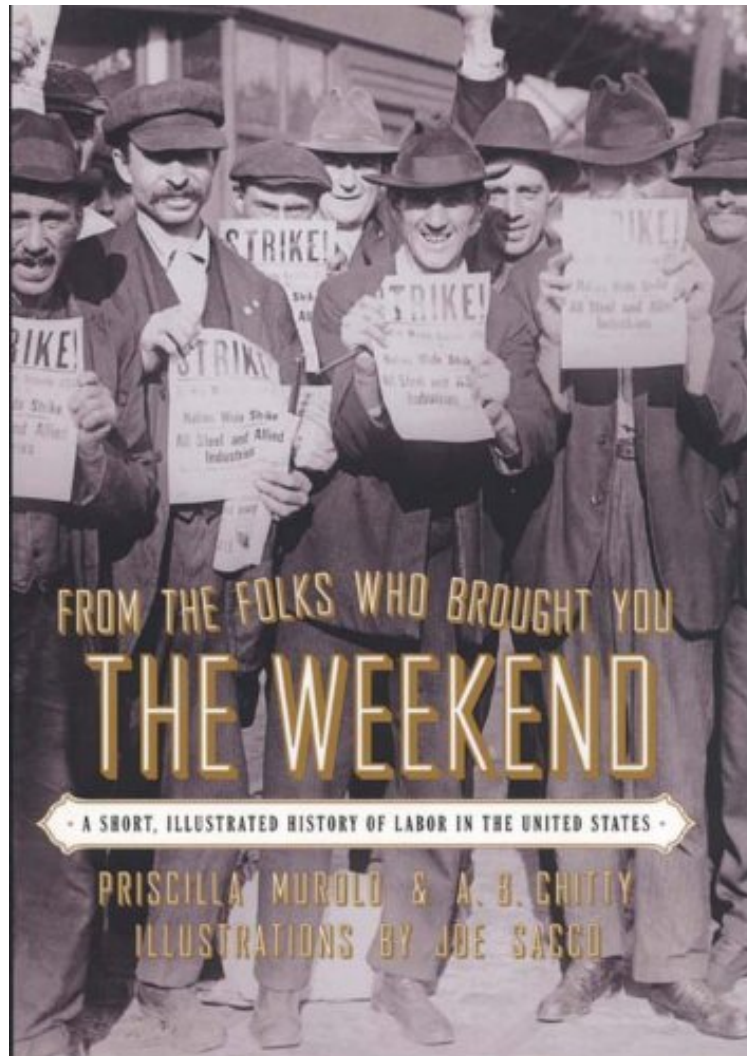


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From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short, Illustrated History of Labor in the United States

Priscilla Murolo, A. B. Chitty

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Priscilla Murolo, A. B. Chitty : From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short, Illustrated History of Labor in the United States before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short, Illustrated History of Labor in the United States:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. RevolutionaryBy William H. DuBayLike Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States," this work shows the great depth and breadth of the workers struggle in the story of America. From the days of the American War of Independence, workers united against every form of slavery, dominance, and exploitation. Their struggles won the 40-hour week, the 8-hour day, the end of child labor, workplace

safety laws, and the minimum wage. These great accomplishments created the middle class in America and the highest standard of living in history. The capitalistic class fiercely fought union organization at every step, using police, goon squads, and state and federal troops to harass, gas, attack, beat, arrest, shoot, and, massacre strikers and organizers. The workers' strike is the prototype of all non-violent resistance. The workers' movement spawned and supported many initiatives of social justice, including the vote for women and blacks, equality in the workplace, the rights of immigrants, gays, Native Americans, and the poor, and protection of the environment. The capitalist class remains more powerful than ever. The workers and their movement show us what must be done and what struggles remain ahead to change the system.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good
By gnoacute;stis tis miacute;a anyacute;parkti
Quick read, not perfect but better than a lot of things you could be reading designed to alienate you from your fellow workers and sabotage your life by promoting pro 1% ideologies

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By jmartinenot a lot of detail but a great thumbnail of the American Labor Movement

Hailed in a starred Publishers Weekly review as a work of "impressive even-handedness and analytic acuity . . . that gracefully handles a broad range of subject matter," *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend* is the first comprehensive look at American history through the prism of working people. From indentured servants and slaves in the seventeenth-century Chesapeake to high-tech workers in contemporary Silicon Valley, the book "[puts] a human face on the people, places, events, and social conditions that have shaped the evolution of organized labor" (Library Journal). *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend* also "thoroughly includes the contributions of women, Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, and minorities, and considers events often ignored in other histories," writes Booklist, which adds that "thirty pages of stirring drawings by 'comic journalists' Joe Sacco add an unusual dimension to the book."

From Publishers Weekly
Management's perpetual dream of cheap labor explains the invention of slavery, though few may couch it in those terms. Drawing such connections with impressive evenhandedness and investigative and analytic acuity, this readable popular history covers U.S. labor from precolonial times to the late 1960s, with two short chapters on the last few decades. Brandishing little-known facts, the authors reshape common views of social history. Remarkably, for instance, hundreds of black indentured servants came to the colonies from Africa in the 1600s, and throughout the century, as the "peculiar institution" was legalized, these free men and women were forced into slavery. Less astonishing but still significant, the Wobblies pushed as much for free speech as union organizing, and their newspapers were illustrated by famous avant-garde artists. Sometimes the authors simply highlight an obvious fact that has languished in obscurity for instance, that the American Revolution was sparked by the discontent of working people, not the wealthy or landowning, or that many defenders of slavery believed that all labor should be enslaved. Murolo (who teaches American history at Sarah Lawrence College) and Chitty (a librarian at Queens College) gracefully handle a broad range of subject matter Chinese railroad labor is considered alongside housework and steel-mill work making it easier to understand the complex historical relationships between work, gender, ethnicity, race, immigration and sex. (Sept.)
Forecast: Accessible to high school students as well as adults, this extraordinarily fine addition to U.S. history and labor literature could become an evergreen paperback comparable to Howard Zinn's award-winning *A People's History of the United States*.
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From Library Journal
Chitty (librarian systems officer, Queens Coll., CUNY) and Murolo (history, Sarah Lawrence Coll.) have constructed a useful but flawed history of labor in America, starting with the arrival of Columbus in 1492 and ending with the election of George Walker Bush to be the 43rd President of the United States. The book's greatest strength is in putting a human face on the people, places, events, and social conditions that have shaped the evolution of organized labor. Also useful is the book's list of suggested readings. Its greatest weaknesses include the authors' obvious bias against business for example, they focus on class privilege, industrial capitalism, and the accumulation of wealth by a limited number of individuals while ignoring the vast number of small business owners who, like their workers, are challenged to survive in a rapidly changing global economy and the lack of footnotes, citations, or a thorough bibliography, all of which could be useful for students, scholars, and citizens interested in increasing their knowledge of this very important topic. Perhaps a better buy for both academic and public libraries would be *Rekindling the Movement: Labor's Quest for Relevance in the Twenty-First Century* (LJ 7/01). Not a priority purchase. Norman B. Hutcherson, California State Univ., Bakersfield
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From Booklist
Murolo teaches American history at Sarah Lawrence College; Chitty is a librarian systems officer at Queens College in New York. Even with such recent titles as Paul LeBlanc's *A Short History of the U.S. Working Class: From Colonial Times to the Twenty-First Century* (1999), Jacqueline Jones' *A Social History of the Laboring Classes: From Colonial Times to the Present* (1999), and a new edition of Melvyn Dubofsky's classic *Labor in America: A History* (1999), Murolo and Chitty's book is important, because it devotes more attention to the impact of globalism on working Americans and considers recent changes in the labor movement as reflected by the election of the "New Voice" slate to the leadership of the AFL-CIO. As did the authors of the aforementioned works, Murolo and

Chitty also begin in colonial America; but their survey more thoroughly includes the contributions of women, Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants, and minorities, and considers events often ignored in other histories. Thirty pages of stirring drawings by "comic journalist" Joe Sacco add an unusual dimension to the book. David RouseCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved