

ANTH 100: Agenda

Symbols of Struggle in a Global Context.

1. Local culture and global forces: strikes and symbols in the Bigouden.
2. Gender, popular culture, and capitalism: lace coiffes and industrial work.

Local culture and global forces

- Symbols of struggle
 - Red flag
 - Lace coiffe
- Consider two strikes from the early 20th century.
- Consider the material conditions that contributed to the strikes.
- Will then ask how these combine to produce cultural symbols.



Local culture and global forces

- Trashing fish in Penmarc'h
 - Police reports
 - ‘We feared dying of hunger.’
 - The issues for the fishermen.
 - Cause of crisis.
 - Overview



- Le Guilvinec Strike
 - General regional strike
 - State intervened
 - Strikers able to hold their ground

Material conditions

- Local conditions and income.
 - Seasonal industry
 - Household income
 - Household budget supplements



Strikes, material conditions & symbols

- Symbols in the past and the past as a symbol in the present.
- 1880s-1930s two symbols
 - Red flag
 - Singing the Internationale
- Symbols in the present struggle



Gender, popular culture, capitalism



- Lace coiffée- prime symbol of region.
- Present form.
- Soci-symbolic context



Gender, popular culture, capitalism

- History

- Story of Origin

- Political context

- Symbolic marker of locality



End of Class

Strikes, material conditions & symbols

- Symbols in the past and the past as a symbol in the present.
- 1880s-1930s two symbols
 - Red flag
 - Singing the Internationale
- Symbols in the present struggle



Class notes (1 & 2)

Notes - Anecdotal and anecdotal. Auth 100 / Sep 29/11
 Strikes, Material Conditions and Symbols

Sym/past // Past/Symbol

In the past - source crisis
 ↳ 1st key symbol

Red flag

Song - Internationale

In present / past quite become symbols

International - social movement
 ↳ in national level
 ↳ cultural memory

Personal Experiences / Pains
 ↳ self political practice
 ↳ political practice (community)

Two have stood together to hold off external threat

Notes - Anecdotal and anecdotal. Auth 100 / Sep 29/11
 Strikes, Material Conditions and Symbols

Symbols of the past ⇒ The Past as Symbols
 (comes to refer to pages 60-62 in Red Flags)

↳ During the source period
 two important symbols - the red flag and the singing of the international song that heralds

↳ During movement time the gear of the source crisis has become significant then solve
 quite from there on page 60 of Red Flags, "reunite up the spirits of the past..."

Two key symbols of the strikes/demands during the source crisis:
 (A) the Red flag - double red
 (B) France revolution - best title about

International under the (C) ↳ how the flag that progression (D)
 ↳ to be better ↳ reminder of the rights of citizens in the French Republic

↳ Singing the Internationale - also developed
 ↳ Marxist as an individual of
 ↳ think - social class group
 ↳ "we have returned" - to work
 ↳ social movement - reminded
 ↳ against Amherst
 ↳ as a signal of belonging to the
 ↳ in the world of workers, a
 ↳ hope for a better world

(B) In the present - the present "an election" is a symbol of the past - a past when everyone stand together as a community.

Final Typed Notes

Strikes, material conditions and symbols

A. Symbols of the past

ANTH 100, Sept. 29, 2011

(see page 60-62 of Red Flags).

In the past, during the years of the sardine crisis, two key symbols took precedence – the red flag of workers struggle and the singing of the revolutionary song, Internationale. In the contemporary period of struggle those self same past events became a symbolic marker! A quote from Marx on page 60 of Red Flags captures this idea: “conjure up the spirit of the past . . .”

A.1 Red flag– has a double nature. **National** – a reference to the French revolution and a reminder of the rights of citizens within the republic. **International** – links beyond the local to an international universal social movement of workers united in building a better society.

A.2 Internationale: also a double meaning. It has been misread as ‘en terre nationale.’ An outsiders comment on the backwardness and gullibility of the Breton workers. More importantly it was a ritual linking of local struggle to a wider, bigger project. It symbolically brought the local into the wider world; it reassured the workers that they were not alone and that what they did had real implications not only for them but for other workers. It was the creation of a new type of community that extended beyond the immediate vicinity of their lives and work.

B. The past as symbol

In the present, the period when “on chantait rouge” has itself become a symbolic marker of the local in the context of contemporary global struggles. This period of strikes and protests manifests a history of the Bigoudennie as a united community coming together to hold off an aggressive external assault.

End of Workshop