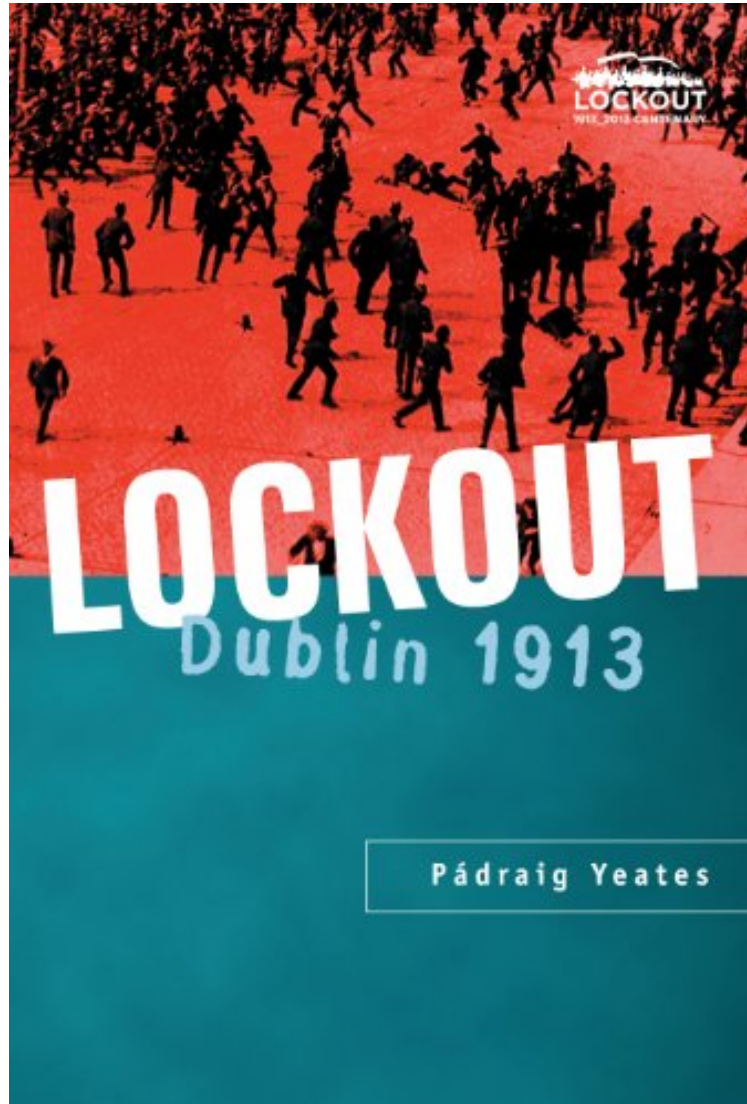


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## Lockout Dublin 1913: The most famous labor dispute in Irish history

*Padraig Yeates*

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**Padraig Yeates : Lockout Dublin 1913: The most famous labor dispute in Irish history** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lockout Dublin 1913: The most famous labor dispute in Irish history:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BERNARD CLARKEGoodles history book4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive History of a Historic Labor DisputeBy M. O'HaraI thought this was an excellent and well-written account of the specific dispute. The length of the book is due to Mr. Yeate's inclusion, properly and informatively so, of the other major issues of the day (Nationalism and Home Rule, the role of

the Catholic Church, Socialism/Syndicalism, suffragism, Unionism and Partition, the 1916 uprising, and WW1). As an Irish-American with only a rudimentary understanding of Irish history, I found this account very valuable as a way to understand the different shades of opposition to English imperialism in Ireland prior to the 1916 Uprising. Reading this history has also helped me immensely in understanding the difficulties in implementing the current Peace Process. It is interesting that, according to Mr. Yeates, no detailed account of this event had been written, although it is frequently mentioned as a lead-up to the 1916 Uprising. As pointed out by Mr. Yeates, the total lack of involvement by Dublin Castle (the English Establishment) in this life-and-death dispute for so many showed the Irish that Irish affairs were very low on the English agenda. The awful and pervasive poverty in Dublin, which inspired the unions to carry out this struggle, was a real indictment of capitalism and English rule of Ireland. My only disappointment was the lack of background and personal information on Jim Larkin, the fiery, inspiring, charismatic, and sometimes-destructive leader of the Transport Workers Union, whose strike against the Dublin trams led to the lockout by a unified group of employers.

On 26 August 1913 the trams stopped running in Dublin. Striking conductors and drivers, members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, abandoned their vehicles. They had refused a demand from their employer, William Martin Murphy of the Dublin United Transport Company, to forswear union membership or face dismissal. The company then locked them out. Within a month, the charismatic union leader, James Larkin, had called out over 20,000 workers across the city in sympathetic action. By January 1914 the union had lost the battle, lacking the resources for a long campaign. But it won the war: 1913 meant that there was no going back to the horrors of pre-Larkin Dublin. This outstanding survey shows why: it has already established itself as the definitive work on the Lockout.

"This volume is essential reading for anyone interested in Irish labour, the history of industrial relations and ... Dublin society in the early twentieth century." -- Dermot Keogh \* The Irish Times \* "... a concentrated, authentic and definitive account of an event that has had a major influence on the political, economic, social and cultural life of this country." -- John Carroll \* Irish Independent \* About the Author Pdraig Yeates is a journalist, trade union activist and author. His other books include *A City in Wartime: Dublin 1914-18* (2011) and *A City in Turmoil: Dublin 1919-21* (2012). At present, he is Industry and Employment correspondent of The Irish Times.