

REBEL VOICES

An IWW Anthology

Edited by Joyce W. Kornbluh

Welcoming women, Blacks, and immigrants long before most other unions, the Wobblies from the start were labor's outstanding pioneers and innovators, unionizing hundreds of thousands of workers previously regarded as "unorganizable." Wobblies organized the first sit-down strike (at General Electric, Schenectady, 1906), the first major auto strike (6,000 Studebaker workers, Detroit, 1911), the first strike to shut down all three coalfields in Colorado (1927), and the first "no-fare" transit-workers' job-action (Cleveland, 1944). With their imaginative, colorful, and world-famous strikes and free-speech fights, the IWW wrote many of the brightest pages in the annals of working class emancipation.

Wobblies also made immense and invaluable contributions to workers' culture. All but a few of America's most popular labor songs are Wobbly songs. IWW cartoons have long been recognized as labor's finest and funniest.

The impact of the IWW has reverberated far beyond the ranks of organized labor. An important influence on the 1960s New Left, the Wobbly theory and practice of direct action, solidarity, and "class-war" humor have inspired several generations of civil rights and antiwar activists, and are a major source of ideas and inspiration for today's radicals. Indeed, virtually every movement seeking to "make this planet a good place to live" (to quote an old Wobbly slogan), has drawn on the IWW's incomparable experience.

Originally published in 1964 and long out of print, *Rebel Voices* remains by far the biggest and best source on IWW history, fiction, songs, art, and lore. This new edition includes 40 pages of additional material from the 1998 Charles H. Kerr edition from Fred Thompson and Franklin Rosemont, and a new preface by Wobbly organizer Daniel Gross.

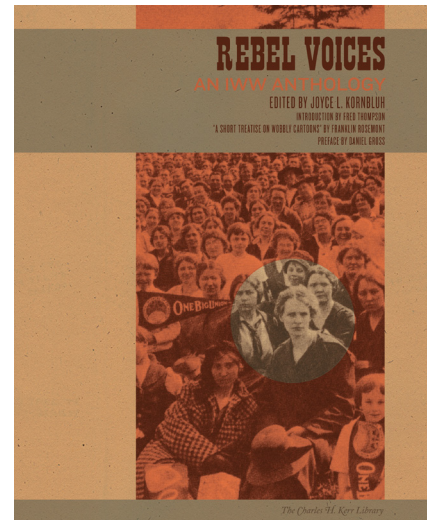
ABOUT THE EDITOR

Joyce L. Kornbluh, workers' educator, labor historian, and community activist—retired from the Labor Studies Center, University of Michigan. She is the author of *A New Deal for Workers' Education: The Workers' Service Program, 1934–1943*, and co-author of *Rocking the Boat: Union Women's Voices 1917–1975*.

ACCOLADES

"Not even the doughtiest of capitalism's defenders can read these pages without understanding how much glory and nobility there was in the IWW story, and how much shame for the nation that treated the Wobblies so shabbily." —*New York Times Book Review*, on the 1964 edition

"The IWW blazed a path in industrial history and its influence is still felt today. Joyce Kornbluh has performed a valuable service to unionism by compiling this comprehensive anthology on the more militant side of labor history." —*Southwest Labor*



SUBJECT CATEGORY
HISTORY/ LABOR/
POLITICS

PRICE
\$27.95

ISBN
978-1-60486-483-0

PAGE COUNT
464

SIZE
8.5 X 11

FORMAT
PAPERBACK

PUBLICATION DATE
09/11

DISTRIBUTED BY
Independent Publishers Group
(312) 337-0747
www.ipgbook.com

◆ **PM PRESS** ◆
P.O. Box 23912
Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org

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