

[Download] By The Ore Docks: A Working People's History Of Duluth

By The Ore Docks: A Working People's History Of Duluth

Richard Hudelson

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*

By the Ore Docks RICHARD HUDELSON AND CARL ROSS
A Working People's History of Duluth

 **Download**

 **Read Online**

#1378146 in eBooks 2006-11-02 2006-11-02File Name: B0078MGYY4 | File size: 70.Mb

Richard Hudelson : By The Ore Docks: A Working People's History Of Duluth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By The Ore Docks: A Working People's History Of Duluth:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A History of DuluthBy Acute ObserverBy the Ore DocksRichard Hudelson is a professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, Superior, and the author of two other works. Carl Ross was a labor activist and the author of "The Finn Factor in American Labor, Culture, and Society". He was the director of a Project of the Minnesota Historical Society. Duluth, near the Iron Range of Minnesota, was

the site of vast steel, lumber, and shipping industries, whose people worked in the railroad yards, grain elevators, and harbor. This 2006 book has 338 pages for its Contents, ten chapters, Notes, and Index. Hudson came to Duluth as an academic at the local university in 1977 (Preface). The Treaty of La Pointe in 1854 opened the north shore for non-Indian settlement and Duluth began growing in the 1880's (Introduction). The arrival of the steel trust put an end to worker control of the city until the 1930's. Swedes and Finns predominated in population, then others from eastern and southern Europe, African-American, and Asians moved there. Chapter 1 tells about the "Labor Roots". Lumber, iron, and copper were natural resources developed, grain was shipped from the region. Wages were higher in Duluth, so too living costs. A strike in 1888 got a rise in wages, another occurred in 1889 when wages were cut back. Strikes were often ethnic conflicts (p.21). Chapter 2 discusses the labor unrest of the 1890's (the worst economic depression of the 19th century). The Knights of Labor and Good Templars promoted the temperance movement, but it was controversial and divided the labor movement. There was a division between Protestants and Catholics. All this split the laboring vote. Duluth shipped Mesabi iron ore and landed coal as fuel for the railroads and mining operations (p.43). The steel industry was militantly anti-union. Class struggles continued with ethnic conflicts (Chapter 3). Immigrants were a majority of the industrial working class by 1909 (p.62). There were conflicts between right-wing and left-wing Socialists (p.67). Many former strikebreakers joined the 1916 strike (p.69). Newspaper coverage was distorted to benefit the mining companies. Businesses who sided with the miners were refused credit (p.71). Americans were divided in sympathy when WW I began, but the vast majority united in April 1917 (Chapter 4). The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety was given sweeping powers, the real power in Duluth was in the hands of big business (p.77). The IWW was attacked. Former congressman Charles A. Lindbergh supported those who saw the war as serving big business (p.84). Alien radicals supported the Revolution in Russia, federal agents arrested thousands. There was concern about the immigrants from southern and eastern Europe (Chapter 5). There were courses in Americanization (p.101). Immigrants formed fraternal societies. A common culture Americanized immigrants, sports replaced gymnastics [which exercised the whole body]. There was a movement for Fundamentalism religion (p.111). The Klan members were often lay leaders or clergymen from the main Protestant churches, pillars of their communities. The 1924 law ended open immigration to the US. The wartime economy raised wages for most workers (Chapter 6). The end of the war brought strikes for better conditions and wages. Big business influenced local governments, businesses, and churches (p.133). The Non Partisan League led to the Farmer-Labor Party, a third party in Minnesota. The FLP was largely Scandinavian in the 1920's (p.157). There was a religious divide between Catholics and Protestants. The lack of secret ballots discouraged FLP votes (p.160). The Great Depression brought political changes (Chapter 7). Iron mining declined but not grain production. People needed food, clothing, and shelter; private charities ran out (p.165). Only the government could supply needs. The WPA provided employment to build or repair roads, bridges, buildings, schools, parks, sewers, etc. (p.170). The Federal National Recovery Act approved trade unions and provided jobs to the unemployed (p.179). Industrial unions were formed for unskilled workers (p.187). The "Popular Front" policies began around 1935 (Chapter 8). They supported civil rights and racial justice (p.207). The Farmer-Labor Party advocated many of the policies that became part of the New Deal (Chapter 9). There were conflicts among its supporters. The Hitler-Stalin pact and the Soviet Winter War on Finland affected politics by revealing Muscovite sympathizers. The end of WW II saw the end of the Popular Front (Chapter 10). Support for the war effort avoided conflicts that would disrupt production. The end of price controls after the war provoked a wave of strikes (p.257). The Cold War caused conflicts (p.259). The 1948 election meant change for Duluth (Epilogue). The dismantling of industries eroded the gains of working-class families. People moved away. Duluth remains one of the most organized cities in the country (p.273). Around 1976 there was a popular song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" about an iron ore freighter that sank without a trace during a November storm. This interested me in this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Probing the Awkward By State to State Regardless of your political leanings, this is an outstanding volume. It is obvious that this was well researched and it is very well referenced. It does an excellent job of decoding the stunningly complex agendas of the capitalist spectrum, from labor intimidation, split labor tactics, and controlling the social relations of production, through paternalistic/humanitarian impulses. Conversely, it also examines the labor movement, from basic concerns about conditions and wages through multiple level power-plays, with an equally critical eye. In a similar fashion, the book also penetrates the specifics of myriad ethnic issues and "Unhyphenated Americanism" going well beyond a simple "veneer approach". This is a sobering and even-handed approach, without a Horatio Alger or L'Internationale bent, that breaches the most taboo of U.S. political topics: "The S Word". If you find it wordy or preachy, imagine walking and working in the laborer's shoes and you should be cured. Although I'm not sure you will "Feel the Bern". As trade unionism wanes, this book becomes increasingly important for postmodern audiences. Lest we forget - lessons for both sides.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant and engaging. By ER-C If you were wondering how the Communists became part of the local governing coalition in Duluth, this is the book for you--but there's a lot more here as well. Explores the history of Duluth's multi-ethnic working class from the city's 19th century roots through the Second World War, a period that saw the rise of a left wing "Popular Front" in local politics. Highly recommended.

Located on the shore of Lake Superior near the Iron Range of Minnesota and, for much of its history, the site of vast steel, lumber, and shipping industries, Duluth has been home to people who worked tirelessly in the rail yards, grain elevators, and harbor. Here, for the first time, *By the Ore Docks* presents a compelling, full-length history of the people who built this port city and struggled for both the growth of the city and the rights of their fellow workers. In *By the Ore Docks*, Richard Hudelson and Carl Ross trace seventy years in the lives of Duluth's multi-ethnic working class—Scandinavians, Finns, Italians, Poles, Irish, Jews, and African Americans—and chronicle, along with the events of the times, the city's vibrant neighborhoods, religious traditions, and communities. But they also tell the dramatic story of how a populist workers' coalition challenged the "legitimate American" business interests of the city, including the major corporation U.S. Steel. From the Knights of Labor in the 1880s to the Industrial Workers of the World, the AFL and CIO, and the Democratic Farmer-Labor party, radical organizations and their immigrant visionaries put Duluth on the national map as a center in the fight for workers' rights—a struggle inflamed by major strikes in the copper and iron mines. *By the Ore Docks* is at once an important history of Duluth and a story of its working people, common laborers as well as union activists like Ernie Pearson, journalist Irene Paull, and Communist party gubernatorial candidate Sam Davis. Hudelson and Ross reveal tension between Duluth's ethnic groups, while also highlighting the ability of the people to overcome those differences and shape the legacy of the city's unsettled and remarkable past. Richard Hudelson is professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. He is the author of, among other works, *Marxism and Philosophy in the Twentieth Century* and *The Rise and Fall of Communism*. Carl Ross (1913–2004) was a labor activist and the author of *The Finn Factor in American Labor, Culture, and Society*. He was director of the Twentieth-Century Radicalism in Minnesota Project of the Minnesota Historical Society.

About the Author RICHARD HUDELSON teaches courses in philosophy and humanities at Duluth Community College Center, the College of St. Scholastica, and the University of Minnesota, Duluth.