



There Is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America

By Dray, Philip

Anchor, 2011. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: PRAISE FOR THERE IS POWER IN A UNION Kirkus Reviews (starred): Exemplary history of the American labor movement , from its time-shrouded beginnings to its murky present. Working in the tradition of Eric Foner and Studs Terkel, Dray (Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen , 2008, etc.) tells a story of heroes and villains. At the dawn of the republic, he writes, came the "country's fervent hope that its democratic virtues would forge sufficient regard between labor and capital." Alas, it would not be so, and the author locates the origins of a homegrown labor movement in that early avatar of the Industrial Revolution, the mill town of Lowell, Mass.-a movement that was launched by "an unassuming young woman off the farm" who would not take being oppressed by the bosses. As the narrative progresses, a few trends become apparent: the continued recalcitrance of capital when it came to sharing wealth and the increased militancy of labor, especially when its ranks were swelled by immigrants who had been oppressed enough in their home countries. During...

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