Democracy

Bob Dixon

April 23rd, St George’s Day, saw the biggest non-demonstration that London had never seen.

About two million people didn’t march and didn’t carry banners proclaiming:

- WE WANT WAR!
- KILL ALL THE BLOODY FOREIGNERS!

The fascist banners were nowhere, neither saying,

- KEEP BRITAIN WHITE!
- IF THEY’RE BLACK SEND THEM BACK.

Other banners didn’t say,

- POLLUTION IS FUN FUCK THE FISH!
- MAKE WAR, NOT LOVE!

Many of those who didn’t march Hadn’t made their own placards.

One didn’t say:

- ACTUALLY, I LIKE SEEING FOXES TORN TO PIECES ALIVE, ACTUALLY

and another didn’t say:


Another didn’t say:

- SEND BACK BOGUS ASYLUM SPONGERS AND SCROUNGERS AND TERRORISTS MILKING THE SYSTEM SWAMPING BRITISH CULTURE AND LIVING ON HAND-OUTS FROM BRITISH TAX-PAYERS IN LUXURY COUNCIL FLATS AND HOLIDAY CAMPS WITH FREE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS
As the throng didn’t move along Piccadilly, 
their silent chants 
didn’t bounce off the façades 
of the huge buildings. 
We didn’t hear:  
\[ \text{What do we want?} \]
\[ \text{Blood!} \]
\[ \text{When do we want it?} \]
\[ \text{Now!} \]
nor: 
\[ \text{One two three four} \]
\[ \text{give us war give us war} \]
\[ \text{two four six eight} \]
\[ \text{love is dead give us hate} \]

Nobody was stirred by this non-demonstration.

The prime minister, however, heeded their 
silent protest, 
noted their absence from the lobbies 
and lack of petitions and letters 
and promised to give an ear to their unvoiced cries  
– in the interests of demockracy.

Bob Dixon died in 2008. We are grateful to his publishers, Artery Publications, for permission to reprint this poem from Make Capitalism History: Poems and Other Communications. More of Bob’s poems will be read at a Poetry and Music Evening in Solidarity with Venezuela at the Embassy’s cultural venue at Bolivar Hall (nr. Warren St. station) on 16 April at 7.00pm.