Crisis Points

Editors: Ian Taylor and Jock Young

The impact of the last five years of economic and political crisis in Britain appears to have dulled the nerve and commitment of the 'informed' political and social critic. 'Inevitable progress', 'benign capitalism', 'the politics of consensus' – the clichés of the sixties are still paraded as the conventional wisdom of the seventies. One consequence of this has been a dearth of informed and incisive discussion of issues such as the decline of educational, health and welfare services, the impact of inflation on living standards, physical fitness and nutrition and the everyday experience of poverty, illness, racism and crime in present-day Britain. This series focuses on the erosion of both the social and the political rights of the individual: for the decline in living standards is mirrored by the threat of new legislation and police powers to the freedom of the individual. Such a tightening of the reins of control has its cultural manifestation whether it is in the appearance of a new McCarthyism in the media and the universities or in the signs of resistance in youth culture and the new wave of popular music.

The Crisis Points series aims to rectify this gap in contemporary debate. The books are written from the inside by practitioners or activists confronting the crisis in their field of work; they are informed in their content not academic in their style; and they are accessible to the increasing numbers of the public concerned with the social problems of our times. Above all they are short and provocative – a basis of debate, whether it be in the home, classroom or workplace.

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Trapped within Welfare

Surviving Social Work

Mike Simpkin

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