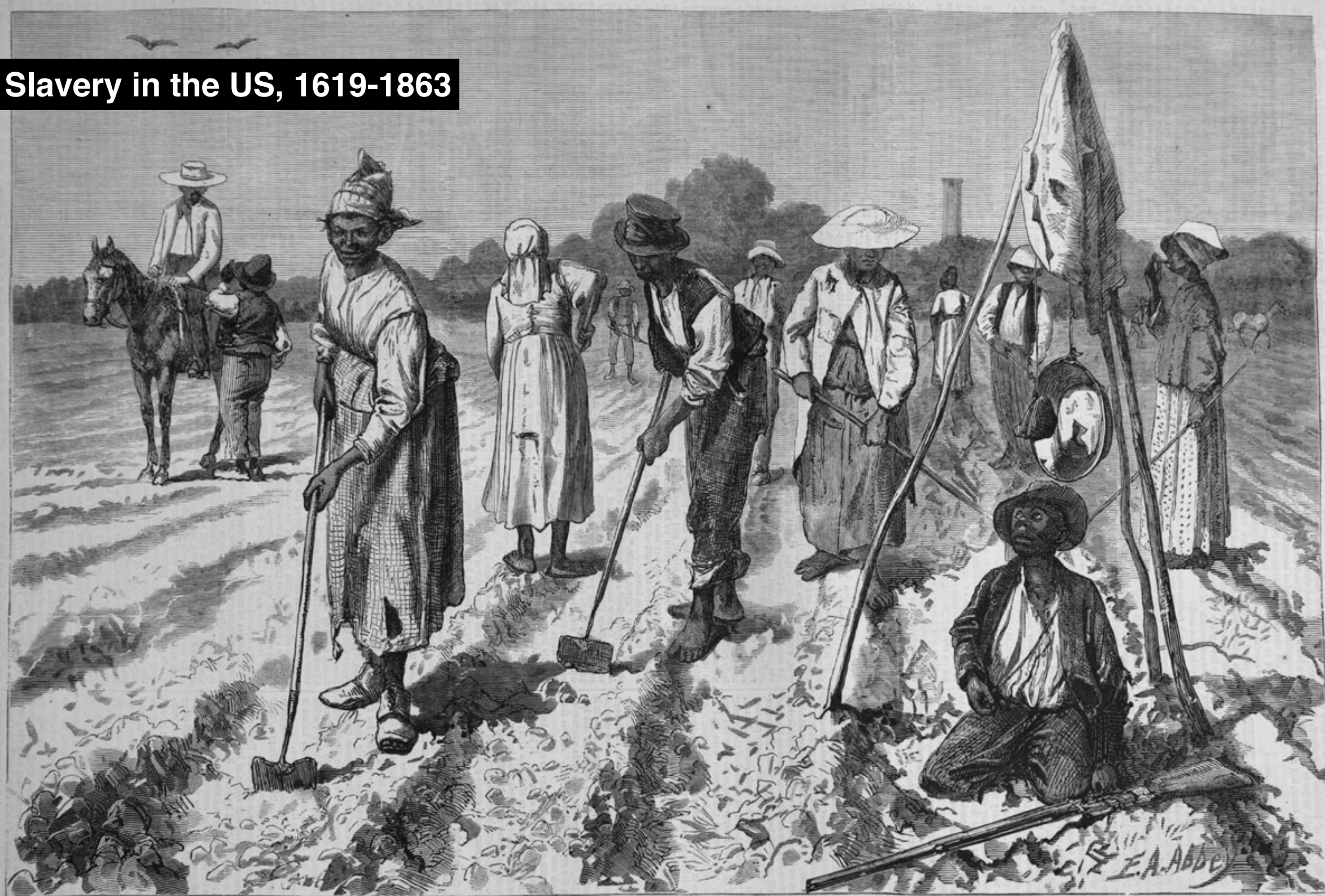


Quick Labor History (U.S.)

Slavery in the US, 1619-1863



COTTON CULTURE—COVERING IN THE SEED.—[SEE PAGE 346.]

further reading

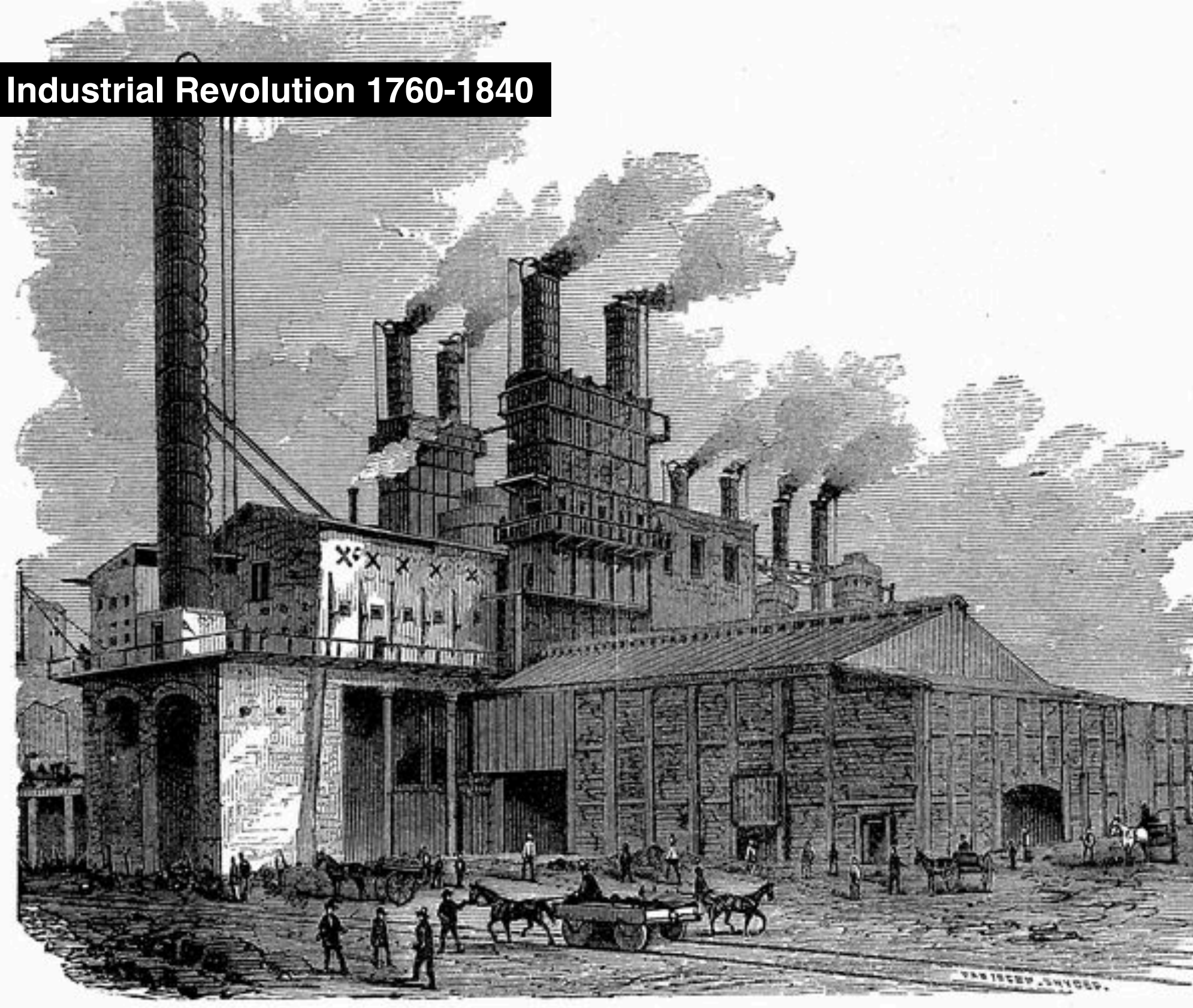
1619 Project - NY Times

legacy

“right to work” states with weakest labor laws include most former slave states

in 1935, agricultural & domestic workers were specifically exempt from legal protection to organize

Industrial Revolution 1760-1840



Western world changed from subsistence farming and independent artisans to consumerism, capitalism & “unskilled” labor. The huge societal changes led to backlash, criticism and new thinking...

1. Ausgabe!
Capital, 1867

Das Kapital.

Kritik der politischen Oekonomie.

Von

Karl Marx.

Erster Band.

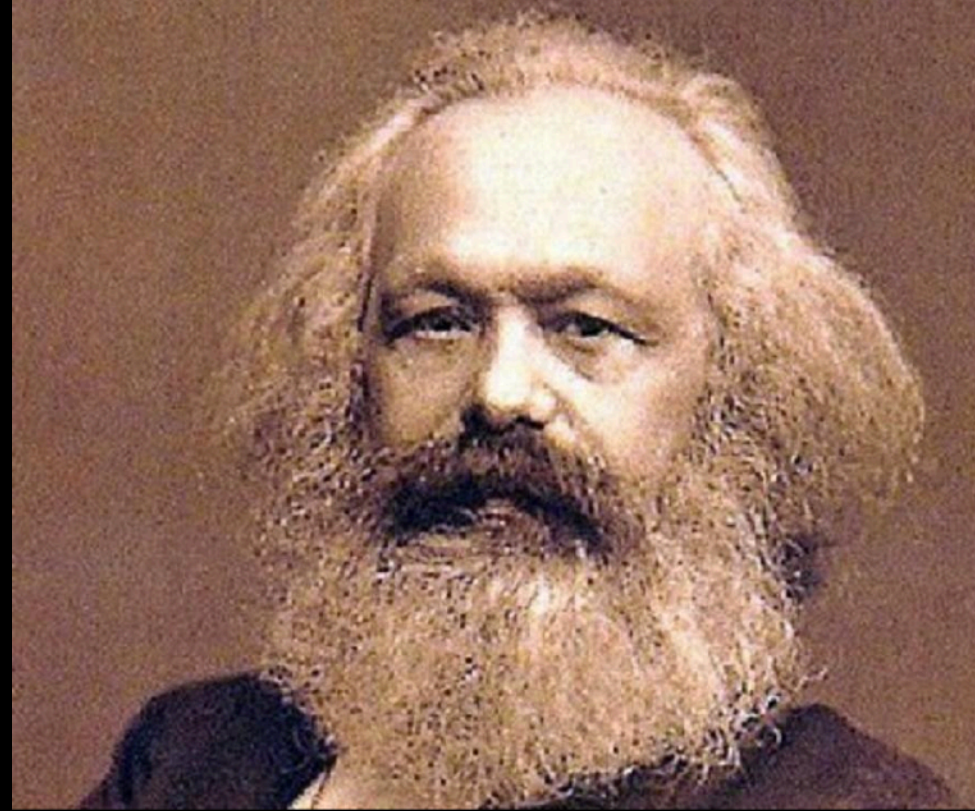
Buch I: Der Produktionsprozess des Kapitals.

Hamburg

Verlag von Otto Meissner.

1867.

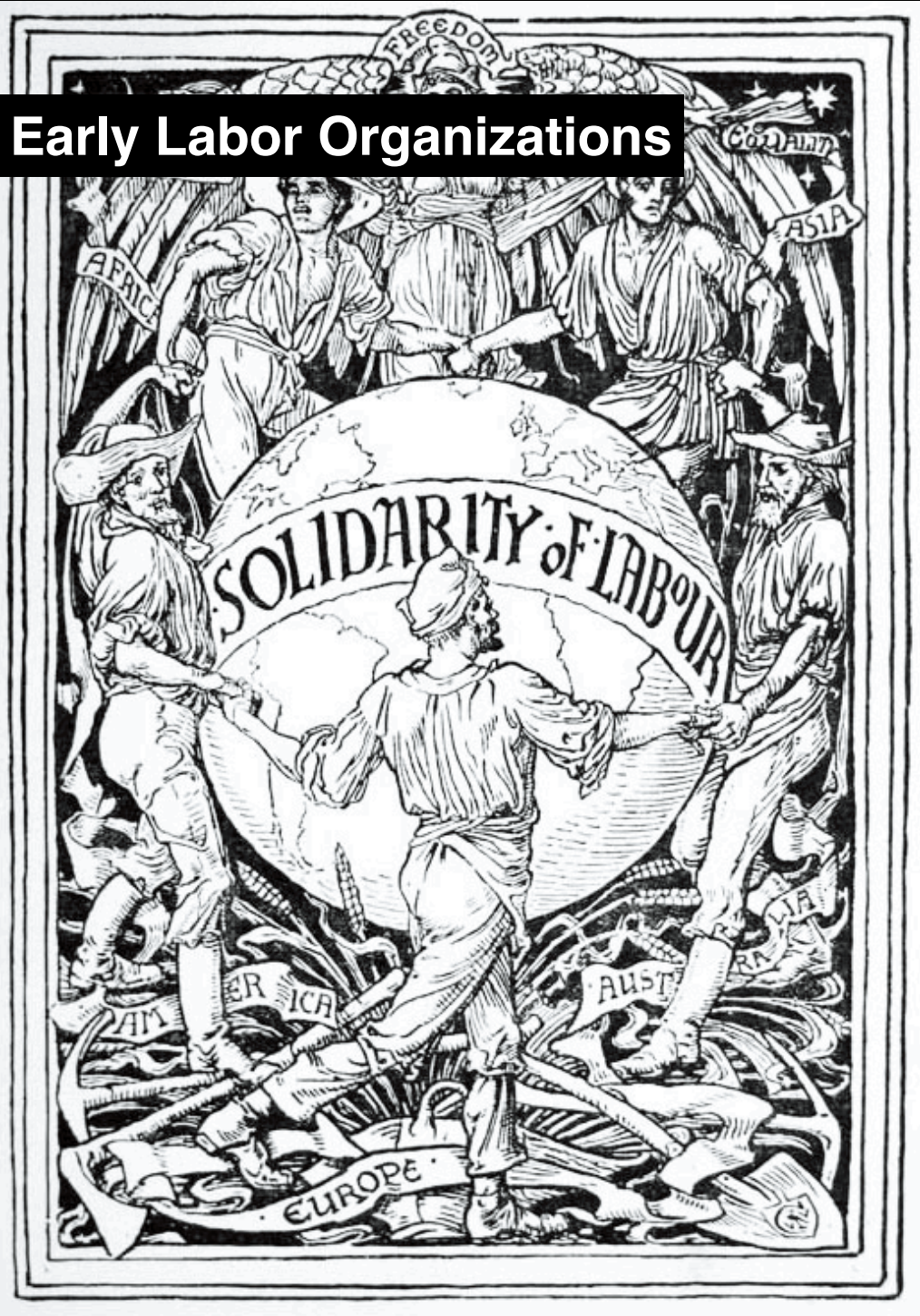
New-York: L. W. Schmidt, 24 Barclay-Street.



The motivating force of capitalism is in the exploitation of labor, whose unpaid work is the ultimate source of surplus value. The owner of the means of production is able to claim the right to this surplus value because he or she is legally protected by the ruling regime through property rights and the legally established distribution of shares which are by law only to be distributed to company owners and their board members. These rights were acquired in the first place chiefly through plunder and conquest and the activity of the merchant and “middle-man”.

...something something about time, laws of motion, forced crises, class, revolution, etc. etc.

Early Labor Organizations



Knights of Labor, 1869



Industrial Workers of the World, 1905

National Labor Union,
1866



American Federation of Labor, 1886

Central platform was 8 hour work day (from 12-hours)
Knights of Labor advocated for workers co-ops

Gilded Age (1870s-1900)
Extreme wealth inequality and concentration among emerging industrialists, inventors and robber barons: Carnegie, Mellon, Stanford, Vanderbilt, JP Morgan, Rockefeller, Edison

Utopian & Art Communities



Oneida Community
1848-1880

Llano del Rio
1914-1918

THE WESTERN COMRADE

Devoted to the Cause of the Workers

Political Action

Co-operation

Direct Action

VOL. II

LOS ANGELES, CAL., NOVEMBER 1, 1914

NUMBER 6-7



Luckel Camp on Rio del Llano.
Will be remodeled for trout hatchery and motion picture factory



Arts & Crafts Movement USA
1895-1920

The isolating effects of industrialization lead to socialist/spiritual style intentional communities and art inspired by craft & nature.

further reading

[Nice Try podcast episode 4 - Oneida: Utopia, LLC](#)

[Llano del Rio: The ruins of LA's socialist colony - Curbed LA](#)

[The Met: The Arts and Crafts Movement in America](#)

Mobilizing Events & Conditions



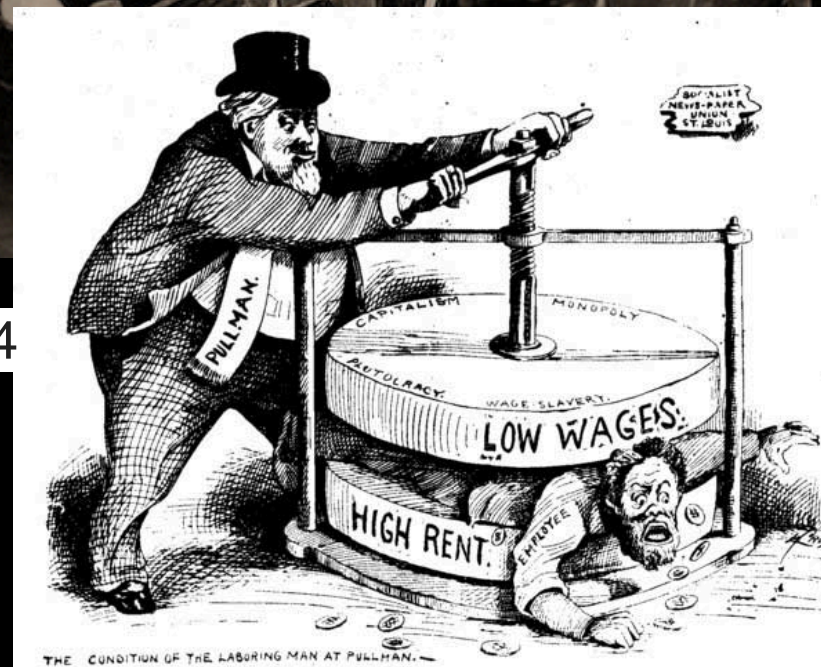
Child Labor, 1908-1912



Haymarket Riots, 1886



Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, 1911



Pullman Strike 1894

Early precedent in labor law was from 1806 - Commonwealth v. Pullis which deemed a worker strike an illegal conspiracy. Strikes broken by the National Guard, the Army, and private agents like Pinkerton ended in violence and death, as did poor working conditions.

Russian Revolution, 1917



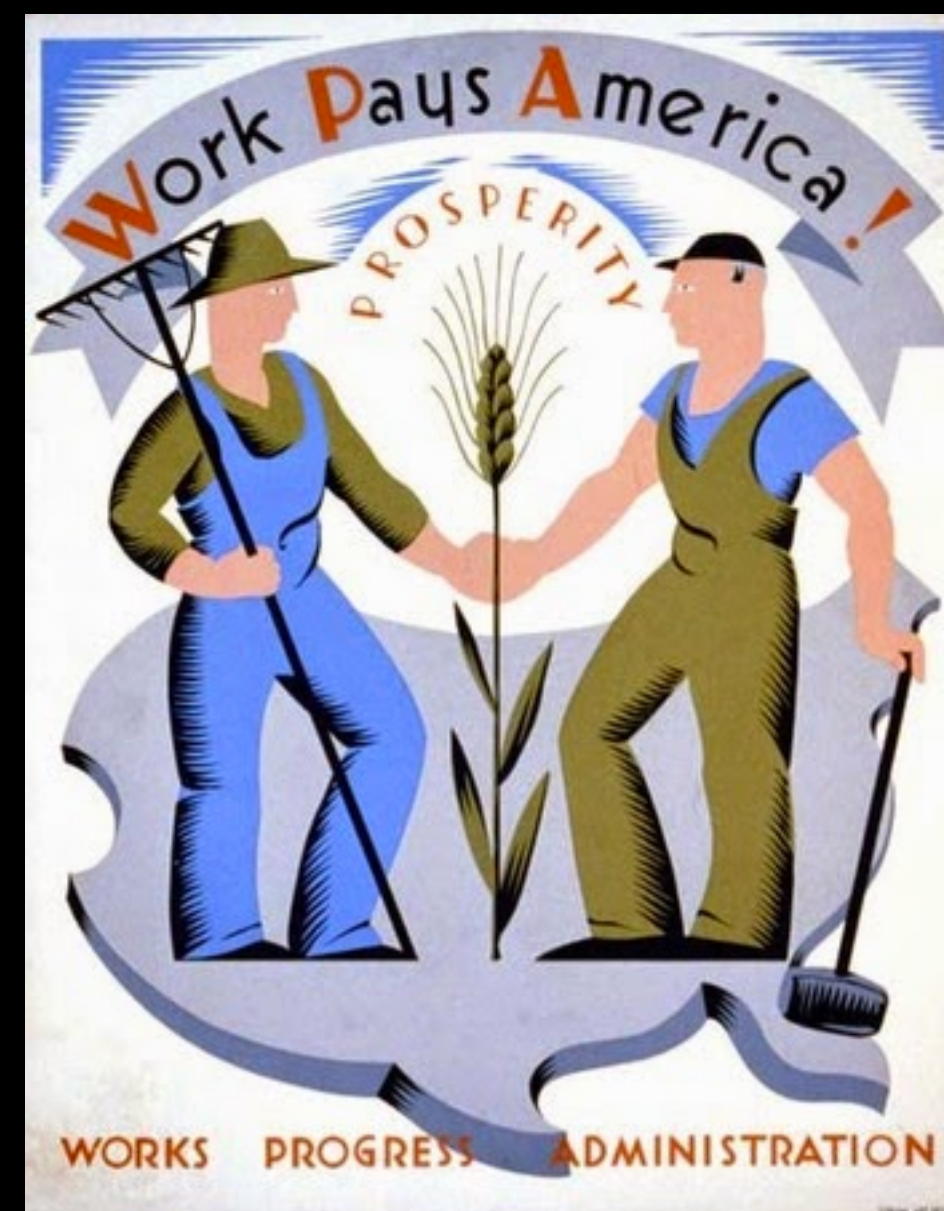
Scared the shit out of the rich and powerful and eventually led to compromise...

FDR

NEW DEAL



Established in 1935, the WPA program employed millions (mostly unskilled men) to carry out public works projects. It also employed musicians, artists, writers, actors and directors in large arts, theatre, media, literacy and documentary projects.



FDR advocated for “labor peace” and reform. It was accepted to keep production running without violence (and revolution).

The Wagner or National Labor Relations Act of 1935 established workers right to unionize, engage in collective bargaining and take collective action such as a strike.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 stopped child labor, established an 8 hour day, a 40-hour workweek, a minimum wage and most standard labor practices we recognize today.

Taft-Hartley Act 1947

FIGHT

the Slave Labor Law!



PIONEER PUBLISHERS

5¢

Taft-Hartley or the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 started undoing the work of the New Deal, led to “right to work” legislation, communist/socialist purges of unions. Only recently legally recognized, union membership and power started to decline.

Civil Rights Era Organizing



Working in California, Chavez rose to prominence organizing a 5-year grapes boycott. His work led to the enactment of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act and California Agricultural Labor Relations Board which established collective bargaining for farmworkers.

Sanitation Workers Strike 1968

In this strike in Memphis, TN, MLK supported the workers during the last days of his life and delivered his I've Been to the Mountaintop speech.



Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers 1960s

Stagflation & Oil Crisis, 1970s



The oil crisis and rising competition of other countries finally bouncing back from World War 2 led to harder times for industry and workers. Carter's "Crisis of Confidence" speech asked Americans to cut back, conserve energy and think about their values. Instead, they voted for Reagan...

Air Traffic Controllers Strike, 1981



Early in his presidency, Reagan crushed a strike of Air Traffic Controllers by firing all of them. This set a tone of union busting that accelerated through the 1980s along with the rise of Neoliberalism...

Neoliberalism and Decline of Labor



The GOP understands how important labor unions are to the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party, historically, has not.

- Eric Levitz, New York Magazine

Democrats deprioritized labor in support of globalization. Neoliberalism prioritized individualism over collectivism and “market-based solutions” over public or democratic ownership. Both parties moved to the right economically as they idealized big private corporations while demonizing big government.

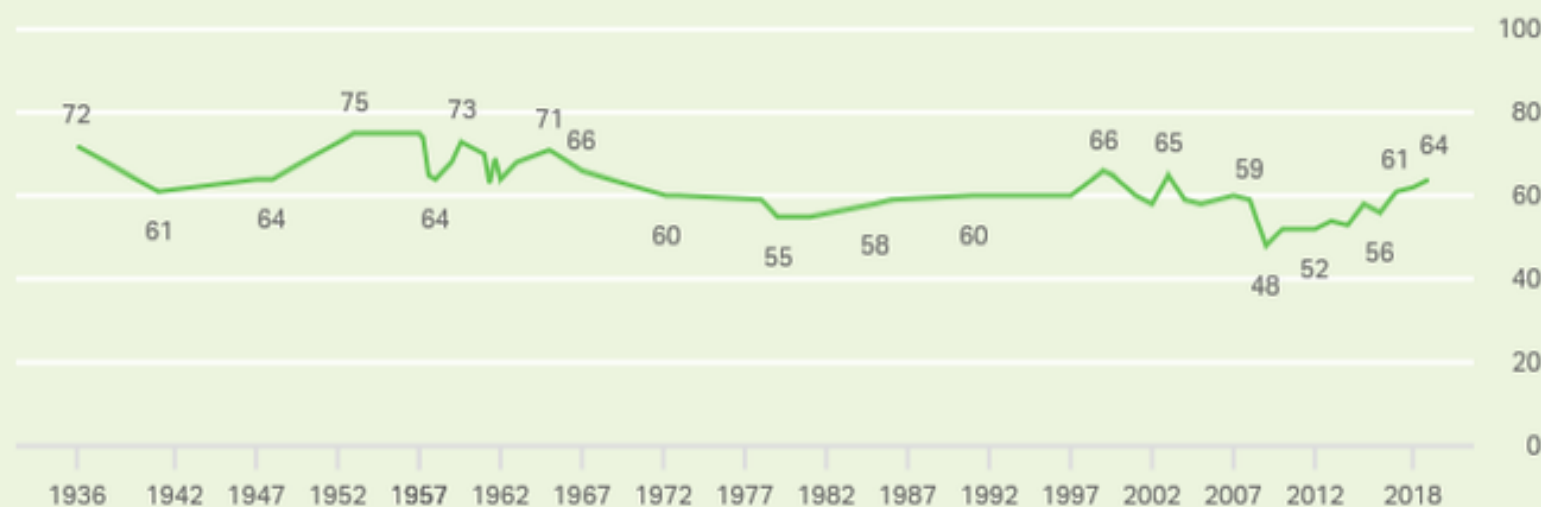
Labor Strikes Back

teachers strike march
Phoenix, AZ, April 2018



Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

■ % Approve



Between the 2009 recession non-recovery, a new tech gilded age and the 2016 Trump election, economic inequality and instability was on the rise. But collective action returned with teacher strikes starting in 2018 and writers, artists, tech and non-profit workers started organizing in numbers not seen in decades.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018 ~ VOL. CCLXXII NO. 105

WSJ.co

SDAQ 7434.06 ▲ 1.8% STOXX 600 363.02 ▲ 0.4% 10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 3/32, yield 3.144% OIL \$63.69 ▼ \$1.62 GOLD \$1,236.00

Google Harassment Allegations Spark Walkout



SAN FRANCISCO

Trump Talk & Fight

President Trump said he had a "very good conversation" with President Xi Jinping of China that signaled progress in the nations' trade dispute hours before federal pro-

By Vivian Salama, Aruna Viswanatha and Kate O'Keefe

tors unsealed charges against a Chinese technology firm for allegedly stealing trade secrets.

The president's upbeat assessment came as an impasse over trade has threatened to undermine a planned meeting between Messrs. Trump and Xi at the Group of 20 leaders summit in Buenos Aires later this month.

Mr. Trump said the leaders discussed many issues by telephone on Thursday, including the trade dispute, which has sparked tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods flowing between the two countries, worrying



DUBLIN

Former Bankers

Two senior Goldman Sachs bankers allegedly paid billions and stole and laundered money from a Malaysian sovereign-wealth fund, U.S. prosecutors said, putting them at the center of one of the greatest financial frauds in history.

By Liz Hoffman, Bradley Hope and Nicole Hong



NEW YORK

SEARCH FOR CHANGE: Thousands of Google employees around the world staged a series of walkouts Thursday to protest a workplace culture that they said promotes and protects perpetrators of sexual harassment at the company. CEO Sundar Pichai apologized for Google's past actions. B1