

May Day Manifesto 1968

Penguin - May Day Manifesto 1968 ed. Raymond Williams (Penguin, 1968) Vintage Paperback

1. May Day

May Day, for many hundreds of years, has been a people's holiday: a celebration of growth on the land. For the last eighty years, coming out of this history, May Day has been an international festival - a demonstration and commitment - of the labour movement.

As we go out on this May Day and look at our world, we see the familiar practices of power and money set over against people. But now with one difference, that the agent of just these practices, in Britain, is a Labour government. It is a strange paradox, which must be faced and understood.

The immediate paradoxes are startling. While thousands of our people are without homes, while our schools are overcrowded and our health service breaking under peacetime strain, we have watched the wiles of Labour ministers, protected by police, launching Polaris nuclear submarines. In a prolonged economic crisis, which has consistently falsified orthodox descriptions and remedies, a Labour government has stuck to old and discredited policies: cutting ordinary people's living standards, and putting the protection of a capitalist economic and financial system before jobs, care and extended education. At City banquets, at the centre of a society that still flaunts private wealth, places are set for Labour ministers to describe the historic objectives of their own party - the defence and advancement of the working people - as selfishness and malice. The limited provisions of the welfare state are called sacred cows, and are cut, in a false equation with a still insupportable military expenditure. More than half a million people are left to stand and wait without jobs, and in this new language are called spare capacity. The new generations are generations of weapons.

This is now the dangerous gap: between name and reality; between

Description: -

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A Penguin specialMay Day Manifesto 1968

Notes: Previous ed. May Day Manifesto Committee, 1967.

This edition was published in 1968



Filesize: 36.84 MB

Tags: #May #Day #Manifesto #1968 #(Raymond #Williams

Seizing the time: Tony Cliff and 1968 • International Socialism

A Labour government, elected with high hopes in 1964 and re-elected with a massive majority in 1966, had alienated much of its support with policies that attacked the working class, and slavish support for the Americans in Vietnam. Labour had actually lost the elections in 1951 and 1957, and many on the left were looking for a way out of the suffocating consensus of post war politics. Like Luxemburg he attributed great value to spontaneous working class action, and insisted that revolutionaries had to learn from the working class.

Seizing the time: Tony Cliff and 1968 • International Socialism

After eighteen months of internal struggle, the leadership was able to present a manifesto to the British public in the 2017 general election and win 40 per cent of the vote, consolidating its position within the party.

May Day Manifesto: The Legacies of 1968

Not knowing that the Communists did not intend to seize power, officials prepared to position police forces at the Élysée with orders to shoot if necessary.

May Day Manifesto 1968 : Owen Jones : 9781786636270

The 1973 oil crisis would mark the end of the boom, with a rapid rise in unemployment, but it was not a collapse on the 1929 scale, and it did not end working class resistance.

May Day Manifesto 1968 by Raymond Williams, Owen Jones

The second are specific to the capitalist order of society. So any manifesto today would need to make two commitments.

May Day Manifesto 1968 by Raymond Williams

It sought to rescue and renew the idea that the purpose of the politics of the left — Labour and beyond — should be to further the long-term

transformation of capitalist society in a democratic and egalitarian direction.

May Day Manifesto 1968 by Raymond Williams

A general election would cost us around £50m: scarcely a rounding error in national accounts. His writings on politics, culture, the media and literature contributed to the critique of culture and the arts.

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