



# WORKING-CLASS AMERICANISM

THE POLITICS OF LABOR IN A TEXTILE CITY,  
1914–1960

WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

**GARY GERSTLE**

# Working Class Americanism

**Gary Gerstle**



## **Working Class Americanism:**

*Working-Class Americanism* Gary Gerstle, 1989 In this classic interpretation of the 1930s rise of industrial unionism Gary Gerstle challenges the popular historical notion that American workers embrace of Americanism and other patriotic sentiments in the post World War I years indicated their fundamental political conservatism He argues that Americanism was a complex even contradictory language of nationalism that lent itself to a wide variety of ideological constructions in the years between World War I and the onset of the Cold War Using the rich and textured material left behind by New England's most powerful textile union the Independent Textile Union of Woonsocket Rhode Island Gerstle uncovers for the first time a more varied and more radical working class discourse Copyright Libri GmbH All rights reserved *Working-Class Americanism* Gary Gerstle, 1995

**The General Textile Strike of 1934** John A. Salmond, 2002

**Our Daily Bread** Geoff Mann, 2012-09-01 A wage is more than a simple fee in exchange for labor argues Geoff Mann Beyond being a quantitative reflection of productivity or bargaining power a wage is a political arena in which working people's identity culture and politics are negotiated and developed In *Our Daily Bread* Mann examines struggles over wages to reveal ways in which the wage becomes a critical component in the making of social hierarchies of race gender and citizenship Combining a fresh analysis of radical political economy with a critical assessment of the role of white men in North American labor politics Mann addresses the issue of class politics and places the problem of interests squarely at the center of political economy Rejecting the idea that interests are self evident or unproblematic Mann argues that workers interests and thus wage politics are the product of the ongoing effort by wage workers to focus on quality in a socioeconomic system that relentlessly quantifies Taking three wage disputes in the natural resources industry as his case studies Mann demonstrates that wage negotiation is not simply emblematic of economic conflict over the distribution of income but also represents critical contests in the cultural politics of identity under capitalism

*Labor Divided* Robert Asher, Charles Stephenson, 1990-01-01 *Labor Divided* is the first anthology on race ethnicity and the history of American working class struggles to give substantial attention to the experiences of African American Asian and Hispanic workers as well as to the experiences of workers from European backgrounds The essays in *Labor Divided* cover a time period of more than a century They focus on the experiences of service workers as well as factory workers women as well as men Because the American labor force presently is absorbing significant numbers of workers from abroad and especially Asian and Hispanic workers this volume will be of great interest to readers seeking historical perspectives on contemporary economic developments

**The Cultural Front** Michael Denning, 1998 As garment workers longshoremen autoworkers sharecroppers and clerks took to the streets striking and organizing unions in the midst of the Depression artists writers and filmmakers joined the insurgent social movement by creating a cultural front Disney cartoonists walked picket lines and Billie Holiday sang *Strange Fruit* at the left wing cabaret Caf Society Duke Ellington produced a radical musical *Jump for Joy* New York garment workers staged the legendary

Broadway revue Pins and Needles and Orson Welles and his Mercury players took their labor operas and anti fascist Shakespeare to Hollywood and made Citizen Kane A major reassessment of US cultural history The Cultural Front is a vivid mural of this extraordinary upheaval which reshaped American culture in the twentieth century **Ballots and Bibles** Evelyn Savidge Sterne,2018-05-31 By the mid nineteenth century Providence Rhode Island an early industrial center became a magnet for Catholic immigrants seeking jobs The city created as a haven for Protestant dissenters was transformed by the arrival of Italian Irish and French Canadian workers By 1905 more than half of its population was Catholic Rhode Island was the first state in the nation to have a Catholic majority Civic leaders for whom Protestantism was an essential component of American identity systematically sought to exclude the city s Catholic immigrants from participation in public life most flagrantly by restricting voting rights Through her account of the newcomers fight for political inclusion Evelyn Savidge Sterne offers a fresh perspective on the nationwide struggle to define American identity at the turn of the twentieth century In a departure from standard histories of immigrants and workers in the United States Ballots and Bibles views religion as a critical tool for new Americans seeking to influence public affairs In Providence this book demonstrates Catholics used their parishes as political organizing spaces Here they learned to be speakers and leaders eventually orchestrating a successful response to Rhode Island s Americanization campaigns and claiming full membership in the nation The Catholic Church must Sterne concludes be considered as powerful an engine for ethnic working class activism from the 1880s until the 1930s as the labor union or the political machine **Working-class Americanism and the Rise of the United Auto Workers** Charles Thomas Williams,2005 **Americanizing the West** Frank Van Nuys,2002 The arrival of immigrants on America s shores has always posed a singular problem once they are here how are these diverse peoples to be transformed into Americans The Americanization movement of the 1910s and 1920s addressed this challenge by seeking to train immigrants for citizenship representing a key element of the Progressives search for order in a modernizing America Frank Van Nuys examines for the first time how this movement in an effort to help integrate an unruly West into the emerging national system was forced to reconcile the myth of rugged individualism with the demands of a planned society In an era convulsed by world war and socialist revolution the Americanization movement was especially concerned about the susceptibility of immigrants to un American propaganda and union agitation As Van Nuys convincingly demonstrates this applied as much to immigrants in the urbanizing and industrializing West as it did to those occupying the ethnic enclaves of cities in the East In Americanizing the West he tells how hundreds of bureaucrats educators employers and reformers participated in this movement by developing adult immigrant education programs and how these attempts contributed more toward bureaucratizing the West than it did to turning immigrants into productive citizens He deftly ties this history to broader national developments and shows how Westerners brought distinctive approaches to Americanization to accommodate and preserve their own sense of history and identity Van Nuys shows that although racism and social control agendas permeated

Americanization efforts in the West Americanizers sustained their faith in education as a powerful force in transforming immigrants into productive citizens He also shows how some westerners especially in California believed they faced a racial frontier unlike other parts of the country in light of the influx of Hispanics and Asians so that westerners became major players in the crafting of not only American identity but also immigration policies The mystique of the white pioneer past still maintains a powerful hold on ideas of American identity and we still deal with many of these issues through laws and propositions targeting immigrants and alien workers Americanizing the West makes a clear case for regional distinctiveness in this citizenship program and puts current headlines in perspective by showing how it helped make the West what it is today

*Youth and the New World* Ralph Philip Boas,1921    **The Class Struggle** ,1968    **Report of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution** Daughters of the American Revolution,1930    The Square Deal ,1914    *Parliamentary Debates* Australia. Parliament,1925    **The Nation** ,1920    **The New Republic** ,1924    **The Pacific Review** Joseph Barlow Harrison,Richard Frederick Scholz,Harvey B. Densmore,1921    Left History ,2006

*International Molders' and Foundry Workers' Journal* ,1898    American Labor in the Era of World War II Sally M. Miller,Daniel Cornford,1995-04-25 The 1940s were a pivotal decade in the history of the American labor movement Large migrations significantly changed the composition of the industrial work force while simultaneously the organized labor movement sought to consolidate its base These essays examine topics including aspects of the institutional development of the labor movement at the national level while west coast case studies explore the conflicts generated at the workplace and in communities by the increased presence of women and minority workers American labor historians and labor studies specialists will find this collection fills a major void in the research on American labor

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