



How close did WW1 bring Glasgow to revolution?

Video transcript -

Glasgow's population got bigger with people coming to work in war industries... there just weren't enough houses to go round.

At least ones people could afford... with increased demand, some landlords actually charged more.

Organisations like the South Govan Housing Association, led by Mary Barbour and Helen Crawford, fought back with rent strikes which up to 22,000 women took part in.

Many of these women were also active in the anti-war movement, like the Women's Peace Crusade. One of their protests reputedly drew a crowd of 14,000.

There were other issues that brought the government into conflict with left wing activists.

The Munitions of War Act allowed the use of lower skilled workers to do parts of work that were usually performed by someone highly skilled.

And it also allowed for hours being increased and wages capped.

Some workers called it the Slavery Act.

Speaking out against the treatment of workers, or the war itself, could land you in a lot of trouble.

John Maclean was repeatedly arrested for speaking out against military recruitment.

Special wartime laws like the Defence of the Realm Act were used to deal with union leaders who organised strikes.

Some leaders, like Davie Kirkwood of Clyde Workers Committee, were deported from Glasgow... They had to live in Edinburgh.

These tensions would eventually erupt in a violent climax soon after the end of the war.