

THE CRISIS OF LABOUR

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & THE STATE
IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN

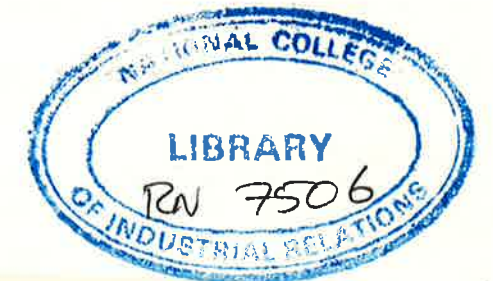


David Coates

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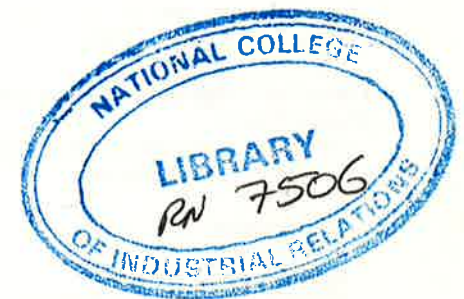
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IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN

David Coates

University of Leeds



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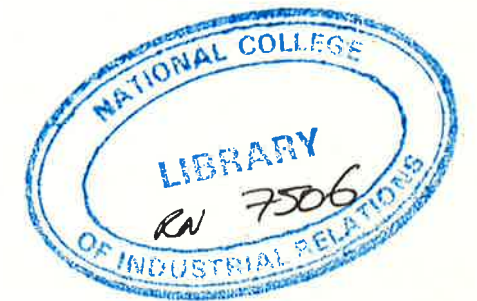
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To Robert and Edna Coates
Emma, Ben and Anna
Thomas and Edward
with love



Contents

Preface	viii
1 The Crisis of Labour	1
2 The 'Golden Age' of Industrial Relations	5
3 The Politicisation of Industrial Relations	37
4 From Corporatism to the Crisis of Labour	68
5 The Politics of Industrial Relations under Thatcher	113
6 Taking Stock and Moving On	160
Bibliography	184
Index	194

Index

ACAS, 70, 72
affluence, 29-36
American economic dominance, 9,
15-16, 37-8, 41, 80-1
anti-collectivism, 56-7
Attlee Government, 11, 40, 43, 104-5,
106
AUEW, 73

balance of payments, 37
balance of power between classes, 40,
42-3, 81
balance of power in industry, 10, 19-21,
22-4, 25-8, 45-6, 47-57, 124,
136-43
ballots, compulsory, 54, 122-3
Bain (and Price), 61
Barnes (and Reid), 55
Benn, Tony, 71
Bevan, Aneurin, 101
Beveridge Report, 11
black unemployment, 152-3
Board of Trade, 43
Booth, Alan, 84
Bretton Woods, 39, 80
British economy, competitiveness of,
18, 39-40, 71, 134, 169-70
British Steel, 137
Brown, W., 139
Bullock Report, 71, 90

Callaghan, Jim, 75, 76
Carrington Report, 128
CBI, 70, 71

'challenge from below', the, 22-4, 25-6,
50
Chrysler, 71
Churchill, 10
CIR, 49
Clegg, Hugh, 22, 47
closed shop, 121, 141-2
coal, 5, 6
code of industrial relations practice, 55,
56, 121-2
Community Programme, the, 148, 149
Conservative Party:
hegemony of, 29, 36
view of industrial relations, 46, 47
working class and, 99, 111-12, 127-8,
160-2, 169, 170
see also Thatcherism
cooling-off periods, 54
COPPSO, 59, 66
corporatism, 12, 37, 38, 40-2, 43-4,
70, 76, 77-85, 91-2, 110-11, 120,
165-6, 178-9
corporatist bias, 12, 43
cotton, 6
craft controls, 24
Crosland, Tony, 9, 19
counter culture, 35

Davies, M., 16
depoliticisation, 29
Donovan Commission, 21, 22, 23,
47-50, 54-7, 58
dual labour market, 144-5

economic growth, 18
Education Act 1944, 11
Edwardes, Sir Michael, 126, 136-7
EEC, 70, 71, 108-9
embourgeoisification, 32
employers' offensive, 134-5
employment patterns, 134-5
engineering, 21, 22, 26, 28
'English disease, the', 25, 45-6
Esso, 56
Establishment, the, 42-3

Fair Deal at Work, 55
Fair Wages Resolution, 124
firemen, 88
First World War, 10, 24
Flanders, Allan, 25, 47, 49
flying pickets, 62
Foot, Michael, 90, 101
Ford Motor Company, 24, 75, 88
French planning, 41
full employment, 3, 7, 10, 11, 19, 21, 47

General Strike, the, 45, 128
Giant's Strength, A, 47
Gladstone, 36, 163
'Golden Age', 5-35
Goldthorpe, John, 19, 29, 30, 31, 48
Goodman (and Whittingham), 23
gradualism, 102
Gramsci, 162

Hall, Stuart, 101, 111, 165, 180
Hammond, Eric, 156
Hardie, Keir, 36
Healey, Denis, 73, 75, 88
Heath Government, 54-7, 62, 64, 67,
68, 72, 92, 127
hegemonic politics, 29, 36, 79, 113-18,
162-6; 178-83
Hobsbawm, Eric, 97, 175-8
Howe, Sir Geoffrey, 47
Howell, David, 129
HSE, 70, 120
Hyman, Richard, 61, 138, 157

ideology, end of, 8
IMF, 73
In Place of Strife, 54, 73
incomes policy, 41, 50-2, 57, 58, 59, 62,
71-2, 73-5, 87-8
incorporation, 48, 56, 82-3, 96
industrial democracy, 71

industrial relations:
politicisation of, 3, 37-67
students of, 1
Industrial Relations Act, 55-7, 64
Industrial Society, 123
inflation, 82
instrumental attitudes, 29
inter-union disputes, 54
IRC, 41

Japanese economy, 41, 145
Jessop, Bob, 79
Job Training Scheme, 148
Johnson, Paul, 86
Jones, Jack, 54, 73, 74, 85, 87
Joseph, Sir Keith, 85, 119-20

Kahn-Freund, Otto, 28, 44
Keynes, John Maynard, 14-15
Keynesianism, 9, 11, 12, 18, 37, 38, 44,
77-85, 109, 110-11, 114, 164-5,
166, 178-9
and the Labour Party, 12, 13, 101
crisis of, 13-14
Kinnock, Neil, 103, 131, 176

Labour Governments, 50-7, 62, 68-85,
106-7
managerialism and, 53, 59, 76
Labour Party:
debate on strategy, 2, 99-100
defeat in elections, 2, 50, 76, 98, 157
Keynes and, 12, 13, 101
trade unions and, 64, 69, 71, 76,
85-97, 110-11, 122-3, 131-2,
156-7, 158-9
working class and, 3-4, 28, 29-36,
76, 97-112, 164-5, 175
Labourism, 35, 36, 100-11, 165, 195
Late Capitalism, 9, 18
law and industrial relations, 44-5, 47,
54-7, 58, 70, 121-2, 130, 156-7
left wing:
crisis of, 2-4
in Labour Party, 104-5
revival of, 172-4, 178-83
Liaison Committee, 69
Liberal Party, 36, 163
Liberalism, 115-16, 163, 165-6
Lipset, S.M., 7, 8
living standards, 7, 91, 155
Lloyd, Selwyn, 2, 59
local government officers, 60

- Lockwood, David, 29, 31
Luton study, 29-36
- MacGregor, Ian, 126, 128, 129, 137
Macmillan Government, 41, 52
management policy, 24, 57, 136, 137-8
Marsh, Arthur, 21
mass picketing, 128
McCarthy, Bill, 22
media, 57
middle-class Left, 104-5, 167-8
Middlemas, Keith, 12, 39
militancy, 53, 58, 61-7, 69, 74-5, 155;
 see also public sector militancy;
 strikes
mining, 27-8, 63, 66, 71, 103, 127-133
Ministry of Labour, 24, 43
Minkin, Lewis, 89
Mitchell, Neil, 123
monetarism, 37, 38, 79
MSC, 69, 70, 120, 147
Murdoch, Rupert, 136
Murray, Len, 92, 93
- National Plan, The*, 41
National Power Loading Agreement, 62
NBPI, 41, 52, 53
NEB, 41, 69, 70, 90, 120
NEDC, 41, 43, 59, 71, 120
New Statesman, The, 86
NGA, 129, 136
NHS, 110, 155, 167
NIRC, 55-6, 62, 68
Northern Ireland, 66
NUM, 27, 129-35, 156
NUR, 72
NUS, 2, 88
- OEEC, 46
Oxford School, the, 47-9
- Panitch, Leo, 17, 83, 89-90, 110-11
Parkin, Frank, 161
part-time employment, 145-7
pay pause, 2, 59
pickets, 121, 123
Plan for Coal, 71
planning agreements, 69, 70, 71
police, 129-30
political funds, 122-3, 157-9
post-war boom, 9, 15-17, 37-8, 80-1
post-war settlement, 10, 11, 35, 39, 40, 117
poverty, 149-50
Prentice, Reg, 149
printing, 22
privatisation, 117, 124
privatised workers, 30
productivity, 143
productivity bargaining, 51-4, 56, 57
profits, 28, 56
Przeworski, Adam, 13
public ownership, 69, 106-7, 110, 166-7, 180
public-sector militancy, 28, 63, 66-7, 75, 154-5, 167-8
railways, 6
Restart, 148, 149
restrictive practices, 22, 25, 46, 47, 51, 53, 59
riots, 153-4
Ripley Report, 118
Runciman, W., 33
- Saltley Gates, 127, 177
Saville, John, 127, 131
scientific management, 24
seamen, 63
secondary picketing, 76
Shah, Eddie, 129, 136
shipbuilding, 6
shop stewards, 21, 22, 23-8, 48, 52, 55-6, 138-43
shop stewards' movement, 24
sit-ins, 62
social contract, 78, 86, 93
social security, 124, 148-9
socialism, 109-11
state employees, 26, 27, 126
State Monopoly Capitalism, 9
sterling crises, 19, 71-3
strikes, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27-8, 56, 61-7, 73-5, 121, 127-35, 154-5
 unofficial, 45, 47, 59, 63-4
supply-side problems, 81
sympathy strikes, 63, 121
- teachers, 63, 66, 126
teachers' unions, 60
Tebbit, Norman, 123, 132, 133

- Thatcherism, 4, 85, 110, 113-59
 as ideology, 113-18, 162-6, 178-9
Trade Disputes Act 1906, 47, 54, 122
trade unions:
 access to the State, 43
 democracy, 122-3
 density, 60-1, 134-6, 142
 leadership, 58, 63-6, 93, 131, 156
 membership, 60, 61, 134-6, 156
 power, 40, 57, 89-97, 118-20
 and the State, 11, 12
 see also corporatism
TUC, 55, 59, 64-6, 68, 69, 87, 88, 89, 90-1, 94, 120, 131, 156-7, 158
Taylor, R., 76
- UCS, 62
UDM, 132
unemployed programmes, 147-8
unemployment rates, 5, 53, 71, 74, 91, 125-6, 150-1, 152-3
- Vauxhall, 143
vehicle construction industry, 6, 24, 25, 26, 28
voluntarism, 44, 49
- wage drift, 25, 45, 47, 51, 59
wage settlements, 72, 73, 91
Wages Councils, 124
Wapping, 136
Warrington, 129, 136
wartime mobilisation, 10
Wass, Sir Douglas, 142-3
welfare state, 2, 108-9
white-collar workers, 53, 59
Willis, Norman, 156
winters of discontent, 72
women workers, 124-5, 146-8, 151
workfare, 148
working-class attitudes, 29-36, 105-11, 160-2, 167, 174-5
youth wages, 124, 145-9
YTS, 147, 148

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This book is both a survey and an argument. It is a survey of the interplay of industrial relations and politics in Britain since 1951; but it is also an argument about the crisis of labour which has lain at the heart of that interplay throughout. The three phases of the crisis of labour are examined in turn: the crisis of working class industrial strength for the competitiveness of the economy in the 1950s and 1960s; the crisis for the Labour Party created by its failures in office; and the crisis for the whole labour movement engendered by the onslaught of Thatcherism. The book ends with a reappraisal of Labour's problems in the 1980s, and of the strategies available for their resolution in the 1990s.

David Coates is Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Leeds. His previous studies include *The Labour Party and the Struggle for Socialism* (1975), *Labour in Power? A Study of the Labour Government 1974-1979* (1980) and *The Context of British Politics* (1984).

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