

Working Class Movement Library

The Working Class Movement Library (WCML) is a collection of English language books, periodicals, pamphlets, archives and artefacts, concerned with the activities, expression and enquiries of the labour movement, its allies and its enemies, since the late 1700s

- **Politics**
- **Economics**
- **Manufacture**
- **Government**
- **International relations**
- **Education**
- **Environment**
- **Philosophy and religion**
- **Sociology**
- **Arts and Leisure**
- **Political theory**
- **Political movements/parties**
- **Trade unions**
- **Co-operative movement**

The aim of the WCML

To promote the education of the public in relation to the history of working class movements, particularly in Britain and Ireland, by facilitating and promoting research and dissemination of information about all aspects of such history.

Geography : The main focus of the library is Great Britain and Ireland, with smaller sections from other parts of the English speaking world. There is also some English language material on other, mainly European, countries.

History : The second half of the 1700s saw the development of doctrines of civil liberty which underpinned the American and French Revolutions. The technological developments which began in the same period changed the balance of power between the ruling class and the rest of the population, and made possible the factory system. The convergence of these two developments produced the working class movements which are the central subject of the WCML's collection.

The Human Condition : By its brief the WCML concentrates on the class dynamics under capitalism. It is recognised that other modes of exploitation and oppression, including race, gender, sexuality, and physical /mental ability, cannot be tidily slotted in to any scheme which prioritises class. They have their own histories which deserve a much greater development than we have room or time to undertake.

Online exhibition : *'From Kitchen Table to Conference Table'*

<http://www.politicalwomen.org.uk/>

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<http://www.wcml.org.uk/welcome.htm>