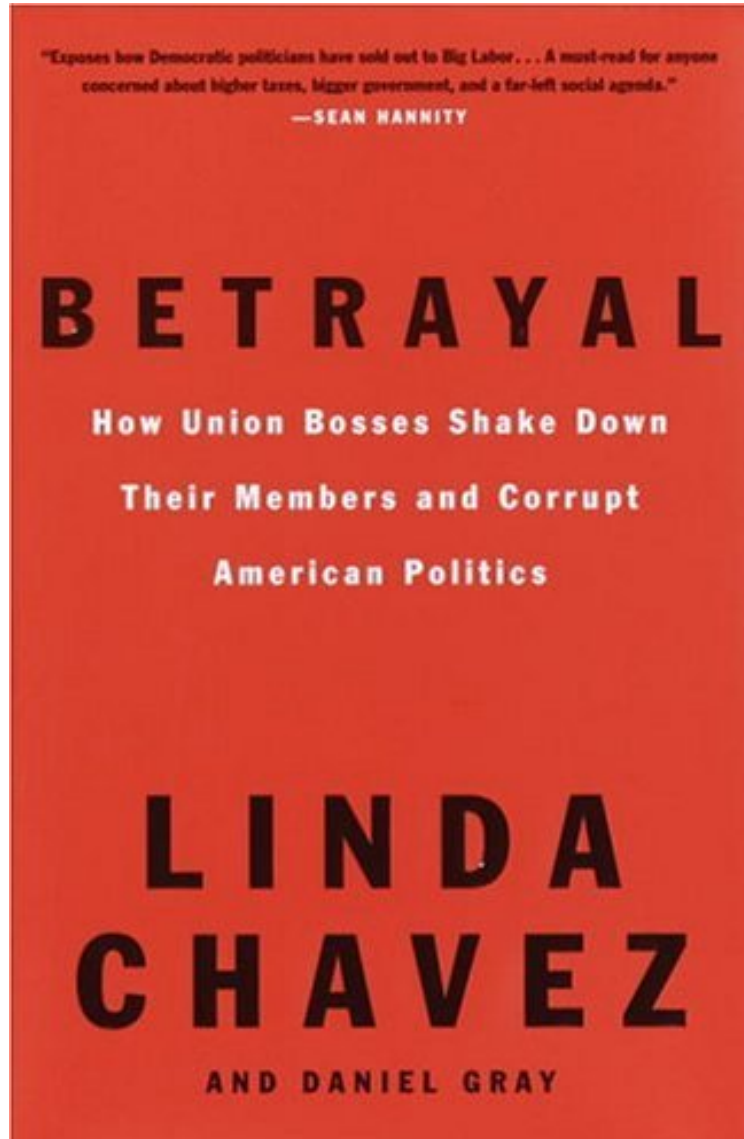


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Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics

Linda Chavez, Daniel Gray
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Linda Chavez, Daniel Gray : Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lisa R. Hansford 100% Satisfied. 15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. The root of the problem By Andrew S. Rogers Henry David Thoreau gave a clear-eyed

description of politics and life (as well as inspired the name of one of my favorite web sites) when he wrote, "There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root." Today, for all the seeming thousands of books hacking at Haliburton, Big Oil, swift boats, who-lied-about-what, and all the other leafy branches of American politics, at least one book has finally struck at the root: The massive and growing Big Labor political empire. In another memorable quote, Thomas Jefferson once said something along the lines that "To force a man to pay for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical." "Betrayal," by Linda Chavez and Daniel Gray, is the story of how this sin and tyranny has come to be visited on us through the government-granted power of forced unionism, and how all of American politics has been twisted as a result. Indeed, from the presidency to local school boards, it's hard to find any political arena where the forced-dues-fueled Big Labor political machine isn't a -- or *the* -- most significant power. In fact, Big Labor's political power dwarfs that of corporations, the various "special interests," and even the political parties themselves. The authors give us chapter and verse, figures, footnotes, and lots of disturbing stories. The special legal privileges enjoyed by Big Labor, up to and including immunity from prosecution for committing acts of violence, should be especially disturbing to anyone who believes in a level playing field. It's a shame that this book probably won't get the attention it deserves. Anyone who doubts that the political game is by and large a fixed one needs to open these pages and discover that far more than Big Oil, Skull and Bones, or various other alleged Illuminati "running the country," the hands really pulling the strings belong to the labor union bosses. 16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. "On The Waterfront" -- circa 2004 By RGA book the union leaders would rather you didn't read! Few teachers, for instance, are fully aware of just how political teachers' unions have become over the years and how their own hard-earned money--paid out each month in membership dues--fuels the partisan political machine that the National Education Association (NEA), for example, has converted itself into. Other major unions have gone down the same road. As the authors lay out in chilling detail, the union movement in general no longer fights for better and safer working conditions for its members--but rather for revenues and political power. The continued inflow of dues money has become an obsession at union headquarters, and what they're able to do with this mountain of wealth and just how they go about it makes for unsettling reading. A riveting look at behind-the-scenes American politics.

Simply put, the leftist labor unions have the Democrats in their pockets. And we're all paying the price. Linda Chavez, President George W. Bush's original choice for Secretary of Labor and a former union official, is one of the foremost authorities on America's labor unions. Now, in the explosive new book *Betrayal*, she and fellow union expert Daniel Gray expose the corrupt bargain between the labor movement and the Democratic Party. Committed to a far-left political agenda and to enhancing their own power, union bosses funnel at least half a billion dollars into Democratic coffers every year. And they do it, illegally, by using dues money that workers are forced to pay as a condition of their employment--dues money that each year brings the unions \$17 billion, all of it tax-free. What do labor bosses get in return? The power to call the shots in Democratic campaigns and on party policy, extraordinary influence at all levels of government, billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded federal grants, and special legal privileges that leave them free to act as they please, no matter the consequences for the American people. The cycle of corruption is seemingly endless. Chavez and Gray name names, exposing the many politicians who are in Big Labor's pocket--including the leading lights of the Democratic Party. *Betrayal* also reveals: • Big Labor's all-out efforts in the 2004 election, including how just one local union has launched a \$35-million campaign to unseat President Bush; • How corrupt union officials use members' hard-earned money to fund lavish lifestyles; and how their Democratic supporters let them get away with it; • How unions flout the law by failing to report any of their political spending to the IRS; • How a government report uncovered the Democrats' sellout to Big Labor--but how the unions and the Democrats sued to keep the report from going public; • How the U.S. government lets unions practice legalized terrorism against American citizens; • How public-employee unions extort concessions from the government and put Americans at risk by refusing to provide vital services like policing and firefighting; • How Americans now live under a system of legal apartheid--one set of rules for labor bosses, another for the rest of us. All of us foot the bill for this corrupt system. Now it's up to us to do something about it. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly: America's labor unions pour money into the Democratic Party in pursuit of a "socialist," big government political agenda and have abandoned their mission of collective bargaining, contend Fox pundit Chavez (An Unlikely Conservative) and Gray, a consultant for Stop Union Political Abuse. What makes this worse than corporate bosses funding Republicans, they note, is that labor's pelf comes from the "forced dues" of workers who don't individually consent to union political donations. Chavez, a former union official and Bush labor secretary nominee, and Gray, a former National Right to Work Committee official, make some charges stick. They show that unions do give a lot of money to, and wield a lot of clout with, Democrats, with the usual problems of corruption and favoritism that big money special-interest politics entails. But by the authors' own accounting, unions spend less than 5% of their money on politics--a percentage that, they concede, workers can get refunded from their dues, albeit

with some difficulty. And when Chavez and Gray show unions sticking to winning better pay, better benefits and lighter workloads for their members, they damn them for bankrupting companies and driving jobs abroad. At that point, the book's critique of unions' excesses shades into a one-sided attack on their very existence. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Chavez, conservative political analyst and former union professional, and coauthor Gray describe what they consider the betrayal of American workers by union leaders. Rather than representing the needs of their members, union leaders are focused on politics and self-serving government policy. This is a strongly worded tome with such chapter titles as "Putting the Public at Risk," "An Affair to Remember: Bill Clinton and the Unions," "Teachers' Unions: Deep-Pocketed Protectors of Mediocrity," and "Money, Mansions, and Mobsters: Union Corruption." The authors' reform proposals include stopping labor from spending members' dues on politics without their permission, giving workers flexibility and options outside of unions, and opening up union books. They tell us, "Union bosses have been successful to date largely because most Americans are oblivious to the corruption, influence-peddling, and power-brokering that goes on in labor unions today." While academics and think tanks will be the audience to ponder the authors' claims the most, it is certain that their views will resonate with a defined segment of the voting public this election year. Mary Whaley Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Exposes how Democratic politicians have sold out to Big Labor. . . A must-read for anyone concerned about higher taxes, bigger government, and a far-left social agenda." —Sean Hannity "There probably isn't a better book available on how unions corrupt politics." —John J. Miller, National Labor Relations Board "Meticulously documents how the NEA and many other labor unions . . . have constructed political organizations tied directly to the Democratic Party. . . . Proponents of campaign finance reform like to claim that the recent McCain-Feingold law got the 'big money' out of politics. Well, some of the big money never left, as Ms. Chavez and Mr. Gray show so vividly." —Wall Street Journal From the Trade Paperback edition.