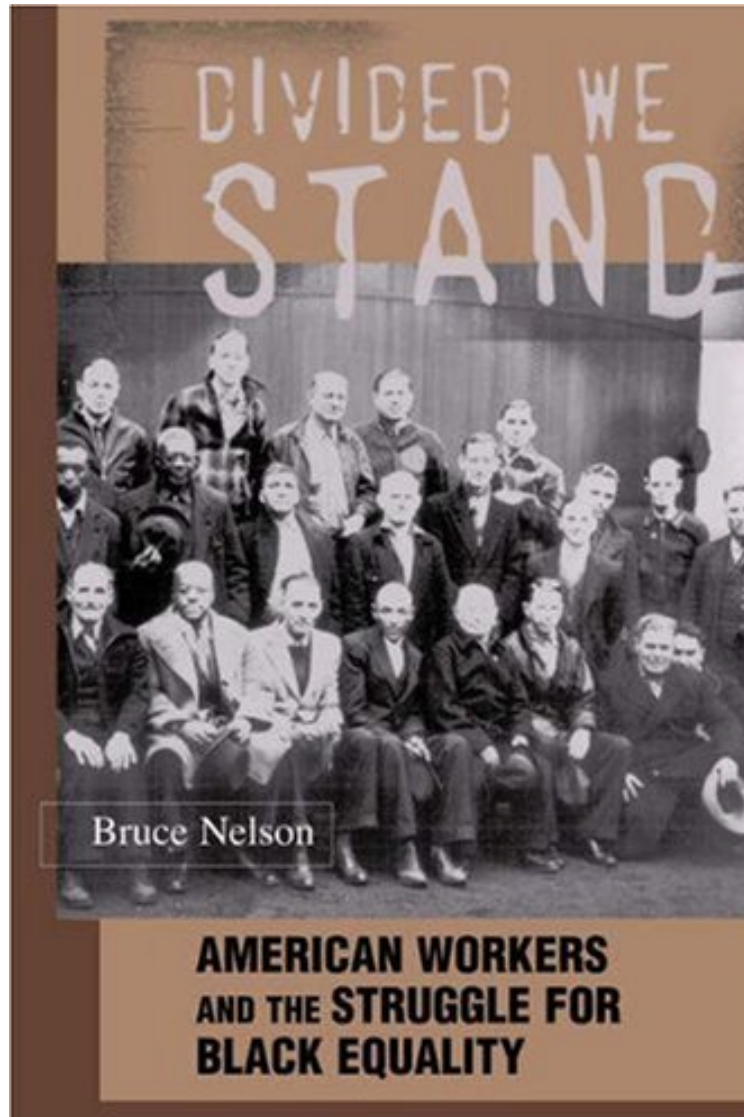


(Mobile ebook) Divided We Stand

Divided We Stand

Bruce Nelson

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#3879735 in Books Princeton University Press 2001-01-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.24 x 6.43 x 9.521, 1.68 #File Name: 0691017328424 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Bruce Nelson : Divided We Stand before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Divided We Stand:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Divided We Stand By N. J. Parker This was a very revealing study of how blacks were systematically kept at the bottom of two industries in the U.S. - dock workers and steel processors. Immigrant groups came into the country at the bottom but gradually worked their way up one group after another. This was not allowed to blacks - if they tried to move ahead they would often be putting their lives in danger. It was a hard

book to read - not because of the writing which was excellent - but because of the harshness of the content. In spite of that, I feel it is important for white people to understand that being free from slavery was, in many ways, not the whole story for former slaves.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. An important story, well told. By Roderick O. Mullett Bruce Nelson, a Dartmouth history professor has the seanachí (Irish story teller) gene. The story is of the role played by racial/ethnic identity in the working class. It commences in the nonunion era and comes up to almost the present time. It is told in significant detail, looking at many unions and zeroing in on the longshore unions and Steelworkers. It demonstrates the fluidity and yet persistent influence of racial/ethnic identities, Irish identity having been most transformed and the "white" perception of African Americans being the most unchanged. Nelson laments the failure of working class identity to have trumped racial/ethnic identity. He does not address the rightness/wrongness of Affirmative Action today, but his story should give substantial pause to any belief that ethnocentrism has suddenly ceased to exist.

Divided We Stand is a study of how class and race have intersected in American society--above all, in the "making" and remaking of the American working class in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Focusing mainly on longshoremen in the ports of New York, New Orleans, and Los Angeles, and on steelworkers in many of the nation's steel towns, it examines how European immigrants became American and "white" in the crucible of the industrial workplace and the ethnic and working-class neighborhood. As workers organized on the job, especially during the overlapping CIO and civil rights eras in the middle third of the twentieth century, trade unions became a vital arena in which "old" and "new" immigrants and black migrants forged new alliances and identities and tested the limits not only of class solidarity but of American democracy. The most volatile force in this regard was the civil rights movement. As it crested in the 1950s and '60s, "the Movement" confronted unions anew with the question, "Which side are you on?" This book demonstrates the complex ways in which labor organizations answered that question and the complex relationships between union leaders and diverse rank-and-file constituencies in addressing it. *Divided We Stand* includes vivid examples of white working-class "agency" in the construction of racially discriminatory employment structures. But Nelson is less concerned with racism as such than with the concrete historical circumstances in which racialized class identities emerged and developed. This leads him to a detailed and often fascinating consideration of white, working-class ethnicity but also to a careful analysis of black workers--their conditions of work, their aspirations and identities, their struggles for equality. Making its case with passion and clarity, *Divided We Stand* will be a compelling and controversial book.

From Publishers Weekly The battle for worker's rights in the U.S. has always coexisted with the battle for racial equality, yet these two constituencies have often been on opposing sides. The tortuous process by which predominantly white unionized labor groups gradually came to grips with their history of racial exclusion forms the background of this superbly written, intellectually exciting and pioneering book. A history professor at Dartmouth College, Nelson weds detailed research with in-depth interviews, oral histories and his own first-hand experience (he worked union shop jobs before attending graduate school), producing a study of labor's struggle with race and a critique of the tendency of "new labor history" to ignore blacks and excuse white racism. With grace and acuity, Nelson unites his far-ranging concerns, from the overt racism of many 19th-century Roman Catholic clergy who helped white immigrants organize and the history of companies using blacks who had been excluded from unions as strikebreakers to the deep-seated conflicts between the AFL and CIO over race policies and the use of red-baiting to attack those who attempted to fully integrate unions. In assembling this history, Nelson successfully argues that race and ethnicity have long been central issues in the labor movement. (Jan. 12) Forecast: Like Noel Ignatiev's influential *How the Irish Became White* and David Roediger's classic *The Wages of Whiteness*, this book has the potential to profoundly change how we read and think about American history. If it garners the review attention it deserves, it could find a solid audience among readers who enjoyed those books. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A superbly written, intellectually exciting and pioneering book . . . Nelson weds detailed research with in-depth interviews, oral histories and his own first-hand experience . . . With grace and acuity, Nelson unites his far-ranging concerns [and] successfully argues that race and ethnicity have long been central issues in the labor movement . . . This book has the potential to profoundly change how we read and think about American history."--Publishers Weekly "This study moves labor historians one step closer to the overarching synthesis that has eluded them for over 30 years . . . This is an important piece of scholarship that deserves wide attention and debate."--Choice "A powerful and disturbing book about the nature of race relations in working-class America."--Peter Cole, *History: s of New Books* "A valuable contribution to the increasingly acrimonious debate over the meaning, content, and significance of white racial identity in American labor history."--Steven A. Reich, *Journal of Southern History* "By placing working-class white racism and black resistance strategies at the forefront of his study, Nelson's *Divided We Stand* reinforces recent scholarship on the interplay of class and race formation in nineteenth and twentieth century United States and African American history."--Joe W. Trotter, *Journal of American Ethnic History* "A landmark study of race and trade unionism in longshoring and steel from the rise of heavy industry in the late 1800s to its decline in the 1980s. . . . Nelson digs

deeply into archival sources and oral interviews to describe real workers and their shop-floor experience in compelling detail."--Frank Towers, *The Historian From the Inside Flap*"Few books fundamentally reshape intellectual and political debates. This one deserves and promises to do so. No scholar since W.E.B. Du Bois has brought to the study of race and labor in the United States such broad sweep, human detail, and conceptual sophistication. None has given us an account which so aptly combines balanced judgments with a tone which is at once tragic and sympathetic."--David Roediger, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign"Divided We Stand skillfully examines the complex and often contradictory history of the American labor movement through the shifting contexts of racial and class hierarchies. Superbly crafted and clearly argued, *Divided We Stand* explains how and why race was so central to the making of the white American working class. In this impressive study, Bruce Nelson shows how the new labor history should be written."--Manning Marable, Columbia University"Divided We Stand is our twenty-first-century 'Making of the American Working Class.' Combining the passion and insight of E. P. Thompson and W.E.B. DuBois, Bruce Nelson tells the story of class and racial formation on the docks and steel mills and explains why solidarity can never be built on mere 'stomach equality.' While presenting an irrefutable case for white racism as American labor's Achilles's heel, Nelson never accepts the outcome as a *fait accompli*. On the contrary, you will discover challenges to white supremacy, paths not taken, and possibilities not yet realized that can point the way to the unmaking of American racism and the remaking of a revitalized labor movement built on racial justice."--Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class*"In a series of important articles over the past few years, Bruce Nelson has established himself as one of the foremost historians writing on the explosive issue of race and labor in the twentieth century. *Divided We Stand* is therefore a much-anticipated book. It will attract a good deal of attention, and deservedly so. It is an outstanding work of history."--Kevin Boyle, University of Massachusetts