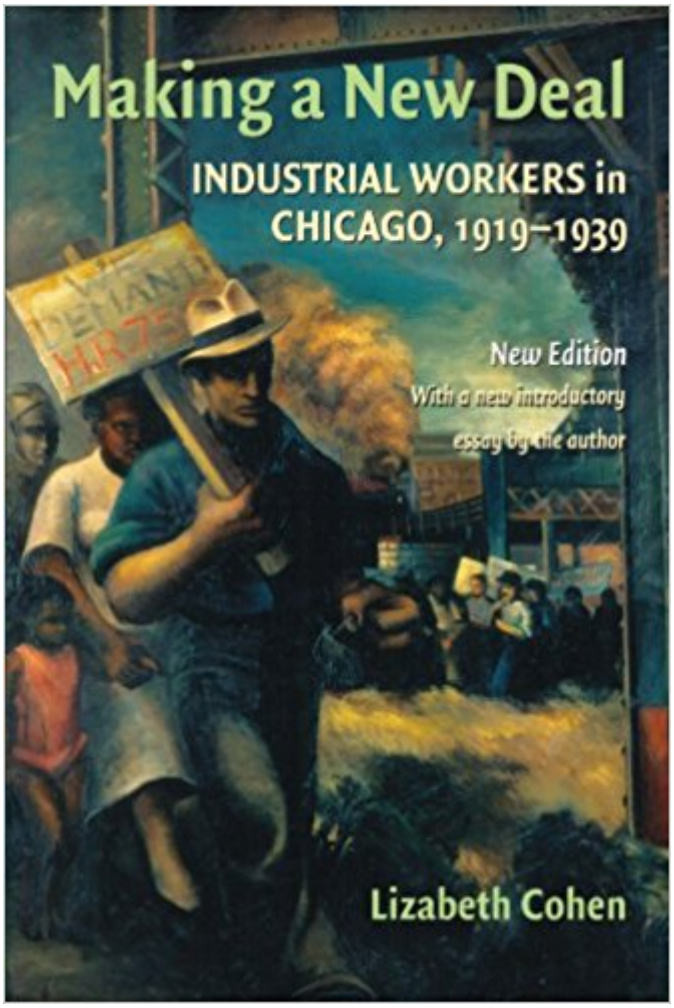
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Making A New Deal: Industrial Workers In Chicago, 1919-1939



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Synopsis

This book examines how it was possible and what it meant for ordinary factory workers to become effective unionists and national political participants by the mid-1930s. We follow Chicago workers as they make choices about whether to attend ethnic benefit society meetings or to go to the movies, whether to shop in local neighborhood stores or patronize the new A & P. Although workers may not have been political in traditional terms during the ’20s, as they made daily decisions like these, they declared their loyalty in ways that would ultimately have political significance. As the depression worsened in the 1930s, not only did workers find their pay and working hours cut or eliminated, but the survival strategies they had developed during the 1920s were undermined. Looking elsewhere for help, workers adopted new ideological perspectives and overcame longstanding divisions among themselves to mount new kinds of collective action. Chicago workers’ experiences as citizens, ethnics and blacks, wage earners and consumers all converged to make them into New Deal Democrats and CIO unionists. First printed in 1990, Making a New Deal has become an established classic in American History. The second edition includes a new introductory essay by Lizabeth Cohen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most chapters in this ambitious study of Chicago’s ethnic workers between the wars could themselves be the basis for a book: workers’ encounter with mass culture; their response to 1920s welfare capitalism; the Depression’s effects; the turn toward Democratic politics; and the embrace of

organized labor. Cohen has used a vast range of sources to show that these episodes are interrelated and to make the overall point that far from bobbing upon history's tides, workers were agents of their own fortune during a period opening with labor in disarray and ending in strength. If on some points her arguments are strained, the richness of Cohen's book makes it an essential purchase for research libraries, and a useful item in many other academic collections.- Robert F. Nardini, N. Chichester, N.H.Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is an impressive and hefty piece of work." Times Higher Education Supplement"It is at moments like this that new perspectives on the past, like Lizabeth Cohen's in Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939, are particularly welcome...She reaches beyond narrow specialties historians still indulge in...to draw on the insights and methodologies of community studies, ethnic histories, gender studies, political history (new and old), cultural criticism and social history." David Nasaw, The Nation"This is a terrific book. Cohen skillfully uses a mass of sources to paint a richly detailed portrait of working-class life in the 1920s and 1930s. We see working people as central actors in a vast twentieth-century historical drama that had been previously told as the story of either elites (corporate heads, government bureaucrats, etc.) or of impersonal social forces (bureaucratization, nationalization, etc). And we see how workers who are in the forefront in their relations to the new mass culture, in their relations with workers from other ethnic and racial groups, also turn out to be in the vanguard in the creation of the new industrial unionism of the 1930s." Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University"Cohen has dared to take for her subject the working class of a whole metropolitan area (Chicago)--an ambition that immediately sets this work apart from virtually every other interwar labor history written these last twenty years (which have focused either on particular industries or smaller industrial cities). She has researched prodigiously...and used the extraordinarily rich archives of interwar Chicago sociologists to shower the reader with wonderful insights into local, working-class life. And, she has woven aspects of ethnic and mass cultural history into her story of working-class formation in a manner that I have not seen done before. For all these reasons she may have the makings of a landmark book." Gary Gerstle, Princeton University"About welfare capitalism Lizabeth Cohen remarks that understanding it `requires reconstructing as well as possible how people encountered the ideology in concrete ways everyday at the plant.' To a remarkable degree, Cohen accomplishes this daunting task, and not only for welfare capitalism, but for all those other questions social historians have asked about America's immigrant working classes: how did they respond to the nationalizing consumer culture of the

1920s? What impact did the Great Depression have on their communities? Why did they attach themselves to the New Deal? How did industrial unionism become the vehicle for their empowerment? ...Cohen brings to bear an enormous body of new evidence, and for all of them she offers arresting and well-founded fresh insight. Her book will be widely read, and much pondered. It marks a giant advance in the social history of American workers, and is beyond question a great achievement." David Brody, University of California, Davis"...the richness of Cohen's book makes it an esential purchase for research libraries, and a useful item in many other academic collections." Library Journal"Combining a graceful synthesis of the familiar with the innovative, this landmark study will elevate the perceptions of social historians who read it, as they must." Choice"This book will be of interest to a wider audience than just labor historians. Students of ethnicity, mass culture, the urban experience, and American politics will find something stimulating here. Lizabeth Cohen has woven an impressive variety of primary sources together with the existing rich scholarship on Chicago to produce a significant contribution to our understanding of U.S. history between the wars." American Historical Review"In scholarly but never dull prose, the author, a Carnegie Mellon University historian, examines this fascinating social phenomenon as reflected in Chicago's labor history." Chicago Sun-Times"...a classic of social history. Working at the crossroads of historical materialism and American progressivism, it is a model of humane realism that neither celebrates assimilation nor harbors false illusions about radical alternatives to the New Deal....[Cohen] deserves our utmost thanks." Alan Dawley, International Labor and Working Class History --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This work removes the agency of the New Deal from FDR and places it in the hands of the working class, primarily Chicago.There is probably some truth in that.This is a good book in the study of what the working class went through during the depression, it will give you insight.It is well written, easy to read, and very well documented.

this is a very technical book on economis of early Chicago

Making a New Deal is an absolutely incredible look at workers during the Interwar period in Chicago. Cohen has crafted a monumental work that not only covers workers political and union organization but also covers the changes in their lives resulting from societal changes such as the advent of radio and the chain store.What's particularly appealing and interesting about this book is also what it says about modern times. Cohen discusses that due to the advent of radio and national

networks, fewer workers got their local and world news from ethnic newspapers or other papers in Chicago. As can be seen from this, the current lement concerning the consolidation of newspapers, TV and radio stations isn't new, it began even in the 1930s. Also interesting is how many immigrant parents worried about their children becoming influenced by American culture that they did not understand, particularly clubs, dance halls and radio music.Cohen's work is profoundly important and most of the book is a great read.

I am using this book for a class. Interesting.

This book is an absolute labor of love! You can easily picture Chicago in the 1920's and 1930's while reading the book, and witness the ebb and flow of politics, personalities, ethnicity, and the economy. A great study of Chicago, labor relations, and humanity in Chicago between the wars.

Absolutely the most boring material I have ever read. Almost impossible to truly understand the case study at hand

I wanted to use this book for one of my classes, as I had used parts of it in the past for another class and my professor recommended it me I quickly went to to find it. It took about a week to arrive with regular shipping but expedited shipping is also an option. I would buy from here again.

I received the book within less than a week and the price was phenomenal! I only paid $0.25 for the book. A lot better than the $27.80 I would have had to pay at the CSUDH campus bookstore. Just for the price alone I would definitely go with this seller again.

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