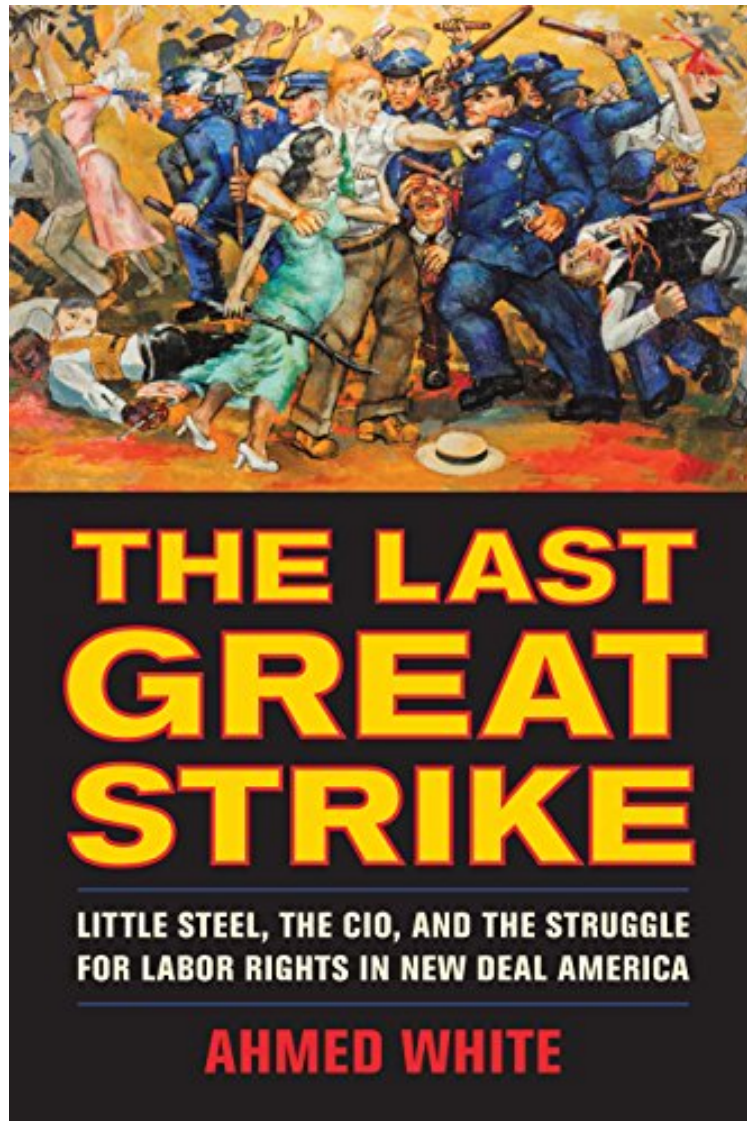


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The Last Great Strike: Little Steel, the CIO, and the Struggle for Labor Rights in New Deal America

Ahmed White

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Ahmed White : The Last Great Strike: Little Steel, the CIO, and the Struggle for Labor Rights in New Deal America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Great Strike: Little Steel, the CIO, and the Struggle for Labor Rights in New Deal America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. FIRST BOOK TO DOCUMENT 1937 LITTLE STEEL STRIKE - ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STRIKES IN AMERICAN HISTORY By coloradotess This is the first book to

thoroughly explain one of the most important strikes in American history, a strike that spanned several months and several states, a strike that resulted in the deaths of at least 16 strikers, a strike that tested the limits of the then-nascent New Deal, a strike that laid the groundwork for labor relations as we know them today. It is well-researched and well-written. In fact, I was not a fan of non-fiction until I read this book, mainly because I find that non-fiction isn't typically well-written. This book changed my view of that. It is an engaging narrative full of compelling stories about the people who laid their lives and livelihoods on the line for better working conditions for everyone. Since reading it, I have been reading more non-fiction than ever before in my life, simply because the author proved to me that non-fiction doesn't have to be boring and painful to read. If you're interested in labor, American history, the 1930s, the steel industry, unions, law, the New Deal, or the American economy, this book is a must-read.

In May 1937, seventy thousand workers walked off their jobs at four large steel companies known collectively as "Little Steel." The strikers sought to make the companies retreat from decades of antiunion repression, abide by the newly enacted federal labor law, and recognize their union. For two months a grinding struggle unfolded, punctuated by bloody clashes in which police, company agents, and National Guardsmen ruthlessly beat and shot unionists. At least sixteen died and hundreds more were injured before the strike ended in failure. The violence and brutality of the Little Steel Strike became legendary. In many ways it was the last great strike in modern America. Traditionally the Little Steel Strike has been understood as a modest setback for steel workers, one that actually confirmed the potency of New Deal reforms and did little to impede the progress of the labor movement. However, *The Last Great Strike* tells a different story about the conflict and its significance for unions and labor rights. More than any other strike, it laid bare the contradictions of the industrial labor movement, the resilience of corporate power, and the limits of New Deal liberalism at a crucial time in American history.

"In much the same way as those who appreciate various branches of the arts, scholars are also on a never ending search for excellence; something that lifts the spirits. Ahmed White has accomplished this in *The Last Great Strike*. . . . The extent of his research is breathtaking. . . . He combines a breadth of minute detail with a clear eye for broader implications."