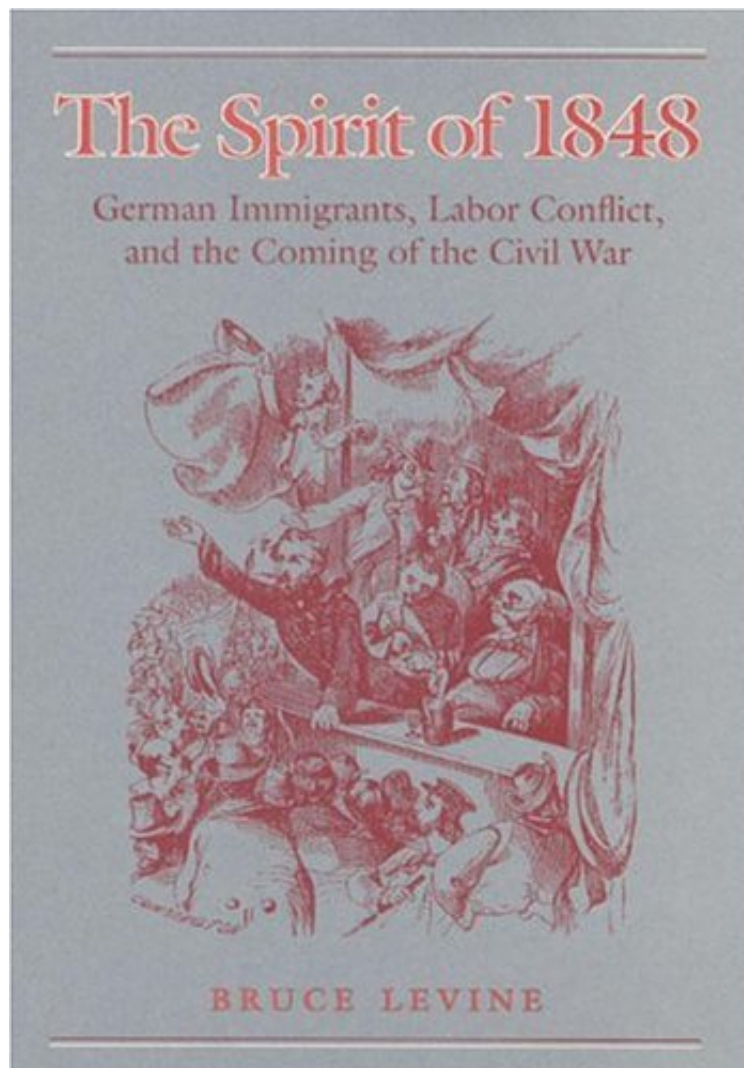


[Download pdf ebook] The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War (Working Class in American History)

The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War (Working Class in American History)

Bruce Levine

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Bruce Levine : The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War (Working Class in American History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War (Working Class in American History):

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An important topic; parts are a bit dullBy Marc LichtmanMany thousands of Germans came to the US after the failure of the 1848 revolution, joining others who were already here.

They played a big role in the trade union movement, founded Marxism in the US, and were prominent (mostly on the Union side) in the Civil War. The Germans of St. Louis kept that city for the Union. This book starts out rather dull, but it gets better as it goes on. It doesn't reach the heights of his latest book *The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution That Transformed the South*, which is must reading.

Immigrants and their children became the chief component of the U.S. working class during the nineteenth century. Bruce Levine examines the early years of this social transformation, focusing on German-born craft workers and the key roles they played in the economic and political life of the wage-earning population of antebellum America. Interweaving themes often treated separately--immigration, industrialization, class formation, and the political polarization over slavery--Levine sheds new light on the development of the working class, the nature and appeals of partisan politics, and the conflicts that led to sectional war. This study begins by carefully delineating the European background of these emigrants, especially their involvement in the economic, political, and cultural developments that culminated in the revolution of 1848. It then follows them to the New World, where it locates them within the multi-class German-American population. The author subtly analyzes the deepening political divisions within German-America, differentiating conservative, liberal, radical-democratic, and Marxist currents. At the same time, Levine explores the distinctive role that German-American workers played in American society at large--notably, in the multi-ethnic antebellum labor movement and in popular responses to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, the rise of the Republican party, and the outbreak of sectional war. Throughout, Levine stresses the way in which European memories, traditions, and values conditioned (and were reshaped by) the immigrants' encounter with industrial, political, and cultural realities in their new land. The volume concludes with a discussion of the legacy of the radicalcraftworker milieu in postbellum decades and an assessment of later attempts to ignore or minimize this aspect of German-American and American working-class history. *The Spirit of 1848* offers much new information and insight concerning craftwork, the nature of the antebellum lab

From Library Journal
In this admirable addition to the series, Levine (history, Univ. of Cincinnati) successfully pursues the "relationship between class and ethnicity" by examining the influence of German-American immigrants in antebellum and Civil War America. He explores in detail their role within American labor and their influence on U.S. manufacturing, far greater than their numbers suggest because they tended to settle in the manufacturing centers. He also studies the immigrants' effect upon the politics of slavery and events of the Civil War. The ubiquity of German settlement and the significance of the revolutionary "spirit of 1848" to the Civil War make this work imperative for academic libraries. It offers an admirable model of scholarship for graduate students, and yet it is readable enough for undergraduates to appreciate.- Claiborne G. Williams, Bluefield State Coll. Lib., W. Va. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From the Back Cover
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