[PDF] Decline Of Organized Labor In The United States

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**What Unions No Longer Do** - Jake Rosenfeld - 2014-02-10

From workers' wages to presidential elections, labor unions once exerted tremendous clout in American life. In the immediate post-World War II era, one in three workers belonged to a union. The fraction now is close to one in five, and just one in ten in the private sector. The only thing big about Big Labor today is the scope of its problems. While many studies have explained the causes of this decline, What Unions No Longer Do shows the broad repercussions of labor's collapse for the American economy and polity. Organized labor was not just a minor player
The fraction now is close to one in five, and just century, Jake Rosenfeld asserts. For generations it was the core institution fighting for economic and political equality in the United States. Unions leveraged their bargaining power to deliver benefits to workers while shaping cultural understandings of fairness in the workplace. What Unions No Longer Do details the consequences of labor's decline, including poorer working conditions, less economic assimilation for immigrants, and wage stagnation among African-Americans. In short, unions are no longer instrumental in combating inequality in our economy and our politics, resulting in a sharp decline in the prospects of American workers and their families.

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**Beaten Down, Worked Up** - Steven Greenhouse
- 2020-07-21
"A page-turning book that spans a century of worker strikes. Engrossing, character-driven,

We live in an era of soaring corporate profits and anemic wage gains, one in which low-paid jobs and blighted blue-collar communities have become a common feature of our nation's landscape. Behind these trends lies a little-discussed problem: the decades-long decline in worker power. Award-winning journalist and author Steven Greenhouse guides us through the key episodes and trends in history that are essential to understanding some of our nation's most pressing problems, including increased income inequality, declining social mobility, and the concentration of political power in the hands of the wealthy few. He exposes the modern labor landscape with the stories of dozens of American workers, from GM employees to Uber drivers to underpaid schoolteachers. Their fight to take power back is crucial for America's future, and Greenhouse proposes concrete, feasible ways in which workers' collective power can be--and is being--rekindled and reimagined in the twenty-
the concentration of political power in the hands of the wealthy few. He exposes the modern labor landscape with the stories of dozens of American workers, from GM employees to Uber drivers to underpaid schoolteachers. Their fight to take power back is crucial for America's future, and Greenhouse proposes concrete, feasible ways in which workers' collective power can be--and is being--rekindled and reimagined in the twenty-first century. Beaten Down, Worked Up is a stirring and essential look at labor in America, poised as it is between the tumultuous struggles of the past and the vital, hopeful struggles ahead. A PBS NewsHour Now Read This Book Club Pick

**Murder in the Garment District** - David Witwer - 2020-05-05
The thrilling and true account of racketeering and union corruption in mid-century New York, when unions and the mob were locked in a power struggle that reverberates to this day In 1949, in New York City's crowded Garment District, a union organizer named William Lurye was
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lens of this murder case, prize-winning authors
David Witwer and Catherine Rios explore
American labor history at its critical turning
point, drawing on FBI case files and the private
papers of investigative journalists who first broke
the story. A narrative that originates in the
garment industry of mid-century New York,
which produced over 80 percent of the nation's
dresses at the time, Murder in the Garment
District quickly moves to a national stage, where
congressional anti-corruption hearings gripped
the nation and forever tainted the reputation of
American unions. Replete with elements of a
true-crime thriller, Murder in the Garment
District includes a riveting cast of characters,
from wheeling and dealing union president David
Dubinsky to the notorious gangster Abe Chait
and the crusading Robert F. Kennedy, whose
public duel with Jimmy Hoffa became front-page
news. Deeply researched and grounded in the
street-level events that put people's lives and

Murder in the Garment District is destined to become a classic work of
history—one that also explains the current troubled state of unions in America.

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dresses at the time, Murder in the Garment
The Decline of Labor Unions in Mexico during the Neoliberal Period - Roberto Zepeda - 2021-01-28
This book examines the most significant factors accounting for the decline of union density during the neoliberal period, focusing on the case of Mexico. Union density, which reflects the representation of labor unions in the employed labor force, is one of the main indicators of union strength. The relation of organized labor with the state and the political system are also considered. The analysis is framed within a structure concentrated on cyclical, structural and political-institutional factors linked to labor union performance. Over the last decades, the transformations brought about by neoliberalism and democratization reshaped many features of the domestic political and economic model in Mexico. Therefore, an examination of these developments regarding the repercussions of the factors linked to union density decline is crucial.
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**The End of American Labor Unions** - Raymond L. Hogler - 2015-02
By examining the history of the legal regulation of union actions, this fascinating book offers a new interpretation of American labor-law policy—and its harmful impact on workers today.

**Unions in Crisis?** - Michael Schiavone - 2008
Arguing that a strong union movement is needed now more than ever, this book outlines the major changes unions need to make to revitalize the U.S. labor movement.

**The Twilight of the Old Unionism** - Leo Troy - 2004
This controversial but well-documented and deftly argued study analyzes the present and future prospects for organized labor in the
private sector. The book takes the decline and ultimate disappearance of labor unions -- not just in the United States but elsewhere in the developed, world as fact. Beginning with this premise, Troy goes on to elaborate on the extent and reasons for the decline by addressing four vital questions: 1. Can private-sector unions ever make a comeback? 2. If organized labor cannot recover, what are the consequences for both unionized and non-unionized workers, for the economy, and for the unionism itself? 3. What is the experience of other countries, particularly Canada whose industrial relations parallels that of the United States? 4. And, finally, what explains the international decline and change in the character of unions, especially in places like the United Kingdom and Germany?

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**Revisiting Union Decline** - Nathan Meyers - 2016
Abstract: I explore the sources of union decline from 1970-2008, inspecting the shifting prominence of different causes at different points
prominence of different causes at different points in time. Using a relational approach which views labor and capital as actors that gain or lose power at the expense of each other, I find that U.S. union decline is the result of several institutional transformations that benefitted capital relative to labor. Capital was advantaged and labor was disadvantaged due to: 1) the financialization of the economy in the 1980s, 2) weakening protections of labor policy by the 1970s, 3) the reconfiguration of productive capital in the 1970s and 1980s, 4) an anti-union business offensive gaining momentum in the 1970s, and 5) the failure of unions to sufficiently organize new members throughout the entire period. Combined, this confluence of factors led to a steep decline in union membership. Results highlight the complex nature of temporal dynamics in capital-labor power struggles.

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**Labor in America** - Melvyn Dubofsky - 2014-08-26
Even since the last edition of this milestone text was released six years ago, unions have continued to shed members; union membership in the private sector of the economy has fallen to levels not seen since the nineteenth century; the forces of economic liberalization (neo-liberalism), capital mobility, and globalization have affected measurably the material standard of living enjoyed by workers in the United States; and mass immigration from the Southern Hemisphere and Asia has continued to restructure the domestic labor force. Yet even in the face of anti-union legislation, a continuing decline in the number of organized workers, and the fear of stateless, if not faceless terrorism—the shadow of "911" in which we still live, in preparing this new edition of his classic text Professor Dubofsky has hewn to the lines laid out in the previous seven in seeking to encourage today's students of labor history to learn about those who built the United States.

An honest, open, and no holds barred look at the current problems facing the American labor movement. The how and why of what labor unions are today. American labor unions can again be viable and successful in the future, if their leaders would only be honest with themselves, and face today's situation as it really is. This is my comprehensive guide for American labor unions to regain their lost membership, status, and success.
measurably the material standard of living to taking the narrative right up to the present, a recent history that includes the election of 2008 as well as the tumultuous blow suffered by the U.S. and world economy in 2008-09, this eighth edition features an entirely new (fourth) bank of photographs and, in light of the avalanche of new scholarly work over the last decade, a complete overhauling of the book’s extensive and critical Further Readings section in order to note the very best works from the profuse recent scholarship that explores the history of working people in all its diversity.

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**Justice on the Job** - Richard N. Block - 2006
The freedom to form a union has been formally recognized as a basic human right by the United Nations and its member states since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ratified in 1948 (United Nations 1948). Yet in the United States today, the freedom to form unions and bargain collectively is heavily suppressed, and the law provides workers with little protection.

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Between 1977 and 1997, there was a precipitous decline in the proportion of US workers with median education (12 years or less) who were represented by a labor union—from 29 to 14 percent; the unionization proportion declined much less among workers with above-median education (19 to 13 percent). The union wage premium also declined for workers with basic education, from 58 to 51 percent, whereas it rose slightly for better-educated unionists, from 18 to 19 percent. Thus, whatever safety net American
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A New American Labor Movement - William E. Scheuerman - 2021-10-01
Describes how new kinds of direct-action labor movements are emerging to reshape American labor activism in the twenty-first century. The American labor movement isn't dead. It's just moving from the bargaining table to the streets. In A New American Labor Movement, William Scheuerman analyzes how the decline of unions and the emergence of these new direct-action movements are reshaping the American labor workers—from farm laborers and gig drivers to freelance artists and restaurant workers—have taken to the streets in a collective attempt to attain a living wage and decent working conditions, with or without the help of unions. This new worker militancy, expressed through mass demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, political action, and similar activities, has already achieved much success and offers models for workers to exercise their power in the twenty-first century. Finally, Scheuerman notes, many of the strategies of the new direct-action groups share features with the sectoral bargaining model that dominates the European labor movement, suggesting that sectoral bargaining may become the foundation of a new American labor movement. William E. Scheuerman is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the State University of New York at Oswego. Prior to retiring as President of the National Labor College, he served as President of the United
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Organized Labor in Postcommunist States - Paul Kubicek - 2004-12-19
Paul Kubicek offers a comparative study of organized labor's fate in four postcommunist countries, and examines the political and economic consequences of labor's weakness. He notes that with few exceptions, trade unions have lost members and suffered from low public confidence. Unions have failed to act while changing economic policies have resulted in declining living standards and unemployment for their membership. While some of labor's problems can be traced to legacies of the communist period, Kubicek draws upon the experience of unions in the West to argue that privatization and nascent globalization are creating new economic structures and a political playing field hostile to organized labor. He concludes that labor is likely to remain a marginalized economic and political force for the foreseeable.

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Labor in the Time of Trump - Jasmine Kerrissey - 2020-01-15

Labor in the Time of Trump critically analyzes the right-wing attack on workers and unions and offers strategies to build a working-class movement. While President Trump's election in 2016 may have been a wakeup call for labor and the Left, the underlying processes behind this shift to the right have been building for at least forty years. The contributors show that only by analyzing the vulnerabilities in the right-wing strategy can the labor movement develop an effective response. Essays in the volume examine the conservative upsurge, explore key challenges the labor movement faces today, and draw lessons from recent activist successes. Donald Cohen, founder and executive director of In the Public Interest; Bill Fletcher, Jr., author of Solidarity Divided; Shannon Gleeson, Cornell

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The World According to China - Elizabeth C. Economy - 2021-10-25
An economic and military superpower with 20 percent of the world’s population, China has the wherewithal to transform the international system. Xi Jinping’s bold calls for China to “lead in the reform of the global governance system” suggest that he has just such an ambition. But how does he plan to realize it? And what does it mean for the rest of the world? In this compelling book, Elizabeth Economy reveals China’s ambitious new strategy to reclaim the country’s past glory and reshape the geostrategic landscape in dramatic new ways. Xi’s vision is one of Chinese centrality on the global stage, in which the mainland has realized its sovereignty claims over Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the South China Sea, deepened its global political, economic, and security reach through its grand-scale Belt and Road Initiative, and used its leadership in the United Nations and other
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A History of America in Ten Strikes - Erik Loomis - 2018-10-02

Recommended by The Nation, the New Republic, Current Affairs, Bustle, In These Times

"Entertaining, tough-minded, strenuously argued." —The Nation

A thrilling and timely account of ten moments in history when labor challenged the very nature of power in America, by the author called “a brilliant historian” by The Progressive magazine. Powerful and accessible, A History of America in Ten Strikes challenges all of our contemporary assumptions around labor, unions, and American workers. In this brilliant book, labor historian Erik Loomis recounts ten critical workers’ strikes in American labor history that everyone needs to know about (and then provides an annotated list of the 150 most important moments in American labor history in the appendix). From the Lowell Mill Girls strike in the 1830s to Justice for Janitors in 1990, these labor uprisings do not just reflect the times in which they occurred, but speak directly to the present moment. For example, we often think that Lincoln ended slavery by proclaiming the slaves emancipated, but Loomis shows that they freed themselves during the Civil War by simply
The Oakland General Strike (California, 1946) and aspirations of a generation were made into demands at a GM plant in Lordstown in 1972. And he takes us to the forests of the Pacific Northwest in the early nineteenth century where the radical organizers known as the Wobblies made their biggest inroads against the power of bosses. But there were also moments when the movement was crushed by corporations and the government; Loomis helps us understand the present perilous condition of American workers and draws lessons from both the victories and defeats of the past. In crystalline narratives, labor historian Erik Loomis lifts the curtain on workers’ struggles, giving us a fresh perspective on American history from the boots up. Strikes include: Lowell Mill Girls Strike (Massachusetts, 1830–40) Slaves on Strike (The Confederacy, 1861–65) The Eight-Hour Day Strikes (Chicago, 1886) The Anthracite Strike (Pennsylvania, 1902) The Bread and Roses Strike (Massachusetts, 1912) The Flint Sit-Down Strike (Michigan, 1937) Lordstown (Ohio, 1972) Air Traffic Controllers (1981) Justice for Janitors (Los Angeles, 1990)

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on American history from the boots up. Strikes labor uprisings do not just reflect the times in which they occurred, but speak directly to the present moment. For example, we often think that Lincoln ended slavery by proclaiming the slaves emancipated, but Loomis shows that they freed themselves during the Civil War by simply withdrawing their labor. He shows how the hopes and aspirations of a generation were made into demands at a GM plant in Lordstown in 1972. And he takes us to the forests of the Pacific Northwest in the early nineteenth century where the radical organizers known as the Wobblies made their biggest inroads against the power of bosses. But there were also moments when the movement was crushed by corporations and the government; Loomis helps us understand the present perilous condition of American workers and draws lessons from both the victories and defeats of the past. In crystalline narratives, labor historian Erik Loomis lifts the curtain on workers’ struggles, giving us a fresh perspective include: Lowell Mill Girls Strike (Massachusetts, 1830–40) Slaves on Strike (The Confederacy, 1861–65) The Eight-Hour Day Strikes (Chicago, 1886) The Anthracite Strike (Pennsylvania, 1902) The Bread and Roses Strike (Massachusetts, 1912) The Flint Sit-Down Strike (Michigan, 1937) The Oakland General Strike (California, 1946) Lordstown (Ohio, 1972) Air Traffic Controllers (1981) Justice for Janitors (Los Angeles, 1990)

Re-Union - David Madland - 2021-05-15
In Re-Union, David Madland explores how labor unions are essential to all workers. Yet, union systems are badly flawed and in need of rapid changes for reform. Madland's multilayered analysis presents a solution—a model to replace the existing firm-based collective bargaining with a larger, industry-scale bargaining method coupled with powerful incentives for union membership. These changes would represent a remarkable shift from the norm, but would be based on lessons from other countries, US
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Can Unions Survive? - Charles B. Craver - 1995-03-01
The term “Caucasian” is a curious invention of the modern age. Originating in 1795, the word identifies both the peoples of the Caucasus Mountains region as well as those thought to be “Caucasian”. Bruce Baum explores the history of the term and the category of the “Caucasian race” more broadly in the light of the changing politics of racial theory and notions of racial identity. With a comprehensive sweep that encompasses the understanding of “race” even before the use of the term “Caucasian,” Baum traces the major trends in scientific and intellectual understandings of “race” from the Middle Ages to the present day. Baum’s conclusions make an unprecedented attempt to separate modern science and politics from a long history of racial classification. He offers significant insights into our understanding of race and how the “Caucasian race” has been authoritatively invented, embraced, displaced, and recovered throughout our history.

Can Unions Survive? - Charles B. Craver -
that have vast discretion to interpret labor law. I - 2007
Abstract: This dissertation examines relationships between politics and labor unions. Unions are important because they can reduce income inequality and are the primary advocates for policies that benefit workers and the poor. But union membership has experienced a severe decline. The substantial literature on union decline has primarily focused on how broad economic shifts, increased employer resistance, and shortcomings in union organizing strategies weaken organized labor. But the state controls union organizing. Surprisingly few scholars examine the politics of labor's decline. I extend the union decline literature by emphasizing how political arrangements matter for labor outcomes in three separate but related analyses. The first study focuses on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This federal agency is the primary overseer of labor disputes in the United States. The NLRB is managed by presidential appointees content code the Board's annual list of most significant ULP cases between 1970 and 2002. I use clustered logistic regression to examine whether political partisanship influences NLRB decisions. The findings support political partisanship theory. The second study analyzes labor unions' ability to build membership with workplace recognition elections. Workplaces are organized through recognition elections. But unions cannot grow if such elections are rare. Halting elections before they occur is thus a key strategy for union avoidance. I use a macro time series analysis that spans 1962 to 2002. My key findings show that when Republican presidents are in office unions are significantly less able to hold recognition elections. But the most interesting finding suggests that political factors matter most during the Republican administrations of Ronald Regan and subsequent Republican presidents. The final study draws upon theories of political partisanship and racial
weaken organized labor. But the state controls representation election victories across the U.S. states. This state-level panel analysis finds that Unions win fewer elections in states with Republican governors. Racial arrangements also matter. Initial growth in the black population is associated with higher rates of unionization. But after the black population passes a threshold, unions become significantly less likely to win recognition elections.

The Politics of Union Decline - Daniel B. Tope - 2007

Abstract: This dissertation examines relationships between politics and labor unions. Unions are important because they can reduce income inequality and are the primary advocates for policies that benefit workers and the poor. But union membership has experienced a severe decline. The substantial literature on union decline has primarily focused on how broad economic shifts, increased employer resistance, and shortcomings in union organizing strategies weaken organized labor. But the state controls representation election victories across the U.S. states. This state-level panel analysis finds that Unions win fewer elections in states with Republican governors. Racial arrangements also matter. Initial growth in the black population is associated with higher rates of unionization. But after the black population passes a threshold, unions become significantly less likely to win recognition elections.

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The Future of Private Sector Unionism in the United States - James T. Bennett - 2016-07-08
A study of the long-term decline of the labour movement in America, exploring the outlook for labour and unions in the 21st century. There are insights from contributors from a range of backgrounds - academic and non-academic, domestic and foreign, pro- and anti-union.

Rethinking the American Labor Movement - Elizabeth Faue - 2017-04-28
Rethinking the American Labor Movement tells the story of the various groups and incidents that make up what we think of as the "labor movement." While the efforts of the American labor force towards greater wealth parity have
been rife with contention, the struggle has embraced a broad vision of a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth and a desire for workers to have greater control over their own lives. In this succinct and authoritative volume, Elizabeth Faue reconsiders the varied strains of the labor movement, situating them within the context of rapidly transforming twentieth-century American society to show how these efforts have formed a political and social movement that has shaped the trajectory of American life. Rethinking the American Labor Movement is indispensable reading for scholars and students interested in American labor in the twentieth century and in the interplay between labor, wealth, and power.

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The Declining Power of Organized Labor in Britain Since the 1970s - Power in Britain - Tim Pfefferle - 2012
Essay aus dem Jahr 2010 im Fachbereich Politik - Internationale Politik - Thema: Europäische Union, Veranstaltung: -, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Since the late 1970s, trade unions in Britain have experienced a significant loss of power. Not only have membership numbers fallen dramatically, but the unions' ability to influence government policy and the wider polity has seen a strong decline. Therefore, this essay will explore the reasons for these developments, utilizing a four-dimensional model of power. In this context, anti-union legislation introduced in the 1980s will be analyzed against the backdrop of the fundamental political and social changes that have characterized Britain since the late 1970s.

The Future of Labor Unions - Julius G. Getman - 2004

Disparaged Success - Ikuo Kume - 2018-09-05
Japanese scholars have begun to challenge conventional wisdom about effective labor organizing, and Ikuo Kume has written the first book in English to advance their controversial
the information exchange that shaped policy of organized labor has weakened in most advanced industrial countries. The decline of organized labor has coincided with the decentralization of labor-management relations. As a result, most observers assume that decentralized labor is destined to lose power in a capitalist economy, and that enterprise unions will tend to be docile and powerless. Kume documents the one notable exception. The Japanese trade union confederation has steadily grown in importance, expanding its scope beyond individual companies to national policy making. Kume traces the achievements of enterprise unionism in private firms. Labor, he argues, slowly gained legitimate corporate membership by establishing joint institutions with management. By the 1960s, labor-management councils, stimulated by foreign competition, had become a widespread feature of Japanese industry. Soon unions were regular participants in the government deliberation councils and in

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The first book to document organized labor and the massive federal clean-up effort.

Organized Labor in New Jersey - Leo Troy - 1965

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Fundamentals of Business (black and White) - Stephen J. Skripak - 2016-07-29
(Black & White version) Fundamentals of Business was created for Virginia Tech's MGT 1104 Foundations of Business through a collaboration between the Pamplin College of Business and Virginia Tech Libraries. This book is freely available at: http://hdl.handle.net/10919/70961 It is licensed with a Creative Commons-NonCommercial ShareAlike 3.0 license.
In the 1930s, fewer than one in one hundred U.S. labor union members were African American. By 1980, the figure was more than one in five. Black and Blue explores the politics and history that led to this dramatic integration of organized labor. In the process, the book tells a broader story about how the Democratic Party unintentionally sowed the seeds of labor's decline. The labor and civil rights movements are the cornerstones of the Democratic Party, but for much of the twentieth century these movements worked independently of one another. Paul Frymer argues that as Democrats passed separate legislation to promote labor rights and racial equality they split the issues of class and race into two sets of institutions, neither of which had enough authority to integrate the labor movement. From this division, the courts became the leading enforcers of workplace civil rights, threatening unions with bankruptcy if they resisted integration. The courts' previously unappreciated power, however, was also a problem: in diversifying unions, judges and lawyers enfeebled them financially, thus democratizing through destruction. Sharply delineating the double-edged sword of state and legal power, Black and Blue chronicles an achievement that was as problematic as it was remarkable, and that demonstrates the deficiencies of race- and class-based understandings of labor, equality, and power in America.
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State of the Union - Nelson Lichtenstein - 2012-10-26
In a fresh and timely reinterpretation, Nelson Lichtenstein examines how trade unionism has waxed and waned in the nation's political and moral imagination, among both devoted partisans and intransigent foes. From the steel foundry to the burger-grill, from Woodrow Wilson to John Sweeney, from Homestead to Pittston, Lichtenstein weaves together a compelling matrix of ideas, stories, strikes, laws, and people in a streamlined narrative of work and labor in the twentieth century. The "labor question"
new era of global economics battered the unions, Era because its solution seemed essential to the survival of American democracy itself. Beginning there, Lichtenstein takes us all the way to the organizing fever of contemporary Los Angeles, where the labor movement stands at the center of the effort to transform millions of new immigrants into alert citizen unionists. He offers an expansive survey of labor's upsurge during the 1930s, when the New Deal put a white, male version of industrial democracy at the heart of U.S. political culture. He debunks the myth of a postwar "management-labor accord" by showing that there was (at most) a limited, unstable truce. Lichtenstein argues that the ideas that had once sustained solidarity and citizenship in the world of work underwent a radical transformation when the rights-centered social movements of the 1960s and 1970s captured the nation's moral imagination. The labor movement was therefore tragically unprepared for the years of Reagan and Clinton: although technological change and a

their real failure was one of ideas and political will. Throughout, Lichtenstein argues that labor's most important function, in theory if not always in practice, has been the vitalization of a democratic ethos, at work and in the larger society. To the extent that the unions fuse their purpose with that impulse, they can once again become central to the fate of the republic. State of the Union is an incisive history that tells the story of one of America's defining aspirations.

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This book argues that labor unions have proven to be the only consistently effective mechanism for enabling workers to express their concerns and exert significant influence in the workplace, and documents the extent to which unions have benefited not only members, but the workforce
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Organized labor has been in decline in the United States for many years. Three primary, overlapping, explanations have been provided for the decline in union density: structural, competitive, and institutional. The bulk of the empirical literature has focused on the effects of globalization on union firms ability to compete...
should engage in robust anti-racist organizing civil rights struggles within unions played in shaping anti-union public policy, and how through massive investment in segregated homeownership, the white working class grew to view itself as homeowners first and workers second, allowing anti-union politicians to capitalize on white working class fears of residential integration to gain power. By measuring the mechanism through which this shift in white working class consciousness occurred, the analysis here hopefully provides insight for union organizers and political strategists as they work to rebuild the labor movement. The research finds evidence that, while there is a positive correlation between union membership and anti-black racial attitudes, this correlation exists only through the positive correlation between income and homeownership and anti-black racial attitudes. While primarily suggesting the need for more research, these findings also suggest that unions among their white members.


Organized labor has been in decline in the United States for many years. Three primary, overlapping, explanations have been provided for the decline in union density: structural, competitive, and institutional. The bulk of the empirical literature has focused on the effects of globalization on union firms ability to compete with nonunion firms and cheap labor abroad. This research has certainly provided important insight into the role of changing economic systems (and the policies that have allowed for these changes) in union decline, especially the role of foreign direct investment. However, research comparing the American experience with similarly situated industrial countries indicates that other factors beyond simply globalization are at work and that American
shift in white working class consciousness policies and conditions exacerbated the affects of globalization, and actually created specific aspects of globalization that made union organizing more difficult. For example, the legal framework within which unions organize is incredibly hostile to union organizing, and amplifies the effect of global competition on union’s ability to organize. A major theme that appears in the qualitative literature on the development of American labor policy is the changing politics of the white working class and the role of union racism. For example, the role civil rights struggles within unions played in shaping anti-union public policy, and how through massive investment in segregated homeownership, the white working class grew to view itself as homeowners first and workers second, allowing anti-union politicians to capitalize on white working class fears of residential integration to gain power. By measuring the mechanism through which this occurred, the analysis here hopefully provides insight for union organizers and political strategists as they work to rebuild the labor movement. The research finds evidence that, while there is a positive correlation between union membership and anti-black racial attitudes, this correlation exists only through the positive correlation between income and homeownership and anti-black racial attitudes. While primarily suggesting the need for more research, these findings also suggest that unions should engage in robust anti-racist organizing among their white members.


**The Great Divergence** - Timothy Noah - 2012-04-24
For the past three decades, America has steadily become a nation of haves and have-nots. Our incomes are increasingly unequal. This steady growing apart is often mentioned as a troubling indicator by scholars and policy analysts, though seldom addressed by politicians. What economics Nobelist Paul Krugman terms "the Great Divergence" has till now been treated as little more than a talking point, a rhetorical club to be wielded in ideological battles. But this Great Divergence may be the most important change in this country during our lifetimes—a drastic, elemental change in the character of American society, and not at all for the better. The inequality gap is much more than a left-right hot potato—its causes and consequences call for a patient, non-partisan exploration. Timothy Noah's The Great Divergence, based on his award-winning series of articles for Slate, surveys the roots of the wealth gap, drawing on the best thinking of contemporary economists and political scientists. Noah also explores potential solutions to the problem, and explores why the growing rich-poor divide has sparked remarkably little public anger, in contrast to social unrest that prevailed before the New Deal. The Great Divergence is poised to be one of the most talked-about books of 2012, a jump-start to the national conversation about the shape of American society in the 21st century, and a work that will help frame the debate in a Presidential election year.

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What Do Unions Do? - Thomas S. Barrows -
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One of the best-known and most-quoted books ever written on labor unions is What Do Unions Do? by Richard Freeman and James Medoff. Published in 1984, the book proved to be a landmark because it provided the most comprehensive and statistically sophisticated empirical portrait of the economic and socio-political effects of unions, and a provocative conclusion that unions are on balance beneficial for the economy and society. The present volume represents a twentieth-anniversary retrospective and evaluation of What Do Unions Do? The objectives are threefold: to evaluate and critique the theory, evidence, and conclusions of Freeman and Medoff; to provide a comprehensive update of the theoretical and empirical literature on unions since the publication of their book; and to offer a balanced assessment and critique of the effects of unions on the economy and society. Toward this end, internationally recognized
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What Do Unions Do? - Thomas S. Barrows - 2017-09-08
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