

DIRECT ACTION

THE IRRATIONALISTS

Steve Booth on resistance in the new millennium

EAT SHIT OR FIGHT BACK: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

The Irrationalists commit acts of intense violence against the system. With no obvious motives, no pattern. More important, there is no organisation to claim responsibility, offer explanations, make apologies or demands. Then, with the Tokyo sarin gas attack, Florence Rey and Audrey Maitpin, the Unabomber, Oklahoma and many other such incidents, we entered the Age of the Irrationalists

ONE OFFICE BLOCK, ONE BLUE TRUCK

The Oklahoma bombers had the right idea. The pity was that they did not blast any more government offices. Even so, they did all they could and now there are at least 200 government automotons that are no longer capable of oppression.

LET A THOUSAND AUM CULTS SARINATE...

The Tokyo sarin cult had the right idea. The pity was that in testing the gas a year prior to the attack, they gave themselves away. They were not secretive enough. They had the technology to produce the gas but the method of delivery was ineffective. One day the groups will be totally secretive and their methods of fumigation will be completely effective....

I HAVE A DREAM

One day there will be blue trucks rolling off underground production lines. Missiles will be fired into government buildings and financial institutions. Politicians will be shot. Microlights will spray botulism over every millionaire's ghetto. More beautiful than all this, there will be no organisations claiming 'responsibility', no explanations whatsoever. The whole thing will seem as mysterious as the menacing laughter heard in the Roman baths at Colchester must have been shortly before the Iceni sacked the city.

COLD WAR INTO COLA WAR

Back in the 1970s we used to think the East was oppressive, totalitarian. Their people were brainwashed, elections rigged, dissident groups suppressed. We used to think the West was free, democratic, tolerant. Things were so bad under communism people built balloons out of bed sheets in order to escape. Their repression was so total, military forces were quite prepared to blow up the entire world with nuclear weapons to keep ourselves free. Then with the 1980s people discovered that East and West were the same. Britain had the Economic League to blacklist dissidents. Nixon was as corrupt and as nepotistic as Brzhnev. Thatcher was the English Hitler. We had the 1984 Miners' Strike. Waves and waves of helicopters, miles of razor wire and the full might of the military machine were deployed just to evict a few CND peaceniks at Molesworth. Hilda Murrell was murdered by the State.

NEW WORLD ORDURE

The 1991 Gulf War shows how things are now. World US hegemony, a sordid little war for the oil companies. How can the soldiers go along with it? If they don't get hit with Saddam's Scuds, they'll get Gulf War Syndrome from the West's own anti-nerve gas tablets. Who could fight for this? Who could fight for Major, Tory Blair and his spin doctors? Europe? With all the world like this, where do we fly our home-made balloon now?

The crowd are passive. In their flight from the truth, people submerge themselves in irrelevancy. Aromatherapy,

WELCOME TO THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE! YOU JUST WATCHED AND DID NOTHING SO HERE ARE YOUR SIDE-HANDLED BATON BLOWS AS YOU TRAVEL ON THE EBOLA SUBWAY, SUCKERS!

drugs, role-playing games, the lottery, selling Anway. They all have their negative equity mortgages.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS

As a fundamental, people are free and entitled to exercise that freedom and entitled to freedom can never be granted grudgingly by authority (only to later be rescinded). Freedom has to be taken. Where we are faced with the systematic annihilation and negation posed against ourselves by The Machine, we are required to find ways to give value to our lives.

We have ethical criteria to judge actions: it is wrong to lie, it is wrong to coerce people, it is wrong to stand back and do nothing to prevent injustice. Yet the whole Machine is founded on lies, run by coercion and lubricated with complicity. This requires a response.

Iron Grip. I will have done something. Then again, if everybody did just one thing, The Machine would be abolished. But we are not in that situation yet. The numbers of activists are few, very low indeed. Even so, the *Sunday Express* (14th January 1996, p. 14) exposed if Green extremists admitted the State had identified as many as 1,700 road protesters in London and the Home Counties 1,700 committed road protesters would easily stop the road provided they do not waste their energy in futile fluffy NVDA gesture politics but always go for the jugular.

NUMBERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT

It doesn't matter how many of us there are, one, a hundred, or a thousand. All that matters is that I myself act. The duty

character Auger, the suicide bomber in the Green Anarchist novel *City-Death*. We must use ethical criteria to judge revolutionary actions and so choose our own. Three years ago, an article in *Freedom* considered pacifism as a response to the situation and found it wanting (*Letter To A Pacifist*, 15th May 1993, p. 3).

KEEP IT PIKEY!

The State was likened to a madman with an axe. The choice is to do nothing or to fight. An ethical principle, the Categorical Imperative of the Enlightenment philosopher, Immanuel Kant, was mooted as a criterion to judge our response.

I ought never to act except in such a way that I can also will that my maxim should become a universal law

The suggested maxim was 'when attacked by a madman with an axe, shoot the madman'. This rejection of pacifism angered the Derrick Pike anarcho-pacifist brigade but nothing they could say against the article demonstrated that this maxim was unround.

THE COST OF FREEDOM

How much do I want to be free? Am I prepared to kill the madman? Because that is what it will take. What are we doing to destroy the State? Are we planning to go back to Oklahoma? Aspire always to be perpetrators, never victims. It's not what the State has done to me, what I am doing to the State is what really counts.

Of course, under this *Irrationalists* revolutionary model, the whole radical enterprise becomes very dangerous. Much too dangerous for your average fluffy. It involves sacrifice, hardship, danger, the threat to my present (un)comfortable existence. But do you know, since I discovered the fact, I also discovered that my life has taken on a meaning and a purpose like it never had before. Now what about all the do-nothings, the pseudo-radicals? Too much for them, the threat of something real happening to rid us of the car stickers and standing orders, their aromatherapy classes, hoping against all reason that the charging madman is going to back off in his attack and put that axe down. Tough luck, suckers. He isn't...

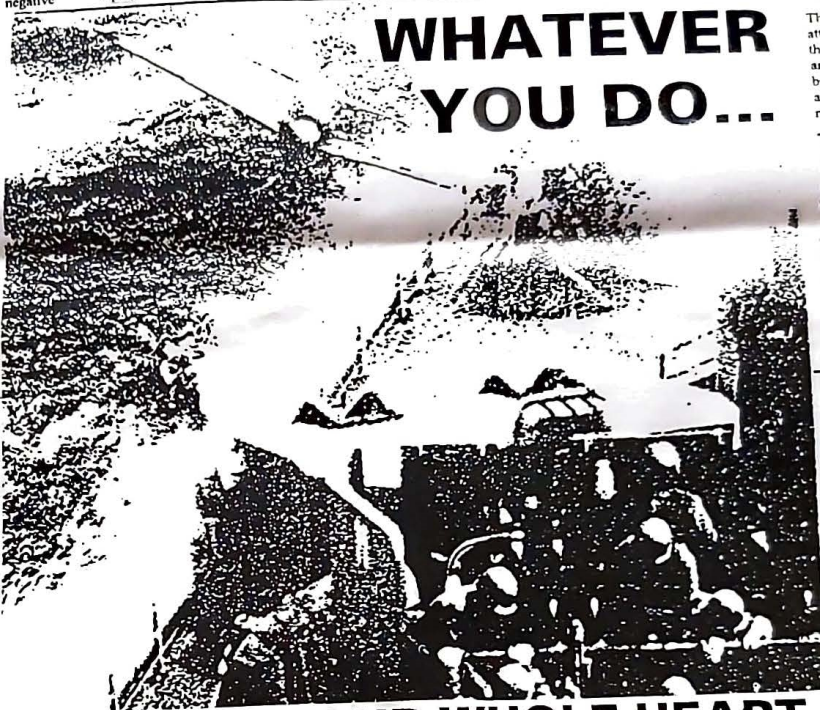
VIRTUAL REALITY

Most political groups - the Tories, the Tonic, Liberals, Euro-Disney, FoE, Greenpeace, etc etc, exist to play the media game. You filled in the standing order, bought the car sticker, bought the video, now watch the inflatables race towards the Brent Spar on TV. The virtual reality hardboard and gloss-paint media campaigns are wholly dependent on the oxygen of publicity. They have no underlying reality - an office, a phone, a team of experts and a fax machine. The moment they try anything really radical that oxygen regulator goes to OFF. In virtual reality, 'Virtual' means you haven't got it. Unless you can create facts, you are nothing.

NO SUCH THING AS PUBLIC OPINION

The media are out to create the virtual reality appearance of consensus. It doesn't matter what percentage of viewers reject the opinions and value judgements shown on the screen or in the papers, because only a very narrow range of views will be shown (Blair or Major? Aerial or Daz?). It doesn't make any

WHATEVER YOU DO...



...DO WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART

THE ETHICAL VOID

Several years ago, an article was published in *Freedom* (*Politics and the Ethical Void*, 7th March 1992, p.7) showing how the ethical has no point of contact with the political. To call on politicians to recognise the ethical is as futile as writing a letter "Dear Mr Himmler, please be moral!" To try to bring the ethical to bear on the political is to be like the boy with his finger in the dyke, while 100 yards away, water pours through a gap as wide as the Atlantic. Politics is without ethics but that does not absolve us of our own responsibilities towards the ethical.

IF JUST ONE PERSON CAN BE FREE, THE REST ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE

THE ETHICAL IMPERATIVE TO ACT

If I can do just one thing to fracture that

to act against the tyrant system is always present and cannot be evaded. In the book *Auschwitz* by Dr Miklos Nyiszli (Mayflower Books, St Albans 1962), an account is given of the Twelfth Sonderkommando, a group of prisoners who were due for execution and who rose against the concentration camp guards. Another example, taken from the same period, is that of General Stauffenberg, who tried to blow up Hitler with a bomb. No matter how hopeless the situation may seem, the imperative to act against the tyrant state is ever present.

HOW MUCH DO I WANT TO BE FREE?

True knowledge of what the system really is comes with the realisation that the Somme, Auschwitz, Tianamen or Trafalgar Square etc etc are not exceptions but the norm. We are all in the Twelfth Sonderkommando now, the situation really is that desperate. We are all part of the Warsaw Uprising, we are all Oklahoma bombers or like the

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difference so long as they stay inactive, transfixed in their armchairs. The Pilgrists fail to realise there is nothing out there to 'influence'. 'Public Opinion' is the State-imposed imaginary centre of their monologue. It doesn't matter what Joe and Edna really think, just so long as they keep buying the coffee. If, after the great debate of the poll tax and the Gulf War, the Tories can still find 13 million morons to vote for them, none of what flickers past on the fickle screen matters, so why do the Pilgrim campaigners want to appear there?

ADDRESSING THE SYNTHETIC CONSTITUENCY

Today's newspapers are tomorrow's chip papers. That oh so worthy BBC2 documentary is soon forgotten, once *Match of the Day* comes on. Even if nobody is watching, would it be any different? Just so long as enough of them keep paying their license fee. 'Public Opinion' is a system construct, invented by ad men, pollsters and spin doctors. It is their pitch, it is their ball and the whole game is bent. What makes you think they will even let you into the ground?

KEEP ON TAKING THE NERVE GAS TABLETS, SUCKERS!

THE STRIKE AS WEAPON

Old style 19th century socialism believed in the strike as a weapon of negotiation between classes. The 1990 poll tax non-payment campaign was probably the last gasp of this tactic. A general strike could perhaps be useful as the prelude for open revolutionary warfare, but during the 1970s the use of the strike for limited, non-revolutionary ends blunted this weapon. Today, with six or seven million unemployed, its scope is seriously limited.

THE USELESSNESS OF TERRORISM

Perhaps because they lacked the numbers to be effective, some people extended the idea of the strike into violence as an alternative tool of negotiation. The intensity of their violence was intended to make up for the lack of numbers. The terrorists then made exactly the same blunder as the Volvo sticker type media campaigns. They were seduced into the circus. Under this schema, they had to produce more and more outrageous bombings - but they were on a sliding scale of diminishing returns.

REVOLT INTO SCRIPT

As the situation developed, the terrorists became TV script writers, their activities were not qualitatively different from others who were straining to create a mood of nostalgia and genteel well-being in *The Darling Buds of May*. The pejorative term "terrorists" exposes their mistake here. The bombers and gunmen were engaged in creating a mood of fear (terror) in the general TV-watching population. But there is no collective mind there to be influenced. Even if they succeeded, this would have no effect on the politicians because the leaders care nothing for ordinary people.

PUBLIC OPINION IS THE STATE-IMPOSED VIRTUAL REALITY CENTRE OF THEIR MONOLOGUE

How would the creation of a transient mood of disquiet ever change anything? For after the news comes the *Darling Buds*, and even within the news bulletin the blast or shooting must compete with Bosnia, Rwanda and Princess Diana. None of it is real. TV is fundamentally not the settee, not the carpet, the TV remote controller, lottery ticket, Laura Ashley curtains or the MuckDonalds Happy Meal. So long as they stay in their seats, nothing is changed. Then there is the middle-men approach, to use the bomb as a means of influencing the political process through elections. Even

assuming they were successful in creating this sense of fear, how could this indirect mode of activity change anything? For the politicians pose as the protectors of the settee dwellers, and can quite easily manipulate perceptions through propaganda and opinion polls.

THE QUESTION IS ASKED 'WHAT ABOUT THE INNOCENT PEOPLE?' HOW CAN ANYONE INSIDE THE FUHRERBUNKER NOW WHO BE INNO-CENT? NOW WHO COULD COMPLAIN IF THEY WREE IN THE BUNKER WHEN STAUFFENBERG'S BRIEF-CASE BOMB DETONATED? THE ONLY QUESTION COULD THEN BE - SO WHERE WAS YOUR BOMB AND WHY DID IT NOT GO OFF FIRST?

OUTLAWS

When freedom is outlawed, only outlaws will be free.... What will it take to knock over The Machine? Not a load of fluffies sitting down, waiting to be squashed by the tanks; but by the widest possible revolt, warfare, physical explosions, demolitions, sabotage, massive widespread non-cooperation, strikes, boycotts; and, best of all, by the conversion of its politicians and bureaucrats into dogmeat.

MYTH OF OFFICE

The Myth of Office asserts a separation between the official as a person and the official as official. The official is not responsible for his or her actions, he or she is only obeying orders, and these orders are issued on 'behalf' of everybody. Nowhere is this consent ever tested (12 ticks a lifetime?? Daz or Aerial? Wow!). Against this we can plainly see that no officials were hung at Nuremberg, only individuals. We cannot hold a State responsible for the atrocities it commits because the State does not exist. This separation between official and person holding office is bogus. It is noteworthy that the German state was not hung at Nuremberg, somehow it beat the rap and disappeared in a puff of smoke, only to lick its wounds, heal its damaged credibility and reappear somewhere else later, its gloss painted plywood facade transformed.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF AN EVENT?

Existing political groups work within a framework of demands being made, requests and dialogue. Even 'orthodox' terrorist bombings etc fall into this description. But there is no one there to negotiate with. The problem is not one that can be resolved through negotiation, but only through the absolute physical destruction of The Machine. Only the ability of a given group to create facts really counts. 11 million people not paying poll tax. That was something. The Oklahoma bombing. Unless you can create facts, you are nothing.

DESTRUCTION NOT DIALOGUE

No Live Exports! No Oil Rig Dumping! Hands off Newbury! Fundamental error - you cannot communicate with a systematic web of annihilation. What is the point of trying to argue with liars? The Somme, Auschwitz, Tianamen and Trafalgar Square - these are the norm. The lorry endlessly reversing back over Jill Phipps. This is an objective view of what the obscenity of the State really is. You cannot have dialogue with this - the State is never listening. The Irrationalists have seen through this. They do not seek to enter into this futile pseudo-dialogue with authority, they want to utterly destroy it.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF AN EVENT?

Actions which are comprehensible, that fit into a given pattern, that can be

understood, can also be anticipated and countered. The fax from Tory Central Office will always be given priority on the news bulletin. Existing groups always follow the set pattern inside the media circus. Greenpeaceurs use inflatable. It all fits the format. They have campaign HQs, formal identities, spokesmen and - women, membership lists. Already they are compromised. As against the Irrationalists:

THEY CANNOT JAIL US FOR WE DO NOT EXIST. THE IRRATIONALIST IS THE MAN OR WOMAN SITTING NEXT TO YOU IN THE TUBE TRAIN. WE HAVE SARIN CANISTERS IN OUR POCKETS AND HATRED IN OUR MINDS...

What is the meaning of an event? The Machine, in all its arrogant colonisation of things continually ascribes meaning to acts of revolt. "All rioters are outside agitators". All the time they expect us to believe their propaganda shit and strike before their brilliant acts of revolt. It doesn't matter what Joe and Edna Couch Potato think about it. They weren't there, they won't do anything to stop it, and yet the government automatons at Oklahoma are still dead and the building has been reduced to a pile of dust. That is what really counts. Now some of those ordinary people have jumped the tracks of their programming and learned to make their own value judgements too....

SUPPORT NOT CANVASSED

Your apathy is always taken for granted and the state just imposes itself. "A bypass will be built...". "Britain will go to war with Iraq...". Politicians, terrorists and Pilgrist campaign groups alike all claim to represent a constituency. The political reality is such that nine hundred and ninety-nine times out of a thousand, that 'constituency' just couldn't be bothered to get up off its fat arses and do something. Therefore, until proven otherwise by events, all claims to 'represent' that silent inactive constituency must always be taken to be false.

NOT ON BEHALF OF ANYBODY

The State does not canvass your support - neither do the Irrationalists. The Irrationalists do not claim to act on behalf of anybody except themselves. Why should Joe and Ednas Couch Potato derive any benefit from what the Irrationalists do? They can either join in somewhere, or fuck off and die, it's up to them, it's up to you. It's not whether you agree or disagree that counts, but what are you doing about it??

PERISH IN FLAMES

The Irrationalists are coming! When it happens, there will be no one there to explain, no one to claim responsibility, apologise, or issue communiqués. There will be no organisational structure for The Machine to attack in its propaganda, undermine or turn. One day soon, very soon, the whole system will perish in flames, and where will your designer clothes and Mercedes 450SL's be then? We long to see the day of its death. So much for what we think, the question is: how much do you want to be free??

