

Proclamation. These chapters are fascinating, and they also serve to illuminate the tragic character of race relations at the time that abolition of slavery was finally confronted by Americans.

*Black Troops* is a valuable book. Concerned with an important aspect of the Civil War, it is thoroughly researched, finely written, and highly informative. It reminds us that the war cast a long shadow. We stand in that shadow today.

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*United We Stand: The United Mine Workers of America, 1890–1990.* By Maier B. Fox. ([Silver Spring, Md.]: United Mine Workers of America, 1990. Pp. vii, 609. Notes, sources, illustrations, table, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

“Coal fueled the industrial revolution” (p. i). With that bit of wordplay, Maier B. Fox opens his centennial history of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), probably the most influential union in the nation’s history. Fox traces the life of the UMWA in what will certainly become a key source for students of that union and of coal mining in general. Just as important, he provides a powerful reminder of the contributions made by progressive, socially conscious unionism.

Fox begins by briefly stressing the importance of the UMWA, noting that it has not only focused on improving the lot of miners but has at times provided vital leadership to the United States labor movement and has been a pioneer in the field of social legislation and innovative contractual arrangements. He further notes that, while individual leaders and events associated with the union have been studied, there is no available comprehensive history of the organization.

With the stage set, Fox moves on to a roughly chronological discussion of the union’s first century. This is, by design, primarily an institutional history, focusing on leaders, organization, strikes, contract negotiation, and legislation. Of course, the expected high points appear: the union’s birth struggle in the late nineteenth century; the exciting John Mitchell period; the emergence of John L. Lewis as leader; Lewis’s purges of opponents in the 1920s, especially those on the Left, and his sudden (some would say opportunistic) embrace of aggressive organizing and politicking during the 1930s; and the difficulties, political and economic, of the post-Lewis years. Moreover, Fox frequently makes brief forays into such matters as community, ideology, and similar topics of current interest to working-class historians.

Fox also goes beyond what might be expected. For instance, he devotes significant attention to health and welfare issues, which were of particular importance to workers engaged in a dangerous occupation like mining but are often glossed over as merely another job benefit issue by outside observers. His attention to Canadian members reminds readers that the United Mine Workers of *America* was not solely of the United States.

Unfortunately, the Hoosier state receives relatively little attention. Strikes, minor incidents, state legislation, and other Indiana items briefly appear, as do some Hoosier labor leaders, but on the whole other midwestern states receive more notice, particularly Illinois and Ohio. This presumably reflects both the role played by the various states in the union's history and the paucity of District 11 records.

Although this book is published by the UMWA, Fox has not painted a uniformly positive picture. For example, he describes Lewis's frequently dictatorial methods and discusses the 1969 murder of defeated UMWA presidential candidate Jock Yablonski. While there is room for more serious critique of some topics—for instance, a strong case can be made that Lewis's purges in the 1920s robbed the union of a corps of effective, visionary leaders—on the whole Fox provides a balanced presentation.

A book of this type serves as a reference source. However, source notes are not used in the text; rather, a list of sources appears at the end of each chapter. This makes it difficult to trace Fox's sources. A glossary of coal mining-related terms and a more complete discussion of the technical process of mining would be helpful, as would lists of national officers and tables of membership totals.

For those interested in coal mining and working-class history, *United We Stand* provides a valuable overview of the union's history and countless ideas for future research. It also provides a much-needed reminder of the vital role progressive unionism has played in this nation's past and of the poverty of a body politic in which that influence has become all too often weak and ineffectual.

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*Singing the Glory Down: Amateur Gospel Music in South Central Kentucky, 1900–1990.* By William Lynwood Montell. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1991. Pp. xi, 248. Map, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.00.)

The paucity of scholarly interpretations of American gospel music may stem from a failure among historians to recognize the importance of the musical arts as an indicative component of cul-