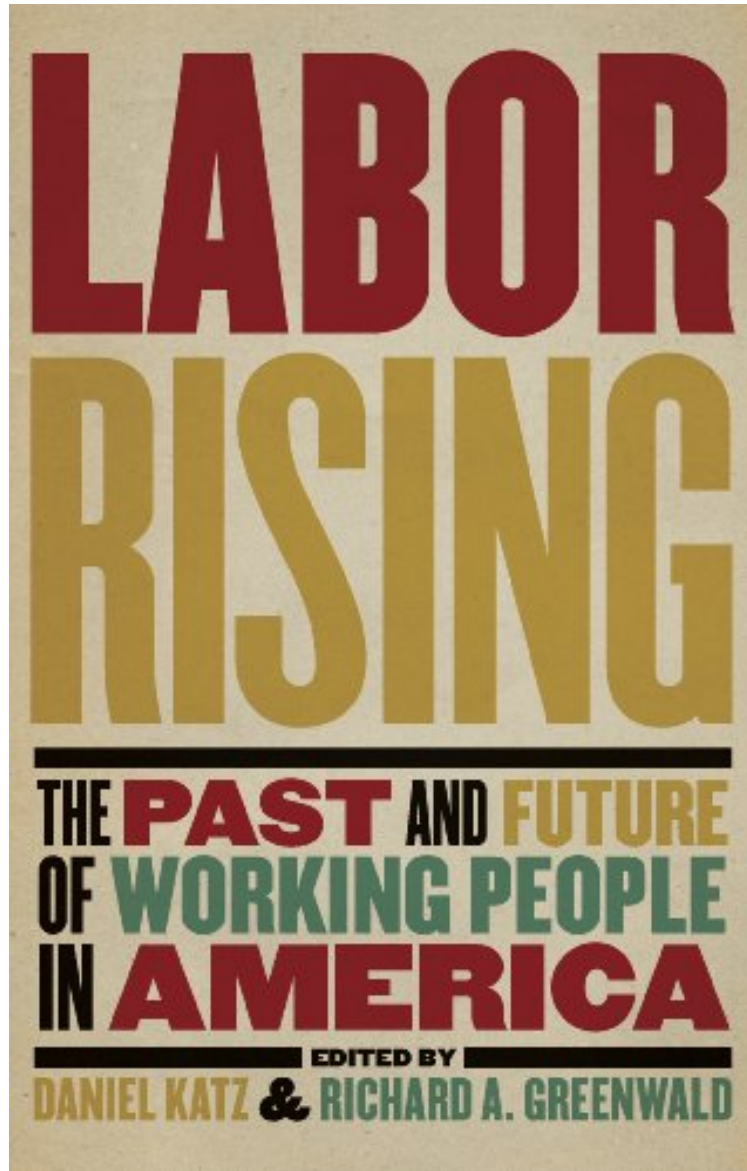


(Mobile library) Labor Rising: The Past and Future of Working People in America

Labor Rising: The Past and Future of Working People in America

Richard Greenwald, Daniel Katz
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Richard Greenwald, Daniel Katz : Labor Rising: The Past and Future of Working People in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Labor Rising: The Past and Future of Working People in America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Where we are; where we could goBy Louis the KingsnakeThis is a great collection of essays. My personal favorite is the first essay by Shelton Stromquist. Stromquist writes of rebuilding the labor movement from the ground up, recasting existing infrastructure to address specific problems at the

community level and building further from this new civic engagement. The rest of the authors provide a kind of collage-portrait of where we as a labor movement are today and identify several interesting avenues by which organized labor can address some of this nation's most pressing problems. This is a measured, thoughtful discussion which is not limited solely to organized labor but also the broad middle class it forged and its centrality to our national health. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. This is not a good sign.

By C. Wagner
The editors maintain the United States is reverting back to an earlier age of history when workers were disposable and offered little in the way of salary and protection. (p. xi.) Historians trace the loss of union power to the 1970s and more specifically the air traffic controllers' strike of 1981. (p.4) And it is not just the fault of the perpetrators but of a society that spends more time discussing reality TV than social issues and politicians who get nervous when stock markets and unemployment decline. There follows a collection of essays that argue for a transformation of the labor movement. Essays examine the history, the present, and the probable future of the labor movement and the actual milieu in which the ninety-nine percent and our offspring have been condemned. Outsourcing and insourcing of a temp nature are exposed and most "new jobs" are shown as low pay, no benefit dead ends. The gig jobs are a highly frightening disenfranchising device engineered to devoid employees of the American dream. Contractual work, 89 day and out temps and independent contractors are totally disposable. The history of labor contains multitudinous examples of how Those Who Rule Over Us use government, courts and police to stymie the unions and the rights of workers. In Washington, one essayist asserts that money can buy anything...not an original thought but one difficult to argue against. Another essayist maintains the Reagan era was not a return to less government but a return to the norm of the gilded age, a beginning of the end of a few generations of prosperity for the worker. Part five: Beyond borders is particularly interesting. In the summary, the authors state: "So there may be a future in labor in the United States. We should hope so, for all of us." Amen, brother. One more book that should be read by us all but which will end up gathering dust on the shelf. The very fact that I am the first to review this book is not a good sign.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
Workers of the World
By Patrick Dougan
Yes there is truth to the statements that these are essays from academia and not union finks. Great arguments here though. Glad to see it stated so boldly true at some points. The next move is tactics. We need a real resurgence of Unions as a Speakerphone to voice grievances.

When Wisconsin governor Scott Walker threatened the collective bargaining rights of the state's public sector employees in early 2011, the massive protests that erupted in response put the labor movement back on the nation's front pages. It was a fleeting reminder of a not-so-distant past when the "labor question"—and the power of organized labor—was part and parcel of a century-long struggle for justice and equality in America. Now, on the heels of the expansive Occupy Wall Street movement and midterm election outcomes that are encouraging for the labor movement, the lessons of history are a vital handhold for the thousands of activists and citizens everywhere who sense that something has gone terribly wrong. This pithy and accessible volume provides readers with an understanding of the history that is directly relevant to the economic and political crises working people face today, and points the way to a revitalized twenty-first-century labor movement. With original contributions from leading labor historians, social critics, and activists, *Labor Rising* makes crucial connections between the past and present, and then looks forward, asking how we might imagine a different future for all Americans.

About the Author
Daniel Katz is a professor of history and dean of labor studies at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland. A former union organizer, he sits on the boards of the New York State Labor History Association and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice. He is the author of *All Together Different: Yiddish Socialists, Garment Workers, and the Labor Roots of Multiculturalism*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. Richard A. Greenwald is a professor of history and social sciences and the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, New York. He blogs on workplace issues for *In These Times* and has written for *The Progressive*, *Businessweek* online, the *Brooklyn Rail*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. His previous books include *The Triangle Fire*, *the Protocols of Peace and the Making of Industrial Democracy in Progressive Era New York* and *Sweatshop USA: The Sweatshop in Global and Historical Perspective*. He lives in Queens, New York.