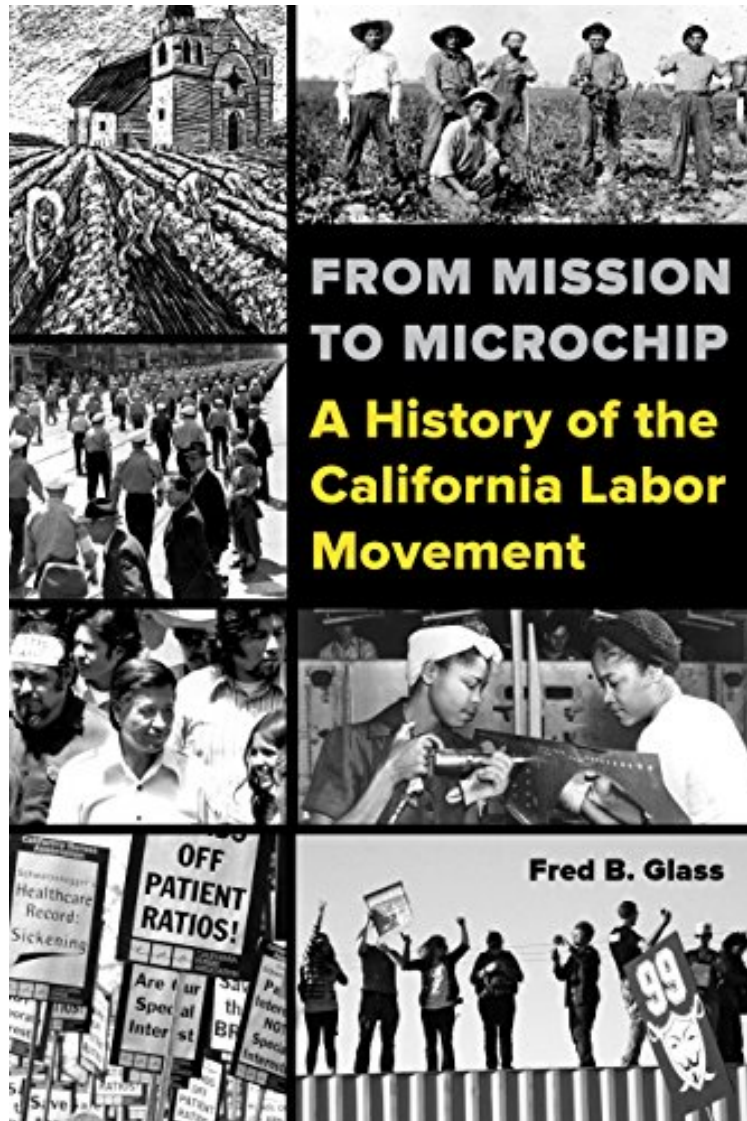


From Mission to Microchip: A History of the California Labor Movement

Fred Glass

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1935 book, while still valuable for specialists, is out of date and is not an easy read. David Selvin's two short volumes on the subject, although still useful as well, were published decades ago and don't have the comprehensive coverage offered by Glass's book. The Glass volume is remarkable in its readability and its mastery of what is a very broad subject. One of the strengths of the book is the author's frequent use of individual stories to personalize major historical events. Everyone--scholar, worker, union activist, student, or "concerned member of the reading public" -- should get and read MISSION TO MICROCHIP. Thank you. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thorough and reader friendly. By Customer Thorough beyond my expectations and very well written. Much more reader friendly than most academic work, can be enjoyed by scholars and the rest of us too.

There is no better time than now to consider the labor history of the Golden State. While other states face declining union enrollment rates and the rollback of workers' rights, California unions are embracing working immigrants, and voters are protecting core worker rights. What's the difference? California has held an exceptional place in the imagination of Americans and immigrants since the Gold Rush, which saw the first of many waves of working people moving to the state to find work. From Mission to Microchip unearths the hidden stories of these people throughout California's history. The difficult task of the state's labor movement has been to overcome perceived barriers such as race, national origin, and language to unite newcomers and natives in their shared interest. As chronicled in this comprehensive history, workers have creatively used collective bargaining, politics, strikes, and varied organizing strategies to find common ground among California's diverse communities and achieve a measure of economic fairness and social justice. This is an indispensable book for students and scholars of labor history and history of the West, as well as labor activists and organizers.

"[Glass] takes on California's industrial history, the whole beastly golden expanse of it, and tries to figure out what connects the struggles of workers across time and space... [he] has managed to catalogue the most meaningful moments for working people in the biggest state in the union."