

THE MIRROR

HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, 1903-2000

ORIENTATION RESOURCES

Various source media. *The Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000*



The aim of this guide is to give you a better understanding of how to use the *Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000* (*Mirror*) for your research purposes. It will cover finding and filtering material, how to approach and understand newspapers as sources, including dealing with editorial bias, and will provide a case study through which you can begin exploring the material.

GALE
GALE PRIMARY SOURCES
Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000
Search...
Advanced Search

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Founded in 1903, the *Mirror* plays a pivotal role in the history of journalism. Peaking in 1967, with a daily circulation of 5.25 million, the newspaper has had a history full of highs and lows. Today, it is the only mainstream left-wing tabloid remaining in the UK. Gale's *Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000* features more than 800,000 pages of brand-new, full text searchable, scans of the complete run of the *Mirror* from 1903-2000, including the *Sunday Mirror*.

With over a century of publication, the *Mirror* is a key part of understanding British historical journalism. Having previously transformed British popular...

[Read more about this resource >](#)

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Mirror

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is aimed at students and researchers who are using Gale Primary Source Archives for the first time. It will take you through the different stages of using a digital archive. If you are unfamiliar with researching in a digital archive it is worth reading the guide through from start to finish.

If you have some experience working with digital archives and are looking for guidance on the *Mirror* specifically, head straight to the USING NEWSPAPERS and KEY TOPICS sections. There you will find information on how newspapers should be considered unique sources, how to understand and take into account editorial bias, and how this applies specifically to the *Mirror*. There are also some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.

If you are looking for examples of research conducted in this digital archive, the final section CASE STUDIES, will provide you with this. This section draws upon documents found in the *Mirror* to show you how to use digital primary sources for research and teaching. Again, there are some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

In this section, you will identify the language and words that will produce useful results when you are using the search function in a digital archive.

In all Gale Primary Source Archives you will find language and terminology that is old-fashioned, unfamiliar and potentially offensive. The documents and other sources held in these archives are reflective of the period in which they were written. To that end, you will need to think about the words and phrases that you choose to conduct your search.

As an example, if you were searching for information on the *First World War*, you would most likely start by searching for “World War One”. However, this terminology only came into being during World War Two. Contemporary authors instead used other terminology and so searching for the “Great War” or “European War” will allow you to extend your results.

It is also important to think carefully about your search terminology when using newspapers to investigate individuals. For example, in the *Mirror*, a search for “Emmeline Pankhurst” leads to 49 results, only 12 of which are contemporaneous to her life. Societal norms of the time dictated that women be referred to as Mrs, so searching for “Mrs Pankhurst” provides 560 results, the majority of which are pre-1928. Searching instead for “Miss Pankhurst” will provide results on only her daughters, while a broader search for “Pankhurst” encompasses all four women.

As the *Mirror* provides coverage from the entire twentieth century, it is important to think about what kind of viewpoint you would like to investigate. *Are you looking for contemporary reporting from the time of the event/individual? Are you looking to investigate the impact of that event/individual in later years (e.g.: the legacy of the Pankhursts in modern feminism)?* By thinking carefully about the terminology you are using, you can begin to tailor your search results more specifically to your research question.

The more time you spend in the archive looking for sources the more familiar you will become with the variety of terms that might be relevant to your topic, as well as their idiosyncrasies (such as non-standard spelling).

BASIC SEARCH AND FILTERING



In this section, you will perform a basic search using keywords in the *Mirror*. It will also cover how to filter your results, and the steps needed to find a useful and comprehensive set of sources tailored to your research questions.

When you enter a search term it will be used to scan both the content of the sources and the tags that have been applied to said sources. In the *Mirror* your search is being applied across the 97 years' worth of issues available in this archive.

Let's start with a topic that significantly affected the history of the UK, and was well covered within journalism:

Suffrage.

- Search your key term, Suffrage, in the *Mirror*. You will receive over one thousand results. As this is a newspaper archive, they will all be the same content type: newspapers.
- Filter your results. Using the filter buttons on the right of your results list you can refine your list. You can use these filters to help ensure the source material you are using relates directly to your research question. For example, if you were interested in the specific role of the Pankhurst family in the suffrage movement you can filter your results so that you are just looking at sources that are about them.
- Assess your results. It is important to remember throughout that these searches are the starting point of your research and as such will provide you with a very broad range of documents. Once you have filtered your results you will still need to analyse them to assess their relevance to your topic. In our examination of the suffrage movement, you may want to further limit your search to only show articles from before 1928 (passing of the Representation of the People Act).
- Iterate on your search. As you become more familiar with your topic you may also need to go back to your earlier searches and re-assess material you previously discounted. You may also need to undertake new searches using terms you have learnt during your research process. For example, having looked at sources about the Pankhurst family, you may want to explore articles about other key suffragists and suffragettes, such as Millicent Fawcett and Emily Wilding Davison.

Search

Filter

Iterate

Assess

Advanced Search

The 'Advanced Search' function allows users to refine their search for multiple terms and apply the filtering process at the beginning of your search. This can be useful for when you have a very specific research question or in the latter stages of your research project when you have a more defined idea of the source material you are looking for.

GALE PRIMARY SOURCES
Mirror Historical Archive, 1903-2000

Search...

Advanced Search

Browse

The 'Browse' feature allows you to browse through the newspaper issues by date. Using this feature, you can select a specific issue, or organically browse a series of issues. This is particularly important when you are investigating reporting across a known time-period, rather than looking for a specific topic or article. It is also useful when you do not know where to start and want to find results organically. You can then refine your search later using the search features above.

Browse Research Tools About Search History Get Link

Browsing through a collection, as opposed to searching by keyword, will allow you to find source material that may not come up via keyword search. Browsing will also give you a better broader understanding of the topic or era you are researching and will ensure you have a good grasp of the context in which your key sources were created. It will not only deepen your thinking on a topic but may introduce ideas, perspectives, and questions you had not previously considered.

Browse By Date

03/14/1984 [View](#)

Previous							Next						
March							1984						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Click the thumbnail to see the issue



USING NEWSPAPERS AS SOURCES

This section will introduce you to using newspapers as a primary source. Like any source, newspapers betray an *authorial bias*, and it is important to understand the factors that feed into that bias, to critically assess the material. It is also useful to compare and contrast material across different newspapers to build a three-dimensional understanding of the topic you are researching. The topics and questions below are designed to help you understand how to critically interrogate the *Mirror* as a source. *The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.*

Once you have identified an article that is useful for your research, you can use the following themes and questions to understand the bias ingrained in it.

The themes themselves can be explored and understood in more detail by browsing the content in the archive, and by exploring the supporting academic essays available in the 'Research Tools'.

Audience

Newspapers are an important channel of public opinion and the newspaper's target audience significantly affected the content and style of reporting. Styling itself as 'the newspaper of the masses', the *Mirror*'s main audience was left of center and working class. It recognized that its readers were more interested in entertainment, and so focused on features and columns over politics. The newspaper was also one of the first to actively try to appeal to a female audience.

- Explain how the newspaper's content and reporting style appeals to its audience.
- Can you identify whether the newspaper's audience changes over time? Is this visible in its reporting?
- Compare and contrast the role of audience in the *Mirror* and its competitor newspapers.
- Evaluate the importance of a female audience to a newspaper's success.

Political Position

The political stance of the newspaper will also heavily affect its reporting, especially the way in which it presents government decisions. Note that not all newspapers maintain a consistent political stance throughout their lifetime. The *Mirror* was originally conservative, reflecting the viewpoint of its owner, Lord Northcliffe, before briefly supporting fascism in the mid-1930s. From 1934 onwards however, it developed a populist, left-of-centre appeal and is now the only remaining left-wing tabloid, providing an important alternative voice to the *Daily Mail* and the *Sun*.

- How visible is the political stance of the newspaper? Describe ways it affects the paper's reporting.
- How and when does the political stance of the newspaper change? Discuss the impact this has on the coverage of key events?
- Evaluate how and when the newspaper is critical of the government, and the impact of this approach.
- Assess and explain the factors that impact the political stance of the newspaper.

Style

Like audience and political position, a paper's style might change throughout its history, and it is important to understand how this style affects reporting and coverage. The *Mirror* largely followed an editorial template that was influenced by American tabloids, relying on bold block headlines and sensationalism.

- Can you recognize how the newspaper's style affects the way a story is presented?
- Discuss the effect the newspaper's style has on the reader.
- Assess the extent to which audience defines a newspaper's style and vice versa.
- Compare and contrast the style of the *Mirror* and its competitor papers.

Influence of Ownership

The political stance, content and style of a newspaper is often heavily influenced by its owner, sometimes to the detriment of the paper's success. For the *Mirror*, the biggest influences were Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere, whose enormous economic power and political connections heavily affected the reporting that appeared in the paper, and in some instances also the events that were being reported on themselves, and in later years Cecil King, whose personal political ambitions caused significant problems for the paper. This influence, alongside the treatment of individual editors or columnists of their friends and enemies, emphasizes the importance of using multiple newspapers to create a balanced picture.

- Can you identify whose influence is visible in the newspaper's coverage and how?
- Explain the ways in which the owner's influence affects reporting and style.
- Assess the presence and importance of the various influences on the *Mirror* throughout its lifetime.

KEY TOPICS

Newspapers are interdisciplinary resources that can be used to explore almost any subject. This section will introduce you to three topics that are covered in the *Mirror*, to guide you through the process of exploring a particular research area. There are also questions designed to help guide your research into these topics in the archive and understand them within the context of newspapers as a source. *The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.* You will also find lists of further useful search terms that will assist you in broadening your knowledge of these subjects. These terms have already been tested via the *Mirror* search function so should provide you with helpful results.

Women

The *Mirror* launched as a paper for women and, although this initially failed, it continued to retain a high percentage of female readers and female-oriented content. Throughout the nineteenth century, newspapers and journalism became increasingly open to women, a development that parallels an increased discussion of their social and political rights.

- Discuss what we can we learn about women's experience during different eras through the sources available in the *Mirror*.
- What is considered as *female-oriented content*? Discuss how it changes throughout the lifetime of the *Mirror*. Compare the depiction of women for male readers to the depiction of women in female oriented content – how does it differ?
- Identify and discuss the female stereotypes visible in the *Mirror*.
- What can examining the advertisements used in the *Mirror* tell us about the role of women in society?
- Explain how and why the paper's attitude towards suffrage changes following World War One.

Other useful search terms: Dorothy Dix, Marje Proops, Felicity Green, fashion, mother, love problem, affair, votes for women, women's suffrage, suffragettes, suffragists.¹

¹ Pro Tip! You can find additional search terms by using the 'Topic Finder' tool. The tool shows you the terms that are most often found in the text with your search term, so is an excellent way of discovering new avenues for subsequent iterations of your search.

World War Two

During the Second World War, the *Mirror* positioned itself as the 'Forces Paper' – though its language was patriotic, it was firmly on the side of the ordinary soldier. It became a valued mouthpiece for the frustration of the working men and women in the war effort, frequently criticizing the mistakes of the political and military authorities.

- Explain what the language used by the *Mirror* tells us about the atmosphere in Britain during World War Two. How reliable is this as a source?
- Discuss the ways in which key events are covered by the newspaper (e.g. the Blitz).
- Describe how attitudes changed over the course of the war.
- Evaluate the role of the Jane cartoon during this period. What does it tell us about the war?
- Assess the impact that the *Mirror's* reporting had on military and political developments during and directly after the war.

Other useful search terms: Norman Pett, army, air aces, defence, bomber, bombs, Nazi, VE Day, Germans, People's War, Winston Churchill, soldier, Hitler.

Iraq, 2003

In contrast to the *Daily Mail* and the *Sun*, the *Mirror* was largely against the main conflicts of the twenty-first century, providing an editorial voice of restraint. In the lead up to the Iraq War, the newspaper largely argued against the use of force without wider international support.

- Describe the key factors leading up to the Iraq War.
- Discuss how the *Mirror's* viewpoint is visible in its reporting – how does it affect the way stories are presented?
- Evaluate the coverage of specific events – what can we learn?
- Compare the ways that both conflict and reporting have changed since World War Two? In what ways are they similar?
- Assess the ways in which technological developments and the evolution of mass media have affected reporting.

Other useful search terms: Tony Blair, George Bush, Saddam Hussein, oil, Baghdad, Gulf Crisis, Iraq frontier, terrorism.

CASE STUDY

This case study provides an example of the sorts of material found in the *Mirror*. For newspapers, it is especially important to compare reporting on the same story across multiple newspapers, to gain a full understanding of the topic in question. As such, this case study also uses material from the *Daily Mail* as a counterpoint to the example from the *Mirror*.

These sources will show you how the source material found in the *Mirror* relates to some of the considerations discussed above. They will also introduce you to the kinds of specific questions you can use to interrogate, compare and contrast individual sources. If you are interested in the topics discussed in this case study, at the end you will find suggestions for how to investigate further.

This case study can also be used as a teaching tool. It can be used to help educators explain using digital primary sources to new users. Together with the instructions above (Basic Search and Filtering), it can help in explaining to new users how to navigate a digital archive. It also provides clear examples of the source materials in the *Mirror*, and the kinds of critical thinking that need to be applied to these sources.

[The Miners' Strike: The Mirror](#)

March 1984 to March 1985 saw major industrial action, led by Arthur Scargill of the National Union of Mineworkers, which attempted to prevent the closure of collieries. The strike was against the National Coal Board, and was opposed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who wanted to reduce the power of trade unions.

The *Mirror* was very much the paper of the left-wing working class, but it struggled to find a persuasive response to the Miners' Strike. From the following two articles we can gain an understanding not only of the events that took place, but the impact that the political stance and editorial bias of the *Mirror* had on the reporting. Though it stood against Thatcher, reporting the difficulties in the mining communities and despairing the militancy of the government, the paper did little to oppose the strike, instead mourning the inexorable and inevitable decline of the industrial working class.

The wrong reason



KICKED: Sgt. Smith. Police girl in terror

A POLICEMAN told yesterday how she was seized and kicked by a pit village mob. Sergeant Janet Smith, 21, was chased across fields by 28 youths who smashed up a police station. She said: "I was right-kicked to the ground and kicked twice. I was kicked again and they ran off." Sgt. Smith and Pc Brian Webster, 21, were attacked as they inspected a damaged police station manned part-time at Gainsborough, near Darlington, Yorkshire.

Panic hits pound
THE collapse of pit prices today wiped 2,500 million off the price and plunged the pound to a record low of under 1.20 against the dollar.

THE MINERS have been offered all they could reasonably ask for. But it isn't enough for Mr. Scargill.

The Coal Board has retreated to its last ditch. But Mr. Scargill wants unconditional surrender.

After a seven-month strike, the miners have an industrial victory in their grasp. But Mr. Scargill wants a political victory.

If he wants to defeat the Coal Board it is because he believes that in doing so he will defeat the Government.

If he has to enthrone the whole of the

Mirror Comment

trade union and Labour movement to do so, then he will do it. Even if it kills them.

The pit deputies' union will now call the members out on strike. Inevitably, they will stop many working colliers.

Other unions may then be dragged in. Only to find that most of their members will not follow their leaders.

At a time when Britain desperately needs an alternative to the present Tory Govern-

ment, Mr. Scargill is impeding any hope of it.

Last March, at the start of the strike, the miners demanded that five pits threatened with closure should be kept open. The Coal Board has conceded that.

They demanded that the annual production target shouldn't be cut. The Board has effectively conceded that, too.

They demanded that the Board shouldn't have the right to close pits on its own say so. They have partially won that.

There is now no industrial reason why this strike should go on. Only a political one. And that is the worst reason of all.

Scargill set for total shutdown

By GEOFFREY GOODMAN and TERRY PATTINSON

A MAJOR escalation of the 32-week old miners' strike will come today when the pit deputies' union, NACODS, announces their strike date: October 25, tomorrow week.

The NACODS strike decision, taken by their executive in London last night, was technically "all or nothing" - a strike involving all coal from that morning. Even Mr Scargill was not told.

But it was expected by James O'Donnell, Scottish general secretary of

NACODS, the coal industry's key union. It gives NUM about the boost they have been seeking for weeks.

The strike will be NACODS' follow-up to a ballot of their 77,000 members which produced an 82.5 per cent "yes" vote for a stoppage.

A pit deputies strike would severely hamper the coal industry.

It would stop those pits - about a third of the industry - that have been working throughout the NUM strike, such as the key colliery of Nottinghamshire.

And that would have a major impact on coal supplies to Britain's biggest power stations, most of which are being fed by coal from the north area.

In fact the threat to all the mines would now be taken dramatically on to the agenda of the NUM for the first time in the way that latter union strike.

Force

For that reason the NACODS strike decision would also force the Coal Board and the NUM back into some form of power talks - through ACMA in the UK.

That will keep on the agenda of the NUM.



SCARGILL: Not told

made that plain last night.

They claim that the NACODS response seems likely to be as split as the NUM - where a third of NUM members are still working.

Blame

However NACODS leaders believe they will have a total response to their strike call.

No pit can be legally operated without the pit deputies who are in charge of safety underground.

The NACODS' move comes as the NUM executive meeting in the same UK headquarters building re-affirmed their stand - the fight against closure of uneconomic pits.

Mr Scargill blamed the breakdown of the latest ACMA peace talks, on Monday night, on Mr

MacGregor's refusal to make further concessions.

Mr MacGregor heated all the blame on Mr Scargill and his total intransigence.

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock got the bulk of the blame of the Government. "They intervened again over the weekend to ensure the settlement of the coal issue."

Mr Kinnock believes there was about 100,000 more intervention to prevent a Coal Board deal during the ACMA talks.

Rejected

But Peter Walker dismissed Mr Kinnock's claim that it was Mr Scargill and the NUM leaders who have repeatedly rejected a settlement by insisting that there are no economic pits.

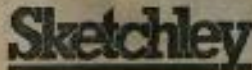
Low down dirty heel?

There's no need to treat your feet badly in dirty, worn shoes!

Especially since there's a Sketchley Complete Shoe Repair Service nearby.

Our comprehensive shoe repairs are so quick, you've hardly said 'heel' when it's time for walking again! Cleaned, too.

The prices won't make you bark, either! So treat man's real best friend - your feet, to man's best shoe repairs.



There's a Sketchley complete shoe repair service near you.

New hope for Tebbit's wife



THATCHER: New hope

By TOM MERRIN

WOMEN: Tebbit's wife Margaret has a chance of recovering from the injury that hit her partner after the British election.

Ms Tebbit, 41, whose husband is the Trade and Industry Secretary, has requested some assistance to her legs.

It had been feared that she could be paralysed for life. But it will still be some time before sur-

geons at the Royal Free and Ontario Hospitals in Brighton know just how good her chances are.

Top Chief Whip Geoffrey Hainsford, whose wife was killed in the terrorist attack, is still gathering news from his hospital.

But doctors played down reports that he might lose a leg. They

said his chances of recovery were good.

In the House of Lords yesterday, Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock were standing shoulder to shoulder as the deputy Prime Minister, Lord Williams, delivered a speech welcome to the IRA.

"They have deliberately struck at the heart of our nation," he said.

"But they will find they have struck strengthened the overwhelmingly united resolve of a Parliament, a people, and people."

WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy, bright spells in east, showers in west. Max. temp. 56F (13C). TOMORROW: Showers expected.

Don't back IRA, Howe tells US

FOREIGN Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe hit out yesterday at Americans who help the IRA.

He said they were helping to attack values "fundamental to both our countries."

Sir Geoffrey told American lawmakers at a lunch in London that there was a "small but very and professedly misguided minority" of Irish Americans who supported the IRA.

They should rid themselves of the delusion that they were helping "civilised nations."

He added "let them make no mistake. They are supporting and prolonging terrorism."

© Associated covers the Mirror - Page 12

© Tebbit's Secret Page 17

The Valley of Death

MIRROR COMMENT

WITH all the courage and the stupidity of the commanders of the Light Brigade, the leaders of the miners sent the union into the Valley of Death last night.

They are on the path to certain disaster.

They cannot beat the big guns of the law. Because the law is all of us.

They may ask for the TUC's help. The TUC cannot give it.

They may ask for the Labour party's help. The Labour party cannot give it.

They may shout slogans. But they cannot succeed.

By embarking on a battle with the courts they have ensured their own defeat.

The law was invoked by working miners. The NUM didn't contest it. It allowed the strike to be declared unofficial.

The miners' special delegate con-

ference yesterday blinded themselves to the facts.

By deciding to defy the law they decided to go it alone.

They may think they are magnificent. But it doesn't make sense.

They have cut themselves off from the rest of the labour movement.

By refusing to purge their contempt of court they have denied themselves valuable support and sympathy.

Other unions cannot pay the miners' expenses, because if they did they would be in contempt themselves.

Yesterday's decision was a decision to prolong the agony of the striking miners and their families.

The NUM should have paid the fine imposed on them. £200,000 is a lot of money. But the union is rich enough to afford it.

Stark

Had Mr Scargill argued for that, he would have carried the day.

Other unions would have dug deep into their coffers to make sure the NUM didn't lose by it.

But now the union has cut itself off from its friends.

There is one simple, stark message which every miner should understand.

A battle against the law is a battle you cannot win.

This isn't the Coal Board and Ian MacGregor you are dealing with. It isn't even the Government and Peter Walker.

It is the nation itself.

You may ask your friends to come to your aid. But they cannot deliver.

You may proclaim your belief that you can beat the "bosses' courts." But you can't.

The Light Brigade were galled beyond measure. But when the dust cleared, most of them were dead.



"Forward, the Light Brigade!"

Was there a man dismay'd?

Not tho' the soldier knew

Some one had blunder'd:

Theirs not to make reply,

Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die.

Into the valley of Death

Rode the six hundred

From The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

More than a match for the man in your life.

A Ronson lighter, the perfect way to say Happy Christmas.

With a wide range to choose from, you're certain to find something to please.

At prices we guarantee you'll want to.

So whether it's for dad, husband, son or boyfriend, a Ronson lighter is much more than a match for the man in your life.

RONSON Happy Christmas

The name that ticks with everyone.

Ronson (Britain), Alfred Percival & Sons, 15 C. Road, Iron House, Boreham, Essex, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 3DA. Tel. 075 528 0361.

Spear attack on NCB van

A METAL spear three feet long was hurled at a Coal Board explosives van from a bridge yesterday—similar to the attack that killed a Welsh taxi driver last week.

Police warned last night that the men who ambushed the vehicle near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, could be charged with attempted murder.

The metal rod had been sharpened but its blunt end struck the roof and penetrated the cab roof only a few inches.

Police warned last night that the men who ambushed the vehicle near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, could be charged with attempted murder.

After the shares soared by 45p on the Stock Exchange, Labour spokesman Alan Williams asked in the Commons: "How did the Government get it so wrong?"

trace yesterday in his memory.

HERBERT BREWER, the solicitor appointed as receiver of miners' union funds, stayed on in Luxembourg last night.

Mr Brewer, 47, who was due home yesterday, will make a fresh attempt today to seize £4 million of NUM cash from a bank there.

When he arrived at the bank yesterday, he said: "I have the right to the money. I am the NUM."

But bank officials were reluctant to hand over the cash.

WEATHER
TODAY: Sunny spells; cloud and rain later. Mild. Max temp the (58F). TOMORROW: Changeable; rain.

Telecom sell-off 'crime'

THE Government was accused last night of "criminal incompetence" over the sale of British Telecom shares.

After the shares soared by 45p on the Stock Exchange, Labour spokesman Alan Williams asked in the Commons: "How did the Government get it so wrong?"

"Five times oversubscribed and a 45p premium is not a misallocation, it is criminal incompetence."

Critical thinking questions to consider:

- Discuss what we can learn about the Miners' Strike from these articles.
- Explain what these articles tell us about the *Mirror*?
- Examine the picture these articles paint about the miners, the government and Arthur Scargill, respectively – what do they tell us?
- Assess the use of language, headings and imagery in these articles, and the affect that they have on the reader.
- Compare and contrast the two articles. Evaluate their similarities and differences in covering the strike.

More on this topic...

Other Useful Search Terms: Arthur Scargill; NUM; National Union of Mineworkers; Coal Board; labour movement; trade union; Ian MacGregor; Mick McGahey; Neil Kinnock; Emlyn Williams; TUC; colliery; Orgreave plant.

The Miners' Strike: The *Daily Mail*

Now compare the reporting of the event in the articles above with the following article from the *Daily Mail*:

Critical thinking questions to consider:

- Discuss what we can learn about the Miners' Strike from this article.
- Explain what this article tells us about the *Daily Mail*?
- Examine the picture this article paints about the miners, the government and Arthur Scargill, respectively – what does it tell us?
- Compare and contrast the reporting across the two newspapers. Discuss the ways in which their editorial bias is visible in their reporting.
- Compare the similarities in reporting across the two newspapers. Assess whether this helps us to understand the event.
- Using these sources, evaluate the importance of using multiple newspapers within your research.

More on this topic...

To continue exploring this topic, consider looking at the reporting on the Miners' Strike from other newspapers, such as the *Times* and the *Telegraph*. *How do they compare to what you have already looked at?* A good place to start is by browsing the March 1984-March 1985 issues of various newspapers.

FOUR WAYS TO WIN A MILLION
Page 30

SMASH THE SYSTEM—THAT'S THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

SCARGILL'S WAR ON DEMOCRACY



RUSSIAN ROULETTE

WHY is the heart being torn out of the National Union of Mineworkers?

Why the fratricidal strife in the coalfields? Why the flying pickets? Why the mass picketing? Why the meatless meals for the families of striking miners? Why the attempted coal blockade by the leaders of the transport unions? Why the sacrifice? Why the anguish? Why the violence of the conflict?

Struggle

Anybody who believes the simple answer is 'pit closures' is a dupe. Don't take our word for it. Take Arthur Scargill's. Writing in the Communist Morning Star he said: 'In sum, the situation in Britain is unprecedented. But what is urgently needed is the rapid and total mobilisation of the trans-

Daily Mail COMMENT

union and labour movement to take positive advantage of a unique opportunity to defend our class and roll back the machinery of oppression, exploitation and deep-seated human misery. What is this if not an invitation to class war? Certainly that is how the Soviet press (except you may think, in this matter) interpreted it yesterday — much to the embarrassment of Mr Scargill. What kind of people does he take his fellow countrymen for? We are not denizens to be led by-ones to the revolutionary barricades; not eastern fodder to be conscripted for a class war. His SIRA, the steel union leader, trapped in the middle of this conflict, knows precisely what is going on and why. 'I am not here,' he says, 'to see the steel industry crumble on somebody else's altar.' The Hard Left—going for the big lift in the propagandist tradition of Joseph Chamberlain—is branding the Prime Minister 'traitor Thatcher'. Coming from them, that is ripe. They cannot forgive her for attempting in two General Elections and for doing what she possessed voters she would if she won a democratic mandate.

They want to put the boot into the miners' backs. They want to smash the system. This is not just another industrial dispute. It is not merely about Mr MacGregor and his plan to shut 29 more unprofitable pits and reduce the mining workforce by 20,000. Mr Scargill calls it 'The Battle for Britain'. For once, we agree with him. It is a battle to sabotage the result of the General Election by stirring up a General Strike. It is industrial force against industrial law. It is damage against national interest. How can anyone with any pretension one day to become Prime Minister of this country remain silent when there is such a campaign being mounted to reduce Britain to chaos and to undermine the very foundations of our Parliamentary democracy?

Anarchy

How can Mr Neil Kinnock continue to speak and sleep peacefully? He is in a unique position to use his authority to promote a national ballot in the coalfields and to stop the anarchy spreading from the pits to the railways. The Leader of the Opposition must give a lead. At such a time only a political enunch could stay neutral.

More miners are back at work

THE slow drift back to work in the pits continued yesterday, but the striking miners gained support from the National Union of Dentists. The NUM executive said it had joined the last blockade called by the coal unions and instructed members to whom, impeding of coal and its transport would be a crime.

Most railmen and lorry drivers, however, appeared to be still ignoring the instructions of their leaders in the NUM and ASLEF. Hilda Hill said: 'Most of the coal we are being asked to sack is being stored.' 'There has been very isolated instances' of drivers refusing to take pit coal trains. A spokesman said he could discuss the matter if train drivers were available.

By **DAVID MORRIS**
Industrial Correspondent

pit drivers were refused had been sent home at Hylton, Barnsley and Bradford. The Barnsley scene, confined to passenger train drivers making it impossible to stop and picket local services in the Wirral.

The NUM spokesman insisted: 'We have not kept figures because they have been so few since it has really not had any effect. It was known, however, that at least six coal trains were cancelled in the Midlands and two at Hylton.' The Coal Board said 40 pits were working normally, 30 more were on standby and 10 more than last week. But the number of colliers actually at work also went up to 126,000 more than Monday.

Increases in coal stocks is explained by a decrease in the number of pits closed by the strike which was down to 100, compared to 116. The board said that 20,000 of its 220,000 members were working. Turn to Page 2, Col. 6

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