

# RADICAL PHILOSOPHY 2

SUMMER 1972

## Contents

THE STATIST CONCEPTION OF POLITICS . . . . .	2
Tony Skillen	
PHILOSOPHY IN THE ACADEMY . . . . .	7
J.M. Cohen	
THE PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN AN INTERPRETED WORLD . . . . .	9
Colin MacCabe	
THE THEORY OF IDEOLOGY IN CAPITAL . . . . .	12
John Mepham	
CRITIQUE OF PURE MURDER . . . . .	20
Michael O'Donoghue	
SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERSTANDING - AN EXAMPLE . . . . .	21
John Paley	
REMARKS ON REVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVES . . . . .	23
G.A. Cohen	



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### NOTES

A REACTION TO RADICAL PHILOSOPHY . . . . .	24
J.M. Hinton	
HINTON'S REACTION: A REPLY . . . . .	24
Sean Sayers & Tony Skillen	
SANITY, MADNESS AND THE PROBLEM OF IGNORANCE . . . . .	25
Martin Skelton-Robinson	
REVIEWS	
VESEY DOES IT! . . . . .	26
Jonathan Ree	
VALIDITY AND IDEOLOGY . . . . .	27
Ian Birstead	
MARXISM: A PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE ? . . . . .	28
G.A. Cohen	
REPORTS . . . . .	31
(Cambridge, Oxford, London Conference, LSE, Dundee)	



SUBSCRIPTION RATES: See back cover

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The first issue of Radical Philosophy had to be reprinted to meet the surprising demand. This interest, confirmed by the attendance at the Discussion Weekend in April (See Report, p.32), showed that the Group and the journal relate to many people's situation and feelings.

But this state of affairs has its dangers: hunger doesn't improve the quality of a Walls meat pie. Indeed the very deadness of academic philosophy at this time could foster illusions about the vitality of the opposition, and generate an accompanying complacency or passive gratitude that "something is being done".

As we see it, the central question is whether a real intellectual movement is developing. This development can be helped by forming groups and contacts, by starting local duplicated magazine/broadsheets, by rotating the production of this journal, by establishing further links outside philosophy departments and outside the academy. But these "relations of production" will have little point (let alone ontological status) if the "forces of production" are not operative.

It seems to be widely agreed that we do not aim only at producing ideas, at criticizing the philosophers' presentation of contingent realities and dubious categories as timeless necessities. This objective is vital, but to confine ourselves to it would be to reduce ourselves to a kind of left-academicism, a way of making our own academic lives more comfortable without discomforting anyone else. That is why we have tried to emphasise from the start that philosophical ideas are implicit in the political culture of our society and that these ideas are produced in institutions which embody and are justified by them. In these ways, then, the Radical Philosophy Group is part of a political movement. Our involvement in this kind of struggle, inside and outside the colleges, marks us off from being merely a "journal of radical thought".

Marxism is not official or unofficial doctrine of the Radical Philosophy Group; we are explicitly committed to an "open platform" for radicals. Obviously, however, ideas, perspectives and problems posed by Marx and by the Marxist movement inform much of the group's outlook and work; and the sheer task of understanding Marx is vitally important. But it would be absurd if a scholastic orthodoxy were to develop, overriding the need to confront "incorrect ideas" and their concrete role in British society, and to come to grips with the places where we and most of those interested in the Group and the journal work.

We hope people will continue to send in comments, news items, quotations, etc., and especially reports of Group activities, course and exam criticisms and campaigns, etc.

DEADLINES: RADICAL PHILOSOPHY 3 -- 20th August, 1972  
RADICAL PHILOSOPHY 4 -- 15th November, 1972

Again we apologize for the size of the type. Our present printer can handle only 36 pages, so we had the choice either of drastically reducing the material or of keeping the same format as in the first issue. We decided to do the latter. However, we are investigating alternative means of printing so that we can increase the number of pages and hence the size of the print.

Despite the high sales of the first issue, we have not yet recovered our costs, due to the fact that we have not received money for many of the copies sent out on "sale or return" (*sellers please note!*). If and when we are in a better financial position we will expand the size of the journal. Subscriptions help -- please subscribe (see back cover). The sellers listed on p.33 (or write to us) will sell the journal to students at the reduced price -- bookshops sometimes make difficulties about this.

"Since it is not for us to create a plan for the future that will hold for all time, all the more surely what we contemporaries have to do is the uncompromising critical evaluation of all that exists, uncompromising in the sense that our criticism fears neither its own results nor the conflict with the powers that be...  
"Therefore, we can express the aim of our periodical in one phrase: A self-understanding (critical philosophy) of the age concerning its struggles and wishes."

(Marx)