



Why Unions Matter

By Michael D. Yates

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In this new edition of **Why Unions Matter**, Michael D. Yates shows why unions still matter. Unions mean better pay, benefits, and working conditions for their members; they force employers to treat employees with dignity and respect; and at their best, they provide a way for workers to make society both more democratic and egalitarian. Yates uses simple language, clear data, and engaging examples to show why workers need unions, how unions are formed, how they operate, how collective bargaining works, the role of unions in politics, and what unions have done to bring workers together across the divides of race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. The new edition not only updates the first, but also examines the record of the New Voice slate that took control of the AFL-CIO in 1995, the continuing decline in union membership and density, the Change to Win split in 2005, the growing importance of immigrant workers, the rise of worker centers, the impacts of and labor responses to globalization, and the need for labor to have an independent political voice. This is simply the best introduction to unions on the market.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Yates, an economics professor and labor educator whose earlier books focused on workers legal rights (Power on the Job, South End, 1994), here seeks to cover a much broader canvas: how labor unions work, the victories they have won on the battlefields of sexism and racism, and an argument for unions as the sole means by which working people can obtain dignity, equity, and power. Written in a personal, anecdotal style, yet well documented, this book is particularly successful in the chapters that focus on the nuts and bolts of union activities (collective bargaining, structures, organizing), an area largely ignored by current business and political literature. For this reason alone it is a valuable addition to large public and academic libraries. Donna L. Schulman, Cornell Univ. Libs., Ithaca, NY
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Review

"A comprehensive, readable introduction to the history, structure, functioning, and yes, the problems of United States unions. For labor and political activists just coming on the scene or veterans looking for that missing overview, this is the best place to start."

—Kim Moody, founder of Labor Notes, author of *Workers in a Lean World* and *U.S. Labor in Trouble and Transition*

About the Author

Michael D. Yates is Associate Editor of *Monthly Review* and the author of *Why Unions Matter* and *The ABCs of the Economic Crisis* (with Fred Magdoff).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martina Smith:

The book Why Unions Matter give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book Why Unions Matter to get your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a guide Why Unions Matter. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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Matter is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Patricia French:

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Joseph Gabriel:

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