SPECIAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY
for the third edition of
AMERICAN WORKERS, AMERICAN UNIONS
by Robert Zieger and Gilbert Gall

The bibliographical essay that appears below is the same, with a few errors corrected, as that which appears in the second edition, of American Workers, American Unions (1994). The third edition contains chapter bibliographies but does not include this essay. Those consulting this essay need to keep a couple of things in mind, to wit:

1. It does not include any publications that have appeared since 1994--for these, consult the chapter bibliographies in the third edition.
2. Since the third edition has eight chapters, including an all-new opening chapter, the chapter references in this essay are off by one. We have noted below in brackets the correct chapter number to correspond with those in the third edition.
3. The main body of the essay can be read as an indication of the state of scholarship relating to U.S. labor history, ca. 1920-85, the dates of coverage of the first edition, as it existed in the mid-1980s. As indicated by both the 1994 update appearing at the end of the essay and the chapter bibliographies in the third edition, twentieth century U.S. labor history continues to be blessed with an outpouring of scholarship that shows no signs of diminishing. On the other hand, much of the work of contemporary scholars in industrial relations, sociology, labor economics, and related fields remains basic and has not been replaced by historical scholarship. Hence, many of the citations in the first and second edition remain useful, indeed even essential. For example, much of the work cited in support of the original Chapters 5-6 (6-7 in the third edition) remains unsurpassed and of great use to students of labor in the 1950s and 1960s.

Bob Zieger and Gil Gall
December 1, 2002
Bibliographical Essay [1986; 1994]


General Themes


**Biography and Memoir**


**Labor and the Left**

Organized radicalism has been the subject of intense scholarly and polemical investigation. Those who would understand the 1930s and 1940s especially must attempt to get a handle on the ideologies, positions, and passions of the various left-wing organizations as they intersected with the labor movement at this critical juncture. Standard works on American socialism include David A. Shannon, *The Socialist Party of America: A History* (1955); Murray B. Seidler, *Norman Thomas: Respectable Rebel* (1961); W. A. Swanberg, *Norman Thomas: The Last Idealist* (1976); and Frank A. Warren, *An Alternative Vision: The Socialist Party in the 1930s* (1974).


CHAPTER 1

[Chapter 2 in third edition; but note that citations to work on labor and World War I do not appear here. See the third edition for these.]


For labor history, the outstanding work is Irving Bernstein, *The Lean Years: A History of the American Worker, 1920-1933* (1960), a remarkable and wide-ranging achievement. Important articles include Frank Stricker, “Affluence for Whom?: Another Look at Prosperity and the Working Class in


**CHAPTER 2**

[Chapter 3 in third edition]


**CHAPTER 3**

[Chapter 4 in third edition]


Pacific Historical Review 42 (1973): 443-78, is filled with information and insights. Finally, two World War II novels--Harvey Swados, Standing Fast (1970), and Harriette Arnow, The Dollmaker (1954)--repay reading.

CHAPTER 4

[Chapter 5 in third edition]


*Fortune* magazine’s paeans to American capitalism are summarized in its publication *USA: The Permanent Revolution* (1951). There is no adequate account of postwar collective bargaining gains, but see Taft, *Organized Labor*, cited above under “General Themes,” for basic information. The pages of *Fortune*, whose labor editor, Daniel Bell, was an astute observer, and of the *New York Times*, which had several able reporters on the labor beat, brim with information about labor’s objectives and postwar contracts. The radical publication *Labor Action* also covered negotiations in basic industry very capably. Maeva Marcus, *Truman and the Steel Seizure Case: The Limits of Presidential Power* (1977), is informative on the 1952 steel strike, while Jack Stieber, “Labor’s Walkout from the Korean War Wage Stabilization Board,” *Labor History* 21 (1980): 239–60, illuminates an important episode.


**CHAPTERS 5 AND 6**

[Chapters 6-7 in third edition]


The special circumstances of black workers are ably recounted in books by Harris and Foner, cited under “General Themes” above. See also F. Ray Marshall, The Negro and Organized Labor (1965). Herbert Hill’s indictment of organized labor’s racial policies is found in Black Labor and the American Legal System: Race, Work, and the Law (1974), while William Gould, Black Workers in White Unions (1977), is an outstanding scholarly study. B. J. Widick, Detroit: City of Race and Class Violence (1972), depicts the Motor City’s racial tensions. Brooks, Toil and Trouble, cited under “General Themes” above, has good material on the DRUM phenomenon. See also James A. Geschwender, Class, Race, and Worker Insurgency (1977), and John C. Leggett, Class, Race, and Labor: Working-Class Consciousness in Detroit (1968). Goulden, Meany; Barnard, Reuther; and Anderson, Randolph, all cited under “Biography and Memoir” above, have important material on blacks and the labor movement. Essays in Julius Jacobson, ed., The Negro and the American Labor Movement (1968), are strong on post-World War II developments; see especially Harold M. Baron and Bennett

perceptive analysis focusing on the UAW’s contracts with General Motors.


Organized labor’s foreign policy operations are scathingly attacked from the left in Ronald Radosh, *American Labor and United States Foreign Policy: The Cold War in the Unions from Gompers*...


[Material added for the second edition, 1994, begins now.]

CHAPTER 7

[In the third edition Chapter 8, which includes almost entirely new material, replaces this chapter. Many of the citations below should continue to be useful but they do not specifically support the material in the final chapter of the third edition. For the text to which they related, see Robert H. Zieger, *American Workers, American Unions* (Johns Hopkins University Press; 2d ed., 1994), pp. 193-205.]


Two recent symposiums offer perspectives on ongoing developments. See “Labor’s Future in the United States,” special issue of *Dissent* (Winter 1992), which contains articles by David Brody, Robert Reich, Nick Salvatore, Alice Kessler-Harris, and others, and “The New Face of Labor,” *The American Prospect*, 14 (Summer 1993), with contributions from Katherine Stone, John Hoerr, Denis MacShane, and others.

**NEW RESEARCH**

[This material was added for the second edition; see chapter bibliographies in the third edition for further updates.]

Since the initial publication of *American Workers, American Unions* in 1986, the historical
literature on the subject has continued to expand. Not only has the volume of published work been great, historical scholarship has grown more variegated and sophisticated as well. The bibliographical update below makes no claim to comprehensiveness. With a few exceptions, it is restricted to book-length works.


of the Cold War consensus in the autoworkers’ union.
