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**PRESS RELEASE**

*** EMBARGOED UNTIL 14 JANUARY ***

Incisive grassroots account of the new global revolutions by acclaimed BBC journalist, published to coincide with the first anniversary of the start of the Arab revolts in Tunisia

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

WHY IT’S KICKING OFF EVERYWHERE

THE NEW GLOBAL REVOLUTIONS

By Paul Mason

Paul Mason is available for interview and comment. Why It’s Kicking Off Everywhere is available for extraction.

• Major launch event at Southbank Centre on Thursday 2 February, 2012

• Our world is changing dramatically. Social upheaval has followed worldwide economic crisis and the gulf between the haves and the have-nots is widening. In 2011, this profound disconnect found expression in events that we were told had been consigned to history: revolt and revolution.

• In this compelling new book, Paul Mason sets out to explore the causes and consequences of this current wave of struggle, illuminating the links between the economic and social crisis. Mingling with protestors in locations from Westminster to Wisconsin, Mason is a weatherman in a hurricane. In Why It’s Kicking Off Everywhere he reports from the frontlines of protest, through teargas in Athens and clashes in Cairo.

• Blending eyewitness reportage with historical insight, Mason draws parallels with the revolutions of 1848 and uprisings of the early twentieth century, as well as more recent expressions of discontent including the anti-globalization protests of 1999 and Climate Camp. He explores and analyzes what lies behind the new revolutions – a volatile combination of the near collapse of free-market capitalism, new technologies and changes in popular culture, and a profound shift in our understanding of what freedom means.

• Why It’s Kicking Off Everywhere looks at how new social media have impacted on how we behave and organize. Mason interviews activists on the ground and the people behind these new forms of collective action, providing an insight into the agile networks of Twitter- and Facebook-savvy young protesters supporting the viral spread of international activism.
Mason argues that the events of 2011 reflect the expanding power of the individual and a call for new political alternatives. The popularity of non-hierarchical forms of organization are not only challenging political and financial elites and the biases of traditional media, but also reinvigorating the left for the 21st century.

Mason observes the growing prominence of horizontalist practices in the mainstream, and indeed that these have become the norm for a new generation of activists: UKUncut and the Occupy movement, to name but two, have brought consensus decision-making models to the attention of the mainstream press.

The economics editor of the BBC’s flagship program Newsnight, Paul Mason is also one of the most influential journalists on twitter. He first reported live for the BBC on 9/11, and covered the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 from outside its New York HQ. His television and online reports have tracked the social and economic impact of the global meltdown from the mean streets of Gary, Indiana to the elite salons of Davos.

Praise for Meltdown: The End of the Age of Greed

“A page-turning account ... Mason is refreshingly clear-eyed — and angry.” Will Hutton, Guardian

“What people need is a reliable guide to the financial crisis ... Meltdown is the book they are looking for.” John Gray, New Statesman

“A lucid and sharply polemical account of the crisis.” Oliver Kamm, The Times

“An excellent take on the financial crisis.” Evening Standard

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VERSO is the most influential radical publisher in the UK and US, and celebrated its 40th year in 2010. It grew out of the celebrated journal New Left Review and has published many of the major figures on the left, including Tariq Ali, Eric Hobsbawm, John Pilger, Benedict Anderson, Terry Eagleton and Jacques Derrida.

Always provocative, always innovative: books with a critical edge.