

The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism, 1945-1968

The United Auto Workers (UAW) was a major force in the rise of American liberalism in the postwar era. The union's success in organizing workers and winning collective bargaining agreements led to a number of important reforms, including the passage of the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. The UAW also played a key role in the civil rights movement and the fight for social justice.



The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism, 1945–1968 by Kevin Boyle

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Organizing Workers

The UAW was founded in 1935 by a group of workers at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. The union quickly spread to other auto plants across the country, and by the end of the 1930s, it had become one of the largest and most powerful unions in the United States.

The UAW's success was due in part to its aggressive organizing tactics. The union used sit-down strikes and other forms of direct action to force employers to recognize it as the bargaining agent for their workers. The UAW also benefited from the passage of the National Labor Relations Act in 1935, which guaranteed workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Collective Bargaining

Once the UAW had organized a majority of workers in a particular plant, it would negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with the employer. These agreements typically included provisions for wages, hours, working conditions, and grievance procedures.

The UAW's collective bargaining agreements helped to improve the lives of auto workers in a number of ways. The agreements led to higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. They also gave workers a voice in the workplace and helped to protect them from arbitrary treatment by management.

Social Activism

In addition to its work on behalf of auto workers, the UAW was also active in a number of social and political causes. The union supported the civil rights movement and the fight for social justice. The UAW also played a key role in the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, which established a minimum wage and overtime pay for workers.

The UAW's social activism helped to make it one of the most popular and respected unions in the United States. The union's commitment to social

justice and its willingness to take on powerful interests made it a symbol of the progressive movement in the postwar era.

The Legacy of the UAW

The UAW's legacy is one of fighting for the rights of workers and promoting social justice. The union's success in organizing workers and winning collective bargaining agreements helped to improve the lives of millions of Americans. The UAW's social activism also helped to shape the course of American history. The union's commitment to civil rights and social justice made it a powerful force in the fight for a more just and equitable society.



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