

His 3110, Orwell Paper (6-7 page, 25%) **due 24 April** (see below) [expanded explanation]

How valuable is Orwell as a source and as a social historian? Choose a subject or problem and compare its treatment in *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937) with its treatment in *The Times* (London) during a single year in the 1930s. Compare and contrast how they explain the causes of the problem as well as how they explain its effects. Account for differences, or similarities. Use at least two secondary works (encyclopedias, etc.) for context.

Broad subjects that Orwell discusses include: socialism, class, religion, unemployment. Specific subjects include: the "dole," *Punch*, public schools, radio, Fascism, Wigan itself.

One might consider any of the following which are discussed by Orwell in RTWP and may well be discussed in the Times (and you would, of course, compare and contrast their respective attitude toward them):

- (1) diets of workers and the unemployed/budgets for the poor (weekly);
- (2) housing/corporations estates/tenements/slum clearance;
- (3) NUWM, hunger marchers, and the Communist Party of Great Britain;
- (4) UAB/PAC/Means Test;
- (5) ILP and the Labour Party; Fascism/Moseley/ British Union of Fascists;
- (6) gambling/horses/football Pools;
- (7) slag heaps and scrambling for coal in Wigan/Sheffield/the industrial North;
- (8) "class-hatred";
- (9) thoughts about WWI (check Orwell, pp. 138-9);
- (10) workers vs. tramps;
- (11) all the authors mentioned in part 2 (does the Times discuss them?);
- (12) mine safety/miners' health.

Since most of these issues are about British society and the effects of the Great Depression, then 1930-1935 are much better to focus on than 1935-1939 (and there are issues in 1938 and 1939 which are irrelevant to most of RTWP and should be avoided).

To discover what *the Times* writes about these subjects use "Advanced Search" online [click on Times (London) Digital Archive from Booth Library site <<http://www.library.eiu.edu/eresources/newspapers.asp?subcode=news>>] or use the print *Index to the Times* [each print volume of the *Index* covers a four-month period and is divided into two indices]. Some creative researching is required. Orwell discusses "tramps," while *the Times* might discuss "vagrancy." Also, we are interested in unearthing reasons why Orwell and *the Times* write what they do. To discover what *the Times* thinks about the subjects, you might look at the editorials, indexed as "leading articles."

April 6. Orwell, *Road to Wigan Pier*, foreword & ch. 1

April 12. Orwell, *Road to Wigan Pier*, part I

April 17. Orwell, *Road to Wigan Pier*, part II

PRE-PAPER ASSIGNMENT (**due 17 April**): Look up *The Times* for your birthday, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, or 1937 (microfilm or online); photocopy one leading article (editorial) for that date (note page #). And type one paragraph summarizing what editorial is about, *and* where *the Times* stands.

Key events during the 1930s

1930	Dec.	2.5 million unemployed (16.1%)
1931		National Unemployed Workers' Movement (NUWM) demonstration (21.3% unemployed)
	Oct.	General election. National Government (NG) (largely Conservative) wins overwhelming majority (J.R. MacDonald, Prime Minister) NG economy measures ("Means Test" instituted)
1932	Oct.	Oswald Mosley launches British Union of Fascists
	Oct.-Nov.	NUWM "hunger march" to London (22.1% unemployed)
1933		3 million unemployed (19.9%)
1934	Feb.	NUWM "hunger march" to London
	July	new Unemployment Act comes into effect
1935	Nov.	General election. NG's mandate renewed (Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister)
1936	Jan.	George V dies, Edward VIII succeeds to throne

	May	Left Book Club founded
	July	Spanish Civil War begins
	Oct.	"Jarrow march" of unemployed to London
	Dec.	Edward VIII abdicates; accession of George VI
1937	March	Orwell's <i>Road to Wigan Pier</i> published
	May	Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister
1938	Sept.	Chamberlain and Hitler at Munich Conference
1939	March	British guarantee to Poland
	Sept.	War declared on Germany

While the paper is due on Tues. during class (and I will try to return those graded by Thurs.), I will accept it through Wed., 25 April, 15:30 with no deduction; through Thurs., 26 April, 11:15 with only 1/3 deduction; Thurs. after 11:15 with 2/3 deduction; Fri. morning, 3/3; Fri. afternoon to 15:30, 4/3; Fri. evening, 5/3; Sat., 6-7/3; Sun., 8-9/3; Mon. morn. 10/3; after that F (or even 0). (For example, an A- paper turning in Fri. at 2:00 p.m. would be a C+.)

References for your main two sources are as follows (either parenthetical as given or as foot- or endnotes): Orwell approves of the N.U.W.M. shelters and speeches, although he notes at "even at these shelters the men who go there do nothing but...play a game of dominoes" (Orwell, p. 84). *The Times*, however, was more concerned about the "incitement" and "public disturbances" of the N.U.W.M. and the hunger marches and their supposed "letters from Moscow" ("Organization of Unemployed," *Times*, 10 Dec. 1932, p. 7).

Date and page number needed for all citations. *The Times* or *The (London) Times*, as London is not actually part of the title of the newspaper. Newspapers and journals are italicized, but articles in same are just in quote marks.

For secondary sources, Arnstein is obviously relevant, and textbooks by Roberts & Roberts; or Kenneth O. Morgan; or Thomas William Heyck would probably have enough context. Also:

"The Left Book Club," by Stuart Samuels, *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 1, No. 2, Left-Wing Intellectuals between the Wars. (1966), pp. 65-86.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-0094%281966%291%3A2%3C65%3ATLBC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-M>

"The Lower Middle Class as Historical Problem," by Arno J. Mayer, *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 47, No. 3. (Sep., 1975), pp. 409-436.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2801%28197509%2947%3A3%3C409%3ATLMCAH%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G>

Pearce, Robert D. 'Revisiting Orwell's Wigan Pier'. *History*, 82 (1997), 410-28.

The following are relevant, but unsure if they are available through Booth:

Bowden, Sue M.; Higgins, David M.; Price, C. 'A very peculiar practice : Underemployment in Britain during the interwar years'. *European Review of Economic History*, 10:1 (2006), 89-108.

Pope, Rex. *Unemployment and the Lancashire weaving area : 1920-1938* (Harris Paper, 3). Preston: University of Central Lancashire, 2000.

Pope, Rex. 'Unemployed women in inter-war Britain : the case of the Lancashire weaving district'. *Women's History Review*, 9:4 (2000), 743-60.

Evans, Neil. "South Wales has been roused as never before" : marching against the means test, 1934-1936'. In Howell, David W.; Morgan, Kenneth Owen (ed.), *Crime, protest and police in modern British society : essays in memory of David J.V. Jones* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1999), 176-206.

Smith, Malcolm. *Democracy in a depression : Britain in the 1920's and 1930's*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1998.

Mason, Tony. "Hunger ... is a very good thing" : Britain in the 1930s'. In Tiratsoo, Nick (ed.), *From Blitz to Blair : a new history of Britain since 1939* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1997), 1-24, 218-19.