

Solidarity Unionism: Rebuilding the Labor Movement from Below

Staughton Lynd

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STAUGHTON LYND SOLIDARITY UNIONISM


REBUILDING THE
LABOR MOVEMENT FROM BELOW



INTRODUCTION BY
IMMANUEL NESS

CARTOONS BY
MIKE KONOPACKI

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Staughton Lynd : Solidarity Unionism: Rebuilding the Labor Movement from Below before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Solidarity Unionism: Rebuilding the Labor Movement from Below:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great viewpoint on the labor movement! By Kindle Customer This book covers a view of the labor movement that isn't run-of-the-mill. A new attitude that isn't so new, but needs to be exploited. Also living in an Ohio Steel town that has seen its better days I can resonate with many aspects of this

story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is an accessible good read on labor. By J. DeCaro This is an accessible good read on labor. You do not need to be an academic to understand the history, or the concepts and ideas presented. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Glen H. Sandberg Good copy, good delivery, extra copy to pass around.

Critical reading for all who care about the future of labor, *Solidarity Unionism* draws deeply on Staughton Lynd's experiences as a labor lawyer and activist in Youngstown, Ohio, and on his profound understanding of the history of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). The book helps us begin to put not only movement, but also vision, back into the labor movement. There is a blossoming of rank-and-file worker organizations throughout the world that are countering rapacious capitalists and labor leaders who think they know more about work and struggle than their own members. To secure the gains of solidarity unions, Lynd has proposed parallel bodies of workers who share the principles of rank-and-file solidarity and can coordinate the activities of local workers' assemblies. Detailed and inspiring examples include experiments in workers' self-organization across industries in steel-producing Youngstown, as well as horizontal networks of solidarity formed in a variety of U.S. cities and successful direct actions overseas. This book is not a prescription but reveals the lived experience of working people continuously taking risks for the common good.

Solidarity Unionism is based in a vision of genuine democracy. It's accessibly written and rich in practical examples. I've used it successfully in study groups and labor education courses both to draw out and learn from participants' own experiences and to plan our next steps in struggles. Challenging some of what are conventionally thought of as "wins" (e.g. dues checkoff or signed contracts), the book impels the kind of strategic thinking otherwise lacking in most of labor and the left. — Norm Diamond, former president, Pacific Northwest Labor College, and coauthor, *The Power in Our Hands*