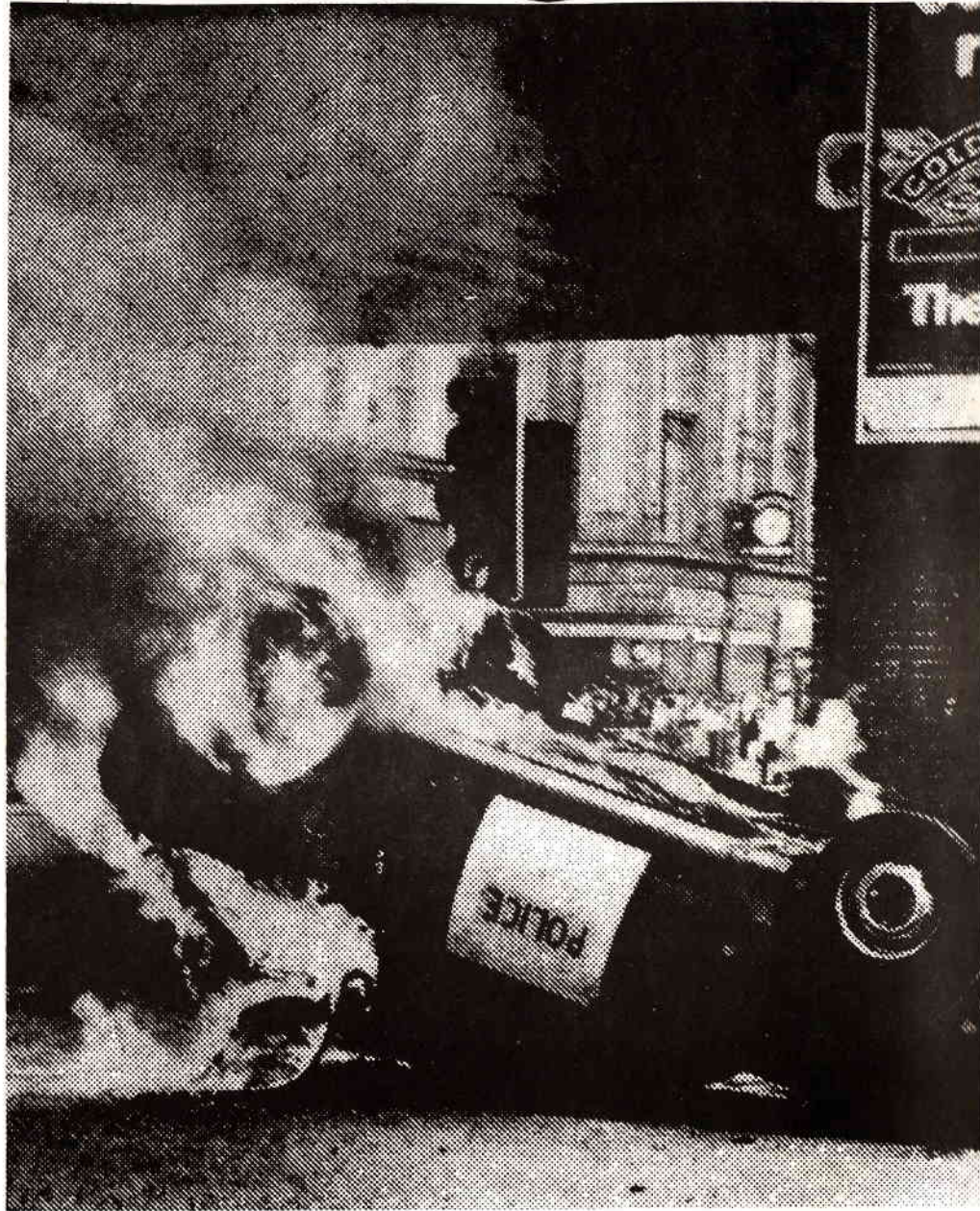
**THIS  
IS**

**CLASS WAR**



25p

# CLASS WAR



# THIS IS CLASS WAR

This booklet aims to explain the basic background and politics of the CLASS WAR FEDERATION. Obviously, a leaflet as short as this can't say everything we would like to, but we hope that it gives some idea of who we are and what we stand for.

## HISTORY

The first issue of CLASS WAR was produced in 1983 by a small group of people based in London. Their background was the Anarchist/Autonomist 'scene' of the late 1970's and early 80's. The first issues of CLASS WAR were aimed at the large punk, Anarchist and pacifist movement of the time, for instance followers of bands like Crass.

The articles slagged off pacifism and the Peace movement and encouraged the idea that violence is better. They put forward a simple political analysis, identifying the enemy not as 'the system' or 'the

State', but as the ruling class (not only as a class, but also the individuals within that class).

The miner's strike started in 1984 and the paper and its followers reacted to it swiftly. The writers of CLASS WAR had wanted to see the Anarchist/punk ghetto take up the violence unleashed by the riots of 1981. Now that violence was taken up by thousands of miners throughout the country. To a large extent the paper dropped its discussion of the inadequacies of the CND and called for physical support for the miners in the cities. CLASS WAR alone supported



the violence of the strike. Readership soared, not least in mining areas...miners queued 20 or more for the paper at the big Mansfield demonstration in 1984. CLASS WAR was now a paper with readers and supporters beyond the wildest expectations of its first producers.



The collective decided that the time was ripe to go beyond the paper and a called a Bash The Rich march in 1985, from Notting Hill to Kensington. Stop The City's 1,2 and 3 (which were not called by CLASS WAR) had reflected the new mood in the Anarchist scene and around 500 people took part in this first incursion (albeit symbolic) of a hostile working class 'mob' into rich areas since the 19th century.



Another march took place from Camden to Hampstead (well, yes, we did get stopped halfway) and a very enjoyable day out to Henley Regatta took place in 1986.

The first CLASS WAR Conference of some 50 people took place in 1985, and a rally of over 200 people was held in Holloway. The riots of late 1985 proved to be another boost to CLASS WAR (12,000 papers were sold that autumn) but following the end of the Bash The Rich campaign (the last march, aimed at Highgate, had been policed into a bit of an embarrassment), a number of people around the country wanted to consolidate the gains of the last 3 years.



## BRIXTON ABLAZE!



## THE FEDERATION

A national conference in Manchester supported their proposal that the groups and individuals who wrote and sold the paper should form 'CLASS WAR' groups as part of a national federation with "aims and principles" in common. The idea was to achieve some sort of national co-ordination and increase democracy in the production of the paper etc. Unfortunately, about a third of the people involved in CLASS WAR left because of this decision. Whoops!

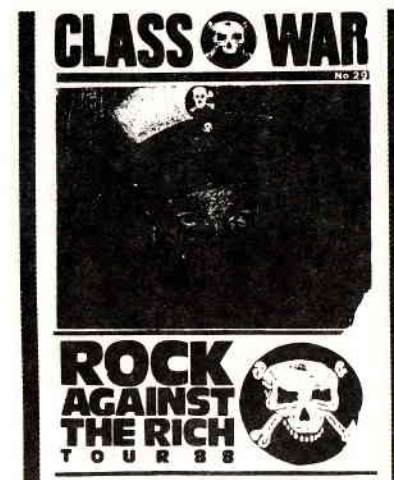


Four years on, CLASS WAR is still alive and kicking. Our hopes for increased class conflict immediately after the miner's strike and the riots of 1984/5 were smashed as the Tories have politically and culturally driven all before them. As the 'Left' has crawled to the right (-the Labour Party) and the extreme



Left has shattered under the weight of its own irrelevance (-the Communist Party and the WRP), or whimpered back to the safe harbour of the universities (-the SWP and RCP), CLASS WAR has grown.

The Federation has grown both in the amount of groups and the numbers involved. In 1988 we launched Rock Against the Rich. It was the biggest event or campaign



put on by any Anarchist/libertarian group ever in this country. The paper's quality has improved (well, we like to think so anyway!), and we now have a theoretical journal, The Heavy Stuff. Unlike 90% of other "politico's" we have not remained static and sterile in our thinking. We have developed ideas about control of working class areas - "no-go areas", which no-one else has done, and we were the first to recognise the importance of Thatcher's cultural war and her obsession with the inner

cities. Alone we tried, where we lived and worked (and in the paper), to agitate against the agencies of the Tory onslaught; the Yuppies (although with interest rates rising it looks like their brief reign may soon be over).

Well that's a brief history of CLASS WAR. Now read on for what we really think!

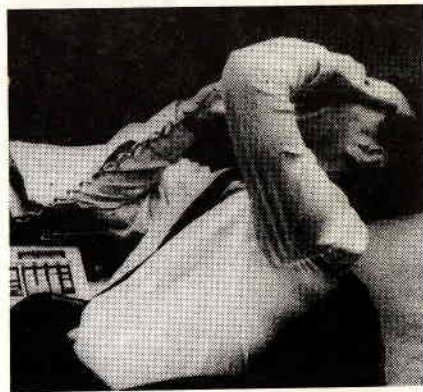
## WHAT WE THINK

Basically, CLASS WAR want to see the class-based economic system of this country (Capitalism) destroyed. Capitalism is the system whereby the ruling class create wealth by selling goods and products to us at a higher value than they pay us to produce them. We want to destroy all the rich scum, parasites, generals and bureaucrats who run it, not just for kicks but because it messes up our lives. The housing shortage, unemployment, underpaid shit jobs, racism, patriotism and sexual repression etc. are all ways in which the ruling class manipulate our lives,



to divide and fragment our class and keep us under their control.

We see the middle class as the people through which the ruling



class *run* Capitalism and control the working class. They are the technicians and managers and the major source of new ideas for the ruling class to use.

A minority of the middle class regard themselves as pro-working class; the teachers, social workers, students, senior local government officers etc. These people's interests will never be the same as ours. In a revolutionary situation many of these people will side with us, but their patronising "social

worker" politics will always be reactionary.

So we want to destroy Capitalism; not so that it can be replaced by a new State and new laws, the same stupid old job and tower block flat, just under a new flag like our East European friends have. We want a *totally new society*, where people work with and for each other, not for some fat cat or bureaucrat - where working class people are in control over all aspects of their lives, as a com-



munity. As Marx (I think) wrote: from each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs.

This is basic Communism; not the State Socialism/Communism of Eastern Europe or the middle class yuppie theories of the so-called "Communist Party", but down-to-earth **workers power** - as a class together, as a community together, as a street or estate together, regardless of race or sex or culture.



And don't argue that it won't work! What's happening now certainly doesn't work - not for us anyway! What's happening now is collapsing here, and globally, by the hour, although there's no way it's going to fall by itself - as our environment disappears and what's 'decent' in our lives vanishes, the powers that cause all this get stronger. They will not collapse away, they will need to be **pushed!**

What we want to see is *organisation* - always from the bot-

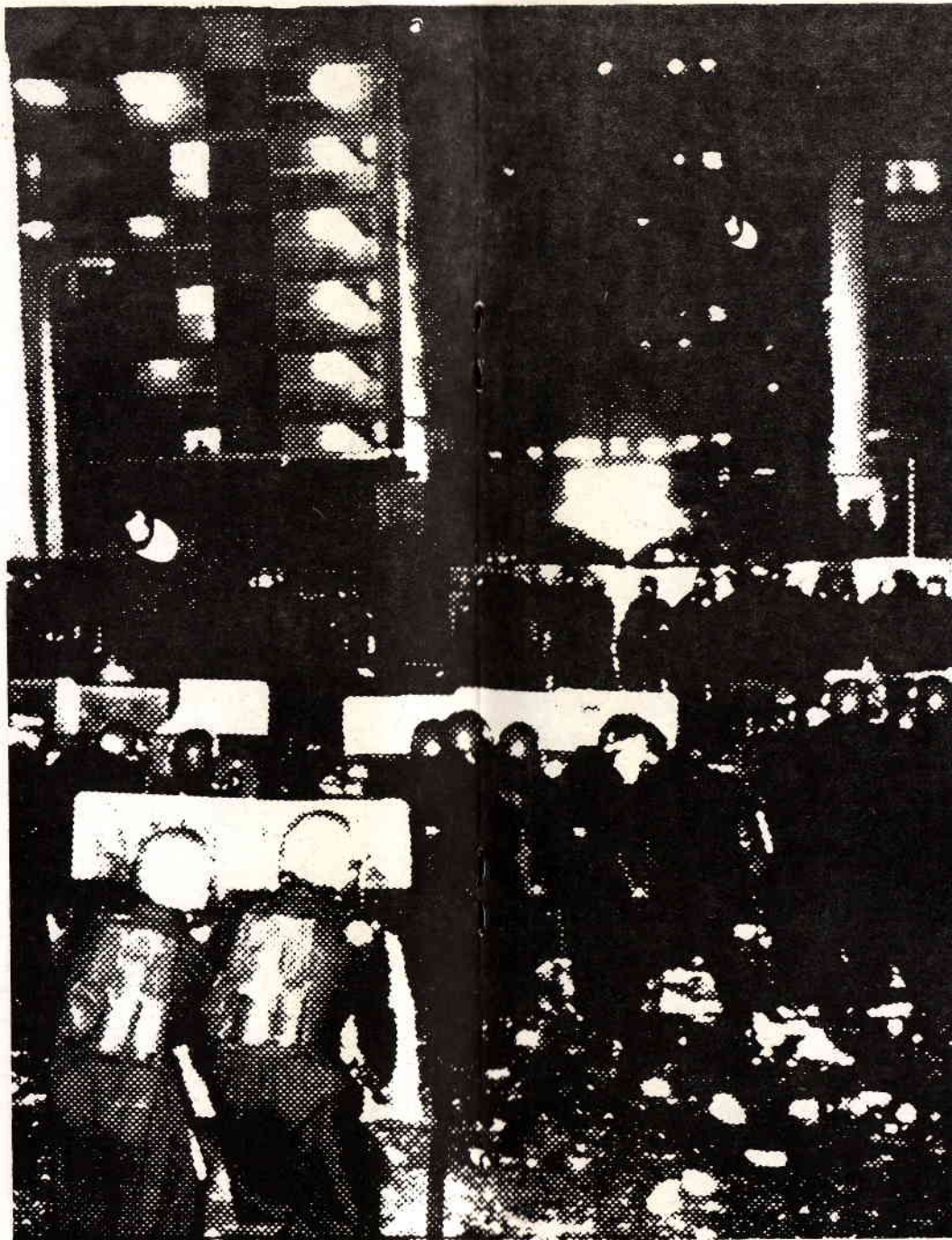




ries - job losses, cuts, attacks on gays, the poll tax, immigration etc. But at the same time we recognise that reforms always work more for the bosses than for us. At the end of the day (as they say) only workers power will give our class what we need. Workers need no leadership. All the 'Left' disagree with this, they create dozens of miniscule Parties all claiming to be the true revolutionary Party and to be the "leadership of the proletariat". BULLSHIT!

We don't deny that ideas and temporarily influential activists will come up through the working class and that is natural and necessary. But the moment we accept any 'alternative' or 'revolutionary' leadership *we are doomed*. Our class will be at its strongest when it is united in politics and will and action, but **autonomous** in organisation. Power must only be based in our workplaces and estates or it is against us. We look back at examples of workers power in the factory committees of Russia 1917, of Hungary 1956, Spain 1936 etc. A revolution can only succeed if it is like this; and for today, right now, this principle applies too. The 'Left' mustn't be allowed to dominate, take-over, exploit or destroy our struggles with their sterile posturing, reformism or trainspotter bureaucracies.

Unions, though good for insurance and limited protection, work more for good management than for *our* needs. How can it be other-



wise when most Unions have hierarchies so complex that the rank-and-file membership have very little to do with having a say in what the Union does, and the top officials are just like managers themselves anyway.

We see the *community* as of crucial importance to our class (along with the workplace). We believe it is necessary, now, to start building up strength in our working class communities, it seems obvious that major industrial battles of the future will only succeed with massive community support. And also Thatcher has shown that after she had dealt with the old 'vanguard' of the working class - the miners, she saw a major threat to her policies from the inner cities and working class communities. Through gentrification, the Development Corporations and her attacks on harmless local councils, to her potentially disastrous introduction of the Poll Tax, this campaign can only really make sense politically as an attack on working class communities.

Crime, and other anti-social behaviour must be fought from within our communities, to make our lives easier and to start creating the basis of organisations that can one day begin to wrestle power from the State. The idea of No-Go Zones, not just to Police harassment, but to racial and sexual attack, crime, bailiffs, rent officers etc, (while obviously not immediately applicable to the places most

of us live ) is of great importance. We believe that uniting our class against the divisions fostered in it by our "rulers", will be necessary before, during and after any struggle against the ruling class, and for any successful revolution to take place, divisions such as those between employed /unemployed, gay and straight, female/male, black and white etc, must be fought in the here and now, not as separate issues from class politics, but as part of them.

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION believes very strongly that we must sort out things where we live as a priority. We have none of the fetishes/obsessions with Nicaragua, El Salvador, South Africa etc, that afflicts the middle class Left. However, we are internationalist. We believe any successful revolution will be global, and we politically oppose Nationalism and Patriotism in both 'dominating' and 'dominated' countries. In practical terms, we are always trying to increase our contacts with working class people in other countries.



## WHAT WE DO

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION doesn't have all the answers. We are not a new "Party". We see our role as basically a propaganda group, producing a paper, a theoretical journal, and various broad-



sheets and leaflets locally, though we're not the sort of people who'll stand around selling the paper when there's something "interesting" going on! Our readers and supporters do other sorts of propaganda, like graffiti for instance. Where we live and work we obviously take part in what affects us - sometimes independently, sometimes through Trade Unions or tenants associations etc.

Our propaganda is significantly different from all the other political groups. While the Left and the Anarchists whine and whinge about the power of the State, injustice, write garbled theory and copy the dated writings of 19th and



early 20th century middle class intellectuals, or concentrate on 'building the Party', CLASS WAR tries to encourage and increase the confidence, the autonomy, initiative and solidarity of working class people. We try to politicise and emphasise the revolutionary aspects of working class struggles. We don't need to be told time and time again that we are getting a raw deal. Moaning on and on about how terrible everything is, is depressing and boring and encourages reformism ("Green politics", for example). We know that



however many reforms are made, the ruling class will still be in direct or indirect (e.g. culturally) control of every aspect of our lives. It will still control where and how we live and work, and to a large extent what we think. Apart from sheer physical force, the ruling class controls us by demoralisation, pacifying us, creating apathy, robbing us of our identity as a class and creating, fostering and encouraging prejudice of every kind. Through our propaganda, mainly the paper, we try to combat this.



## THE PAPER

There are three ideas central to CLASS WAR (the paper)- **Humour, Populism and Violence.** Some people have said that writing a paper in this style is patronising - well that's RUBBISH, of course many working class people are capable of reading intellectual material - and CLASS WAR is aimed at them as much as those who aren't.

## HOSPITALISED COPPER No 13



**SILLY SUPERINTENDANT  
SIMON STAINES STAGGERS  
SIDEWAYS STUNNED BY A  
SAVAGE SLAP.**

**SENSATIONAL**

Humour is essential to the paper because firstly it makes people want to read it, and secondly it is the best way we have of making our point. People will remember a witty one-liner and tell it to their mates, and the political content will go with it. Humour is a powerful weapon. It makes our enemies seem less powerful and it boosts our morale. Politics are not separate from everyday life, they *are* life. The idea that politics must be boring and serious encourages us to forget this.



The trouble with most leftie papers is that they're difficult and boring to read. There is a reason why people like to read The Sun and it's not because they're stupid and ignorant, it's because a lot of the time all you want is a light entertaining read. This doesn't mean that The Sun doesn't talk crap (it is a very political and reactionary paper), it just means that there is a lot to be said for a paper that is simple, entertaining and easy to read, and that's what CLASS WAR should be like if we want people to read it. The idea that if you enjoy reading a paper like that, or watching Soap or Sitcoms on the telly, means you're thick, is just intel-

**Socialist Worker** Inside Socialists and the Labour Party The fight goes on

**WHAT WENT WRONG?**



tual bullshit.

A paper that is entertaining and easy to read is the best way we have of getting our propaganda across in a written form. It means that people aren't put off from our ideas by pages and pages of boring rant. It means that people will (hopefully) look forward to reading CLASS WAR and people will remember what's in it.

The working class has enough problems with violence (e.g. violence against women and children, muggings and so on), it may seem strange in some ways, for us to encourage more. But violence is necessary to fight our class enemies, and it will become more so - not in elitist terrorist type actions but openly, together, on the

streets. In regard to the paper, obviously some people will be put off by the emphasis on violence, and we must always be aware of the dangers of using it. People who use violence run the risk of being locked up for years, and of destroying an open political movement, giving the ruling class an opportunity to create divisions amongst us. The paper promotes open violence, the idea of a lot of people, not hiding from each other, fighting a common enemy. We feature **fightback** in the paper just to show that it happens all the time (its ignored or marginalised by everyone else), and to show that it *works*, giving people the confidence to make a move themselves.



## THIS IS CLASS WAR

CLASS WAR are ordinary, normal (!) people. We are not wierdos or loony lefties. Our politics are common sense and basic, not the intellectual rantings of University professors. We strongly believe that everyday life and politics *are the same thing*. If your politics detract from your everyday life then they are worthless. Our political activity must be as open to a 30 year-old housewife, as to a 40 year-old miner as to an OAP. We do not demand 6a.m. paper sales outside factories in the freezing cold, or 24-hour activity (endless rounds of meetings etc etc.), we'd rather people had a good time, because we believe that politics can be fun, so long as you don't take everything *too* seriously. We don't demand commitment, but we know that once our politics are understood (and they are pretty basic), they can never be forgotten. We are not arrogant like the Left (and it must be remembered that a great many people involved in these groups have a vested interest in things staying the way they are ), or your everyday politician. Yes, we do have ideas, and we do stand firm behind our views. But we don't think we're perfect, we don't put forward a theory and say that if everyone followed it to the letter then everything would be fine. Our politics come from our lives and the real world; they are a necessity, not a theory.



CLASS WAR are the only "left-wing" group who recognise that working class people are political (because they have to be) - its just that its couched in different terms from the pseudo-intellectual claptrap of the "Left".

We believe that it is right that there should be both similar groups to our own, and that there should always be debate within our Federation. Because we are a working class group, and because our politics are from the working class, we are able to respect and work with (in life, as well as in strikes etc.) working class people who are not yet political, or who are reactionary. It is not patronising to talk the same language as most people, just because you might know another as well.

Working class people everywhere are fighting back, slowly and surely. Fighting off the dead weight of Labourism and the Left, fighting against the class assaults of the Tories and the rest of the ruling class. We are one of the more dynamic groups in this fight-back. Join the resistance and join with us!

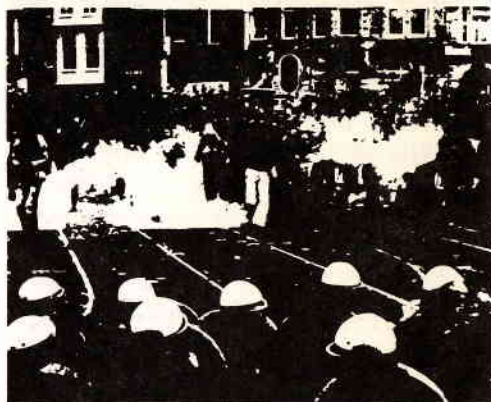


THE HEAVY STUFF

# CLASS WAR

BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY

No. 34



## THIS IS THE REAL COMMUNITY CHARGE!

THE PAPER

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 5 issues, cost £1.50

to: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques etc payable to CLASS WAR  
 Send to: PO Box 467, London E8 3QX

# GROUPS + CONTACTS

There are active CLASS WAR groups and contacts in the following places. If you want to get in touch with us, please do so by writing to your LOCAL GROUP. If there isn't a local group near you, or you want to set up your own group, or you want to be a contact. Please write to your REGION GROUP (the one closest you). The REGION GROUPS are:

**PLYMOUTH BRISTOL LONDON  
 DERBY MANCHESTER HULL  
 TYNESIDE AND GLASGOW**

**BRIGHTON:** c/o

Brighton Bomber, Prior House, 6  
 Tidbury Place, Brighton.

**BIRMINGHAM:** c/o

Box 5, c/o Zebedees, 190 Alum Rock  
 Rd, Sallley, B'ham.

**CORNWALL:** c/o Plymouth address.

**DERBY:** c/o London address.

**DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND:**

c/o London address.

**LONDON:**

PO Box 467, London E8 3QX.

**LUTON:** c/o London address.

**BRISTOL:** PO Box 499, Bristol BS 99.

**NOTTINGHAM:** c/o London address.

**TYNESIDE:**

c/o Tyneside Free Press, 5 Charlotte  
 Sq, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**PLYMOUTH:** PO Box 105, Plymouth.

**SURREY:** c/o London address.

**S.WALES/VALLEYS:**

c/o Bristol address.

### NORTHERN NEWS AREA.

**BRADFORD:** c/o Manchester address.

**DONCASTER/ROSSINGTON:**

c/o Manchester address.

**HULL:** PO Box 104, Hull, HU3 2UJ.

**LIVERPOOL:**

PO Box 110, Liverpool, L69.

**LEEDS:** c/o Manchester address.

**MANCHESTER:** c/o Raven Press, 75  
 Piccadilly, Manchester, M11 2BU.

### SCOTTISH CLASS WAR

**GLASGOW AREA:**

c/o Manchester address.

**SHETLAND:** c/o London address.

**CW HEALTH WORKERS:**

c/o London address.

**CW BIKERS:** c/o London address.

# THIS IS CLASS WAR

THE CLASS WAR FEDERATION IS AN ORGANISATION OF LOCAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COME TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CHANGING THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN.

# OUR AIM

THE AIM OF THE CLASS WAR FEDERATION IS NOT TO LEAD, BUT TO INCREASE THE MILITANCY OF WORKING CLASS PEOPLES ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, THROUGH PROPAGANDA, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND DEBATE AS EQUALS.

# WHAT WE DO

THE CLASS WAR FEDERATION PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE PROPAGANDA - A PAPER, JOURNAL, LOCAL LEAFLETS AND NEWSLETTERS. WE ARE INVOLVED IN WORKING CLASS STRUGGLES AND WE ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CLASS WAR FEDERATION TO DO THE ABOVE, FOR DISCUSSION, AND FOR A LAUGH!

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

THIS SOCIETY IS DIVIDED INTO CLASSES BASED ON WEALTH AND POWER. THE RULING CLASS WHO ARE SUPPORTED BY THE MIDDLE CLASS...AND THE WORKING CLASS. SUCH A SOCIETY IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY WORKING CLASS PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER. THIS CAN ONLY BE SORTED OUT BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RULING CLASS BY THE WORKING CLASS...THIS IS CLASS WAR! REAL CHANGE CAN ONLY COME ABOUT THROUGH WORKING CLASS PEOPLE ORGANISING THEMSELVES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS THEY EXPERIENCE, USING DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM...THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. VIOLENCE IS A NECESSARY PART OF THE CLASS WAR, BUT ONLY AS MASS CLASS VIOLENCE OUT IN THE OPEN, NOT ELITIST TERRORIST ACTIONS. THE LAW IS MERELY A WEAPON OF THE RULING CLASS AND MUST BE IGNORED AND BROKEN WHEN THE NEED ARISES. THE RULING CLASS DIVIDE US BY GETTING US TO FIGHT EACH OTHER ON THE BASIS OF STUPID THINGS SUCH AS RACE, SEX, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, AGE OR WHAT FOOTBALL TEAM YOU SUPPORT. WE WILL DESTROY THESE BARRIERS. ABOVE ALL CLASS WAR BELIEVE POLITICS IS LIFE AND LIFE IS POLITICS. WE REJECT THE BORING CHARACTER OF THE SO-CALLED "REVOLUTIONARY" GROUPS. POLITICS MUST BE FUN, IT'S A PART OF ORDINARY DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AND MUST BE ABLE TO TAKE THE PISS OUT OF ITSELF!