

Queer Alliances

Pits And Perverts Event, Birkbeck, University Of London (2015)

The Power Of The State V An Alliance Of Hope

There Was a Plan – It Began In 1977 The Ridley Report

ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION GROUP

The next meeting will be held on Friday 8th July 1977
at 11.00 a.m. in the new Westminster Hall Interview
Rooms at the House of Commons, Room W.1.

AGENDA

To discuss the Final Report of the Nationalised Industry
Policy Group chaired by the Hon. Nicholas Ridley.

Paper enclosed: Nationalised Industries Policy Group
Report (PG/10/77/38).

Anne Bulloch

AB/LSA

30th June 1977

The Conservative Research Department
24 Old Queen Street
London SW1

Ridley Report

The Ridley report was a strategy to destroy the trade unions in the UK – who had gained significant gains over conditions and pay during the 1960s and 70s

The government should if possible choose the field of battle.

- Send out the most powerful message
- Coal stocks should be built up at power stations.
- Plans should be made to import coal from non-union foreign ports.
- Non-union lorry drivers to be recruited by haulage companies.
- Dual coal-oil firing generators to be installed, at extra cost;
- 'Cut off the money supply to the strikers and make the union finance them'.
- Support alternative “union” (eg Nottingham UDM) to divide and control
- Train and equip a large, mobile squad of police, ready to employ riot tactics in order to uphold the law against violent picketing.
- Bring in non-political executive to run campaign (McGregor)

<http://www.margarethatcher.org/document/110795>

<http://www.socialist.net/ridley-report.htm>

<http://www.marxist.com/britain-ridley-report.htm>

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridley_Plan

De-classification of Documents

Thatcher had secret plan to use army at height of miners' strike

Papers released to the National Archives reveal that in 1984 the prime minister made preparations to use troops to move coal to power stations

[Alan Travis](#), home affairs editor
[The Guardian](#), Friday 3 January 2014



Ranks of police face the picket line at Orgreave Coking Plant near Rotherham in June 1984. Photograph: Pa/PA Archive/Press Association Images

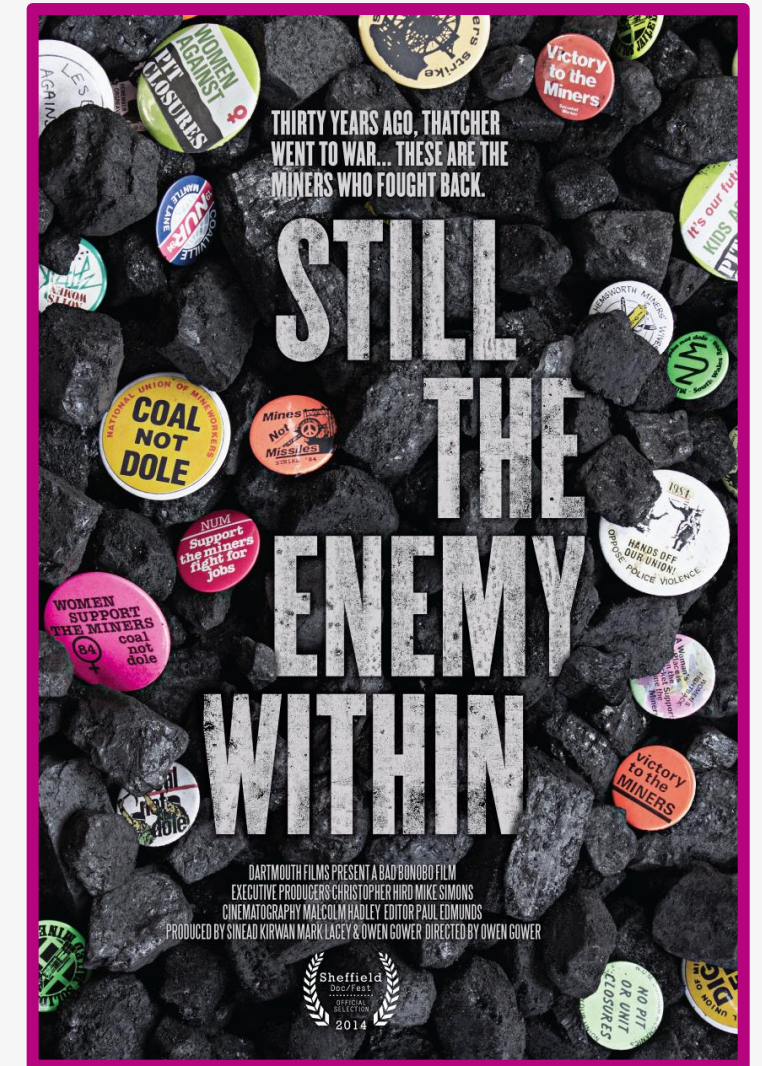
[Margaret Thatcher](#) was secretly preparing to use troops and declare a state of emergency at the height of the miners' strike – out of fear Britain was going to run out of food and grind to a halt, government papers released today reveal.

The 1984 cabinet papers, released to the [National Archives](#), show that Thatcher asked for contingency plans to be drawn up to use troops to move coal stocks, despite official government policy ruling out the use of service personnel. A plan involving the use of 4,500 service drivers and 1,650 tipper lorries was considered capable of moving 100 kilotonnes a day of coal to the power stations.

A separate contingency plan, codenamed Operation Halberd, to use troops in the event of a dock strike, had also been drawn up.

30 Year Release of Secret Files Reveals Extent of Spy Infiltration

- Margaret Thatcher branded the leaders of the 1984-85 miners strike
- “the enemy within.” With the publication of this book, the full irony of that accusation became clear.
- Seumas Milne revealed for the first time the astonishing lengths to which the government and its intelligence machine were prepared to go to destroy the power of Britain’s miners’ union. There was an enemy within. It was the secret services of the British state, operating inside the NUM itself.”



State Capital and Control

- The miner's strike was incited to use the battering ram of state power to break the single greatest obstacle to the transformation of the economy in the interests of corporate privilege and wealth.
- But where does the state get its money from? Taxes/workers
- The miner's strike reveals the state operating in the interests of capital by controlling the most powerful representatives of workers (NUM). They were fighting for better wages and conditions
- The mining industry was not unproductive- this was a purely ideological/political battle, and well before climate change recognised
- But why did trad masculine TU's gain support from unlikely sources in this political battle?
- Proposed closure of 20 mines and 20,000 jobs. Knock on effect eg grocers, schools in communities where the mine is THE work

Many Enemies Within (According to the Government and Media in 1980s)

- “Urban black communities (see policing the crisis. 1970 to....)”
 - Feminists (ongoing)
 - Trade unions (1970 ongoing)
 - Gay plague” (lesbians also targeted 1986)
 - ‘the unproductive’ eg beginnings of welfare cuts for disabled and their pathologisation as “waste”
 - 1970s/80s a time of substantial political unrest
 - High unemployment
- media campaigns of derision against all groups that threaten profit accumulation (esp the sun, the mail and the express).
- Hardcore promotion of the heterosexual family esp via “the princess” (and look what happened there....)

Some of the lectures at Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education favour a more positive approach to homosexuality. As described later Peter Kent Baguley has written two articles supporting the positive treatment of homosexuality in the youth service and Beverley Skeggs has written an enthusiastic review of the ILEA 'Anti-Sexist Resources Guide'

1981
Brixton, Southall, Toxteth,
Moss Side, Wood Green,
London, Leicester And
Bradford.

From The Times 2011

Brixton burning... the riots remembered

Article

Slideshow: Brixton riots



Will Wainwright

Last updated at 12:01AM, April 8 2011

Thirty years ago, angry youths battled police in South London. Watch our video as policeman and rioter meet for the first time

On April 11, 1981, Brixton exploded. As levels of mistrust between the police and the black community hit a new low, locals snapped, reacting against what they saw as an oppressive, racist police force.

Buildings and vehicles were torched and hundreds of officers and rioters injured in brutal fighting in which petrol bombs were thrown for the first time on British streets. Images of the riots, which spread to other deprived areas of the UK during the Eighties, were beamed around the world, embarrassing the Government.

Post a comment

Print

Share via

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

Brixton, 1981



Liverpool, 1981

3 A.M. EDITION
DAILY POST
Tuesday, July 7, 1981 Price 12p

Neil Williams
TROUBLE-TORN
PAGE 25

Night of tension as the toll after three days is 255 hurt, 123 arrested

Toxteth on a knife-edge

by Daily Post Reporters

TROUBLE-TORN Toxteth was on a knife-edge early today.

More than 2,000 policemen were drafted into the area and although there was no repeat of the weekend's full-scale rioting, looters were again on the streets.

The fragile calm which held for most of the evening was shattered again in the early hours of today as some shops were fired and others looted. But there was still hope that the black community's peace "backlash" would help restore order.

Early today a police spokesman said: "Things have not been anything like as serious as on Sunday night. We were able to break small threatening groups before they could do much damage."

The night's sporadic trouble began when a crowd of 200 white youths, some as young as eight, started setting shops in Park Road, Stags.

But 100 police wearing new crash-helmet style riot gear moved in quickly to quell the trouble. A total of 123 arrests have been made for public order and looting offences, including a 15-year-old.

Thousands of police were called to disperse crowds of predominantly white youths and children in the Park Road/Martinborough Street area, which is a constant police sight since the arrival of the Sun's Police Bureau which had been earmarked as a potential target.

Riot terror—Pages 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
The guilty verdict—Pages 16 and 17
Comment—Page 18

Earlier black parents took to the battle-scarred streets in a bid to bring peace. The locally famed "Pace Patrol" turned the riot area on foot, armed only with loudspeakers. Their message was "peacefully go home—we don't mean harm, brother". The peace vigilantes started their work early in the evening on Upper Park Road, where they broke up a meeting of the Labour Party Young Socialists which they did not want there in the area.

Members of Merseyside Police Committee held a special meeting last night to discuss the trouble, and Chief Constable Sir Ian Oxford gave them a run-down on the weekend of rioting.

Afterwards the Labour chairman of the Police Committee, Councillor Mrs Margaret Sims said: "We especially expressed our appreciation of the bravery of so many policemen in frighteningly difficult and dangerous circumstances." She said they agreed not to let the situation "while the battle was on". They would meet again next Tuesday.

Earlier Youth Secretary Mr Wilson Whitlock admitted the Toxteth disturbance was the most serious situation the country has ever faced.

Mr Whitlock was one of many political, Church and community leaders to condemn the weekend of violence including Mrs Thatcher who declared "vermin" in the area.

Liberal leader of Liverpool City Council, Sir Trevor Jones, demanded the Home Secretary get the Army on standby.

Restoring order—police in their specially-trained protective helmets made an arrest.
Picture by Dick Williams.

INDEX: TV guide—Page 2 Letters—Page 1 Women—Pages 20-21 Weather round-up—Page 30

THE Sun
July 6, 1981 10p TODAY'S TV: PAGE 14

£30,000 Bingo GAME No 4 STARTS TODAY See Page 25

'To think this is England'

Black policeman, PC Colin Cooper, who risked the wrath of angry and rioting in Toxteth.
By Peter Hill in England

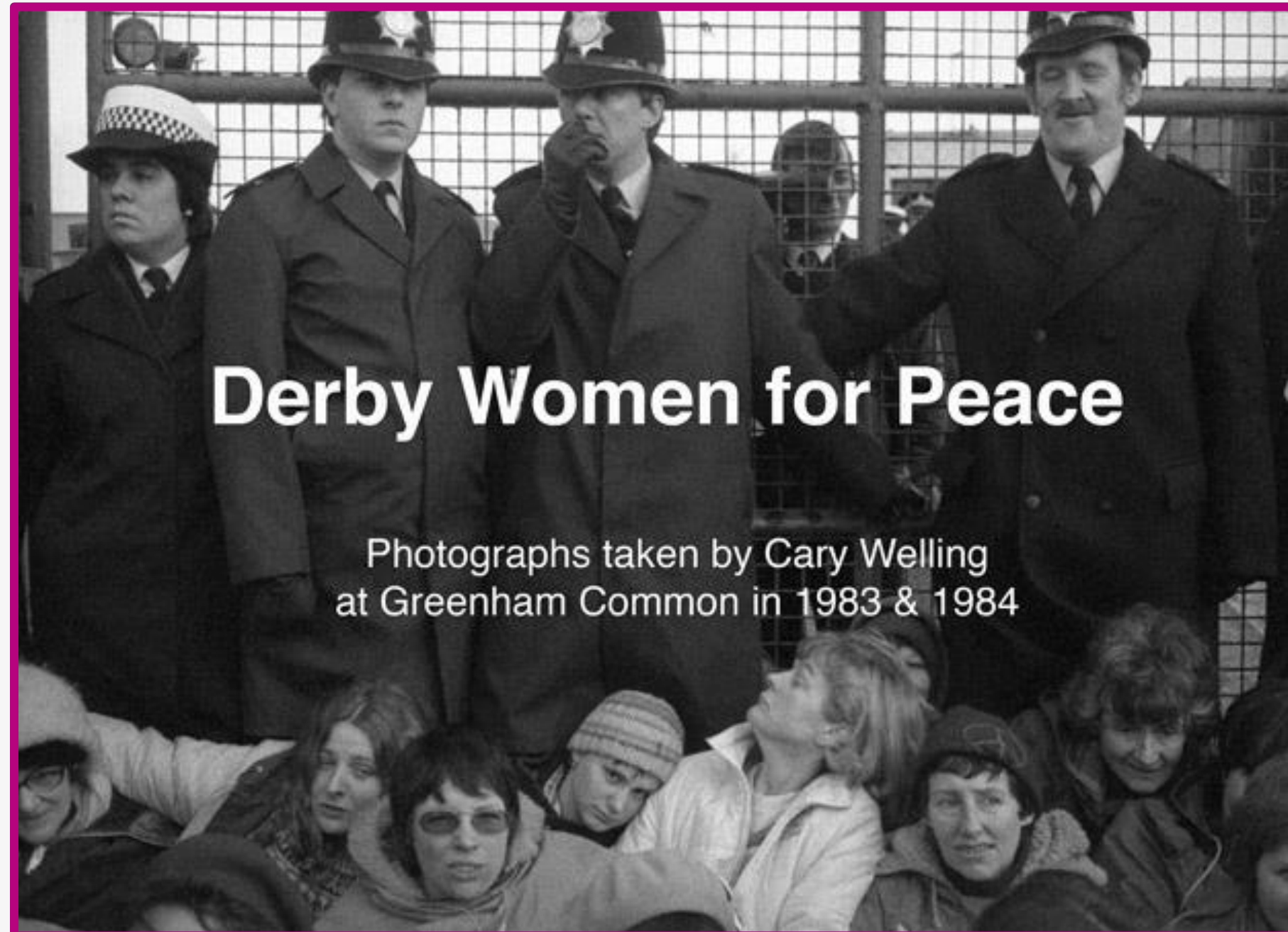


Under fire... policemen shelter behind shields as the masked men of hate hurl flaming petrol bombs and stones. The violence flared as mobs ran riot in Liverpool's Toxteth district.

FURY IN THE GHETTO—SUN SPECIAL REPORT See Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Picture by JAMES HILLIER

Greenham Common, 1984



Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp

- On 12 December 1982, 30,000 women held hands around the 6 miles (9.7 km) perimeter of the base, in protest against the decision to site American cruise missiles at the base

Women Support Women

- Greenham women came to help the Women miners support group~:
- Identified 'safer' strategies for blocking police and avoiding arrest

These were very different classes of women: Greenham predominantly middle-class. Miner's wives working-class.

- The South Asian Grunwick women workers also offered support
- (as the miner's had supported them in 1976)

ALLIANCES ARE POSSIBLE

Building on Alliances

Grunwick, 1976

- Asian communities in the Midlands ploughed money into the miner's strike when they saw the police treatment of miners mirroring their own experiences.
- When Asian workers at Kewal Brothers clothing factory in Smethwick went on strike in 1984, 150 women and miners joined them in solidarity on the picket line.



James Anderton (Manchester 1976-1991) & Margaret Thatcher

- “God’s Copper”
- (MT’s favourite)
- Targeting all ‘enemies within’
- Raids and decoys regular on Canal St, Manchester, even motorboats on canal
- JA says: AIDS victims are a ‘human cesspool of their own making
- MT says: Trade Unions are an industrial mafia –mass picketing is an act of terrorism
- Special unit for policing Moss Side (Manchester’s predominantly Black area). Introduced plastic bullets into UK

“Gay Plague”

- Department of Health
- Posted to every household in Britain
- In 1986



Iceberg

- Department of Health





So why did the media continue to call AIDS 'the gay plague' in spite of the evidence? I think part of the clue lies in what a journalist told one of my colleagues when I worked at the Terrence Higgins Trust in 1984 – "AIDS sells more newspapers than bingo."

AIDS had everything – sex, celebrity exposes, moral enterprise, conspiracy theories and the opportunity to kick a group that was already marginalised from mainstream society. It allowed people to conclude that our 'lifestyles' actually generated AIDS as God's punishment, and it was used to suggest that we were both a physical and moral threat to 'innocent' people. Not only were we immensely contagious we were also deliberately contaminating the blood supplies. The repeated use of the term 'innocent victim' simply reinforced this idea.

<http://www.gayinthe80s.com/2014/04/1980s-hivaids-why-was-aids-called-the-gay-plague/>

Everywhere, The Guardian



Daily Star 'Jokes'

- From Gayinthe 80s.com

1985. HIV/AIDS: AIDS just a big joke to some journalists

Posted on November 24, 2014 by Colin Clews



Hear the one about the bent pop musician who got AIDS? Or the homosexual lawyer? The gay ambulanceman? Eh, you have to laugh!

AIDS FOR THE JOB

A FEW tasteless questions are prompted by the current AIDS hysteria. Like whether homosexual lawyers get Legal Aids? Do gay ambulancemen get First Aids? Or bent pop musicians Band Aids? Do teetotallers get lemon Aids? And finally, excruciatingly, does a gay orange grower contract marmal Aids?

Well, so thought Britain's *Daily Star* newspaper (from the same stable as the Right-wing *Daily Express*). As the AIDS crisis continued to unfold, what better way to respond than makes jokes about gay (bent, homosexual) men getting AIDS. In February 1985, *AIDS For the Job*, was some sick Editor's idea of good copy to get the cheapest of laughs. Clearly missing the key word in the article's own opening line "A few *tasteless* [my emphasis] questions are prompted by the current AIDS hysteria" it went on to ask them anyway.

Hear the one about the journalist who died from a protracted, excruciatingly painful illness? Hysterical!

The Miner's Strike: Orgreave

- Terrifying; driven into ditches and beaten with truncheons: no escape (note at that time picketing was legal. Using the army against workers was not.
- Police had a 30% pay increase and were given 4hrs overtime pay for policing the miner's strike. As one noted they could retire early on this sort of pay
- It was planned to use the army to support the police against the miners
- Women become of major significance to the miner's strike.
- Not just All the sustenance but “standing together” on picket lines



- In Nottingham - 20,000 police from 43 different forces. They used to wave £20 notes at pickets
- Women at the front to try and stop police violence. It didn't
- The strike started after the National Coal Board (NCB) announced in March 1984
 - that 20 pits would close with the loss of 20,000 jobs
 - Women were incredibly well organised. Without the kitchens and food they
 - Provided their communities would have starved
 - Even my mum (not political at all) organised jumble sales
 - to make money for miners.
 - The biggest women's political movement since the Suffragettes



- Rupert Murdoch owned (MT's favourite media mogul) ran a concerted campaign)
- Note the similarity to the trad media coverage of Jeremy Corbyn)

<http://the-sun-lies.blogspot.co.uk/2009/11/mine-fuhrer-25-years-later.html>

- The print unions supported the miner's, as did most unions. They knew they would be next. They were (see The Wapping Dispute 1986)

<http://the-sun-lies.blogspot.co.uk/2009/11/mine-fuhrer-25-years-later.html>



The Non-Glamorous Pride: It Was Freezing

See Dancing in Dulais

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lHJhbWecgrA>



All The State Apparati

- Not just the police
- And the media
- The 1984 anti-terrorism legislation and 1875 laws on congregation re-introduced to control movement
- Debt- mortgage companies (not the co-op and some northern building societies) but others advised to pull in debts to make life even more difficult.
- The dark/ secret state (SS)– spies (see BBC Truespies on Youtube and Seumas Milne). Watch “Faith” (2015) on BBC iplayer. (note the Spycops expose)
- Private security companies were provided (as per plan) to protect strike breakers (scabs)
- The government bought Polish coal to stockpile and brought in Polish miner’s and lorry drivers
- (what Althusser would call a combined repressive and ideological state apparatus response + secret state = total power)

The Government Won But for How Long? (I Wrote This in 2014)

- The miner's defeat enabled a more general massive redistribution of wealth that continues (with a small blip under labour).
- Top rate of income tax has been halved (it was 83% in 1979) for the richest. Britain's richest increase their wealth by £69billion in 2014 alone
- Real incomes for the poorest have fallen 40%. (33% of families lack basic resources)
- We have had the longest depression of wages since 1979
- Cost of living has risen by 25% in last 5 years
- We have 423 foodbanks with 913,138 using foodbanks (2013-14) in the 7th richest country in the world.

The Government Won But for How Long? (I Wrote This in 2014) continued...

- Most people have huge debts (eg students – control). The average total debt per household – including mortgages – was **£55,223**
- People in the UK owed **£1.459 trillion** at the end of September 2014.
- A family is made homeless every 15 mins
- Massive welfare (£18billion) cuts to ‘unproductive’ (eg 15 disability welfare reforms)
- All these economic factors affect all but the rich
- Political gains for lesbians and gays partly based on potential to extract capital (eg pink pound) and reduce state costs via homonormativity (reproductive respectability as control). Not for all.

The Guardian, June 2014

Pentagon preparing for mass civil breakdown

Social science is being militarised to develop 'operational tools' to target peaceful activists and protest movements



📷 The Pentagon is funding social science research to model risks of "social contagions" that could damage US strategic interests. Photograph: Jason Reed/REUTERS

A US Department of Defense (DoD) research programme is funding universities to model the dynamics, risks and tipping points for large-scale civil unrest across the world, under the supervision of various US military agencies. The multi-million dollar [programme](#) is designed to develop immediate and long-term "warfighter-relevant insights" for senior officials and decision makers in "the defense policy community," and to inform policy implemented by "combatant commands."

Linking Via Issues

- For centuries (see Roediger and Esch) groups that challenge capitals' ability to extract profit from labour will be controlled through playing difference (divide and rule) in the reduction of wages
- They are also controlled through state repressive (police), benign (welfare) and ideological (media) apparatus (*plus SS –the paranoid need jobs*).
- Debt is now one of the main forces of control
- Big difference is state stealthily redistribution via survival not ideological project (Thatcherism)
- However, the film *Pride* shows us that alliances can be made. We need to see through the politics of difference established to divide us.

Linking Via Issues continued...

- We need to find connectivities and share issues (eg debt/welfare- injustice)
- That we are here now at an event called 'Pits and Perverts' offers hope as does:
- E15, New Era, international struggles 'hungry for justice', response to numerous police shootings recently eg Westfield
- We need to remember that unions fight for worker's rights. Without that pushback against exploitation, zero hours, no sickness pay, no pensions etc. what happens is what we have seen in the 30 years since. Wealth is redistributed upwards.
- The miner's strike was about destroying the working class in all its forms. This has been followed by 30yrs of contempt.
- Different historical moments require different political allegiances.