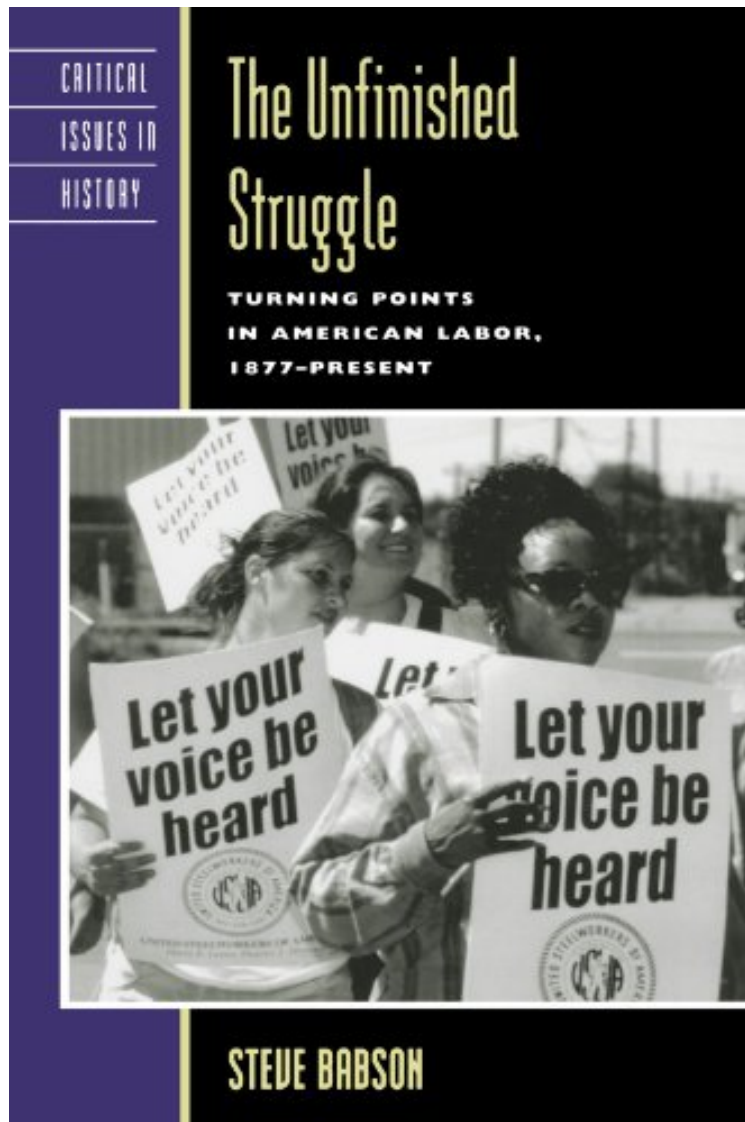


(Mobile book) The Unfinished Struggle

The Unfinished Struggle

Steve Babson

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#254959 in Books Rowman Littlefield Publishers 1999-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.28 x .63 x 6.121, .74 #File Name: 0847688291224 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Steve Babson : The Unfinished Struggle before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unfinished Struggle:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Good concise history of labor movement By J. Grattan The Unfinished Struggle, considering its brevity and the number of years that it covers, represents an adequate, even good, effort at describing the difficult, hazardous, uneven, and highly compromised journey of the labor movement since the Great Railroad Uprising of 1877. Since the book is intended for those without thorough knowledge of the labor

movement, a shortcoming of the book is the absence of any history of unions prior to 1877. How did they start? What was/is the social, economic, and political/legal context of unions? But the book is a window into the practicality and realities of unionism since 1877. The author shows that other than for a brief thirty-year period the labor movement has mostly struggled for relevancy, even survival. It is not clear as to the degree of optimism that the author has regarding the completion of the struggle. As a practical matter, a reading of this book leaves little room for optimism. In the absence of great detail, the author focuses on historical "turning points" as markers to indicate the standing and prospects of the labor movement. Among those selected for discussion were the Strike of 1877, the Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912, WWI, the Steel Strike of 1919, the Great Depression, the Wagner Act of 1935, WWII, the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, the PATCO Strike of 1981, and the change in the leadership of the AFL-CIO in the mid-90s. In addition the conflicts and contradictions within the labor movement are well assessed. Basically, the book is a very sobering account of the labor movement. The author acknowledges the next to impossible task of writing a short history of the labor movement because of its complex past, but he has done a very credible and worthy job.

The Unfinished Struggle is one of the most concise, comprehensive, and accessible histories of the modern American labor movement ever written. Labor scholar and activist Steve Babson's dramatic narrative examines the numerous attempts to organize workers from the Great Uprising of 1877 to the 'sitdown' strikes of the 1930s to the present day. Babson illuminates the tumultuous past, evolving agenda, and continuing conflicts of the labor movement. He carefully identifies the causes of labor's decline in recent decades and explains union leaders' attempts to revive their organizations. Most important, Babson shows readers how the fortunes of organized labor are tied to larger trends in American history.

A crisply written, authoritative, and engaging overview of the struggles of American workers. Babson is both balanced and judicious while at the same time conveying a sense of the passion and commitment that makes the history of American labor so fascinating. Sensitive to the voices and concerns of the people of the past, The Unfinished Struggle also is relevant to the concerns of a contemporary labor movement struggling toward rebirth as we approach the 21st century. (Robert Zieger, University of Florida) An engaging narrative account of the fluctuating fortunes of the American labor movement up to the present day. . . . The book does a good job of setting events in their broader historical and economic context. (J. L. Rosenbloom, University of Kansas CHOICE) An extremely readable book. (Robert Cherry Journal of Economic History) For those searching for a short history of the American labor movement, Babson's The Unfinished Struggle is exceptional. Babson draws on the ever-expanding vibrant scholarship of the last thirty years on the interplay among issues of class, race, and gender in the American labor movement. And he does not shy away from laying bare the weaknesses, errors, racism, sexism, and internal conflicts within organized labor over the past century. It is by far the best discussion of the contemporary labor movement you will find, and it should be widely used in sociology, political science, American history, and labor studies course discussing contemporary labor-management relations and organized labor. (Steven K. Ashby, Indiana University Journal of American History) Babson's account is refreshingly strong in documenting the struggle of black workers to organize against the hostility of the state, employers and craft unions. ... provided such rich and exciting detail in his highly readable and accessible text. (Relations Industrielles/Industrial Relations) "This is a spirited, intelligent, and comprehensive history that offers readers a highly readable sense of the nation's working class movement. Babson's book is notable for its effortless mastery of the contemporary scholarship, for its accessibility, and for its lively use of story and dialogue." (Nelson Lichtenstein, University of Virginia) About the Author Steve Babson is a labor program specialist at the Labor Studies Center, Wayne State University. He is the author of Building the Union: Skilled Workers and Anglo-Gaelic Immigrants in the Rise of the UAW and Working Detroit: The Making of a Union Town, as well as the editor of Lean Work: Empowerment and Exploitation in the Global Auto Industry.