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1983**

**EDITED BY
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and
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PREFACE

This is the twentieth issue of the *Socialist Register* and this volume follows the pattern of its predecessors in tackling issues of major significance for socialist theory and practice. The first two essays, one by Dorothy Smith and the other by Varda Burstyn, present different approaches to the 'theorisation' of feminism from a socialist and Marxist perspective. The issues raised here have been forced on to the socialist agenda by the feminist movement and are of the greatest importance for all socialists; and we hope that we shall be able to pursue the discussion begun here in further volumes of the *Register*.

The following five essays are concerned in different ways with the condition of the left after the General Election of June 1983. David Coates and Ralph Miliband discuss the situation of the Labour Party in the light of the election results and what implications it has for socialist advance in Britain. Richard Taylor's essay recalls the experience of the peace movement in the sixties and discusses the crucial question of the relationship of the peace movement to socialist struggle. John Saville takes the occasion of a new biography of C.R. Attlee to reflect on some neglected influences on the Attlee Government's conduct of affairs after World War Two, and Paul Foot suggests what the diary of the former Ambassador of the Shah of Iran to the Court of St James shows about the attitudes of the British Establishment to dictatorships of the right.

The following three articles are concerned with critical international questions: Roy Medvedev writes from Moscow about what may be expected from the change of leadership in the Soviet Union; and Paul Joseph discusses recent developments in American nuclear strategy and links them with the purposes of American foreign policy. James Petras and Morris Morley for their part provide a timely analysis of the roots of American intervention in Central America.

The last three articles deal with the crucial question of the role of the working class in socialist struggles. Ellen Meiksins Wood analyses the ways in which seemingly abstract questions of socialist theory have a crucial bearing on socialist strategy; and Richard Hyman provides a critical appraisal of André Gorz's recent and influential work *Farewell to the Working Class?* Finally, Monty Johnstone offers a scholarly analysis of

Marx's view of *putschism* and majority rule.

Dorothy Smith teaches in the Department of the Sociology of Education at the Toronto Institute for Studies in Education; and Varda Burstyn is doing research and writing in Toronto on feminist themes. David Coates is in the Department of Politics at the University of Leeds and Richard Taylor is the Warden of the Adult Education Centre, also at Leeds. Paul Foot writes for *The Daily Mirror* and *Private Eye*. Roy Medvedev is doing research and writing on Soviet history in Moscow. Paul Joseph teaches in the Department of Sociology at Tufts University, Mass. James Petras is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton and Morris Morley lectures in Political Science at the American University, Washington, D.C. Ellen Wood is Professor of Political Science at Glendon College, York University, Toronto, and Richard Hyman is in the School of Industrial and Business Studies at the University of Warwick. Monty Johnstone is doing research and writing on socialist democracy and related themes in London.

We are grateful to our contributors for their help and to Brian Pearce for his translation of Roy Medvedev's article. We also gladly record once again our appreciation of the help and encouragement we have had from Martin Eve, Philippa Jones and David Musson, of Merlin Press, and we take this opportunity to congratulate them on having produced such an excellent volume in 1982, when pressure of other work made it impossible for us to edit that year's *Register*.

August 1983

R.M.
J.S.