GORBACHEV'S GLASNOST

New suit, same old system

IS THATCHER'S BRITAIN GOING BUST?
IRELAND: HOW THE WAR BEGAN
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Gorbachev's glasnost: Everybody from Margaret Thatcher to Tony Benn is full of praise for Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union. FRANK RICHARDS argues that Marxists should not join in the applause; Gorbachev is not to be trusted either as a force for far-reaching change in the East, or as a beacon of hope in the West.

Lawson's 'economic miracle': The Tory government has convinced many people (including the major opposition parties) that its 'free enterprise' policies have turned the fortunes of British capitalism around. TONY KENNEDY looks behind the hype to show that the statistics are not what they seem, and that the British economy is close to a major recession.

Thatcherism and 'post-Fordism': In a major critique of the ideas which are emanating from the old Communist Party and becoming increasingly popular on the British left, MIKE-FREEMAN points out that they represent a serious concession to the thinking of the right, and offers a Marxist alternative.

Ireland, 1968: It is now 20 years since the emergence of the civil rights movement sparked off the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland. MARK REILLY looks back to show how the peaceful protests for reform inevitably developed into an armed struggle for Irish freedom.

Reagan and Iran: From the hostage crisis of 1979-80 to the 'peace' in the Gulf War this year, Iran has haunted US foreign policy throughout the Reagan years. DANIEL NASSIM analyses why the White House has had a fixation with the Ayatollah, and points out the wider implications for foreign relations today.

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