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## Review of *Save Our Unions*. Steve Early. Reviewed by Luke Elliott-Negri

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create jobs. In this he is clearly a Hooverite. And his pitiful stimulus effort showed it. Canova connects this failure of jobs creation to the backlash of the 2010 midterm elections. Had he attacked and defeated unemployment first, argues Goldberg, his reform of health care might have had more enthusiastic support.

Though I have emphasized Roosevelt's successes, this book is no hagiography. It is as alert to the failures of the New Deal as to Obama's missed opportunities. There is still time to learn from both.

*Robert D. Leighninger, Jr., University of California, Berkeley*

Steve Early, *Save Our Unions*. Monthly Review Press (2013). \$19.95 (paperback), 344 pages.

*Save Our Unions* is a sprawling collection of essays, covering everything from the Bread and Roses strike of 1912 to the current struggles of the British Labour Party. The text includes movie and book reviews, as well as journalistic accounts of many contemporary U.S. labor struggles, and even author Steve Early's personal experience over many years of working for the Communication Workers of America (CWA). The book will offer practitioners a wealth of details with strategic implications for ongoing efforts. Academics will find hints of theory throughout, and a series of cases with implications for long-standing debates in labor and social movement studies.

The seven thematic sections are bookended by an introduction and conclusion that contain a positive assessment of Sol Roselli's National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW). The union was formed in the midst of a an intra-Service Employees International Union (SEIU) conflict that came to the surface in early 2009 when the SEIU International Union placed Roselli's massive California-based SEIU Local union under trusteeship in a successful effort to remove him from power. Indeed Early's assessment of the conflict is woven throughout the book, and anyone curious to understand the recent labor movement civil wars—about which the author has written extensively in his book *The Civil Wars in US Labor*—will be thoroughly engaged.

The first section of *Save Our Unions* addresses several cases

of intra-union movements for greater democracy, including Teamsters for a Democratic Union and Minors for Democracy, analyzing the successes and failures of these projects in useful detail. Section two provides an account of the labor movement's failure to come to the rescue of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) in their infamous defeat at the hands of Ronald Reagan and goes on to assess the prospects for the strike's revival today. The third section covers two seemingly disparate topics: salting—that is, union activists who get rank and file jobs in order to organize—and global campaigns that involve strategies developed in coordination with unions in other countries. Both tactics, Early argues, require “organizing for the long haul.”

The subsequent section critically analyzes the labor movement's relationship to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and healthcare reform more generally. In the fifth section, Early draws on his extensive organizing experience with the CWA to offer a detailed assessment of organized labor's current prospects in the telecom industry. Section six opens with a nod to the sociologist C. Wright Mills (who is mentioned in passing several times throughout *Save Our Unions*), drawing on his early writing, when Mills still believed in the transformative potential of organized labor. The section assesses labor leaders past and present from William “Wimpy” Winpisinger of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) to Mary Kay Henry of SEIU. The seventh and final section offers a compelling general analysis of the exceptionally progressive Vermont, as well as an up-to-date assessment of the state's success in moving forward “single payer” healthcare legislation, even as the insurance-friendly ACA continues to roll out at the national level.

Though there is no single unifying argument to *Save Our Unions*, certain themes emerge throughout, namely the importance of internal union democracy, the centrality of slow-building, one-on-one organizing, and the key role of militant leaders and a politically independent left in the labor movement's fortunes. Early offers those interested in the U.S. labor movement a rare combination of insider detail and critical distance. And while much academic theory leans on the language of structure to explain movement outcomes, the agency

of labor activists and, to some extent, powerful business interests, are laid bare in the text. Early is particularly concerned with the role of labor leaders and activists in the decline of the labor movement and in its potential for revival. Yet the story of the past decades is as much one of tragically brilliant business-side strategists as it is of failed labor leadership. Early mentions a number of clever business-side maneuverers—such as Verizon’s success in the early 2000s at slipping out of a CWA-won neutrality agreement, which was supposed to have made new organizing easier and more direct for many workers on the east coast—but a comprehensive effort to ‘save our unions’ would benefit from understanding these efforts in even greater detail.

In short, *Save Our Unions* is a book filled with a diverse array of first-hand and secondary source labor movement analysis that will be of interest both to practitioners and academics, particularly scholars of labor relations and social movements.

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Leslie Irvine, *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*. Lynne Rienner (2013). \$55.00 (hardcover), 140 pages.

In the United States, the sociological study of homelessness and the homeless has a rich history, beginning with Nels Anderson’s seminal work in the 1920s. In the 1980s, we saw a resurgence of interest in the topic as homelessness became a recognized social problem for the first time and again during our latest recession in the late 2000s. There has always been, however, a lack of research on the specific subpopulation of the homeless who have animals. Leslie Irvine, sociologist and self-proclaimed humaniac, addresses this important subpopulation in her book, *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*.

Irvine collected stories from homeless persons with animals in four locations across the nation. From that experience she developed a typology of homeless persons with animals roughly based on Snow and Anderson’s (1993)