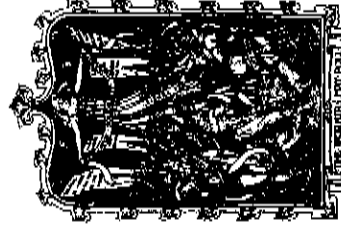


International Labor

706 Bruce Court



History Association

Madison, Wisconsin 53705 U.S.A.

Ronald C. Kent, Editor

ILHA Newsletter
March 2011

The International Labor History Association (ILHA) is pleased to announce the ILHA Book of the Year Award for 2010. The volume, *Trade Unions and Party Politics. Labour Movements in Africa*, is edited by Bjorn Beckman, Sakhele Buhlungu, and Lloyd Sachikonye, and published by HSRC Press of Cape Town, South Africa (2010). The ILHA did not issue any book award in 2007, 2008, and 2009, but it is delighted to recognize the original labor scholarship of this year's award winner. It joins earlier books written by labor scholars such as Elizabeth Perry, Michael Honey, Zachery Lockman and others recognized by the ILHA for engaging labor history research.

The book examines contemporary labor history of seven African countries and their relationships with political parties, community organizations, and respective state regimes. Individual chapters, devoted to Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia, provide rich insight into such features in recent labor history. The editors assess the different labor movements within the changing contexts of political and economic problems faced by each country.

The ILHA is particularly pleased to recognize a volume dedicated to African labor history, which has received too little attention in the field of international labor history. We hope that this book will encourage labor scholars to publish further labor histories of Africa, in addition to studies focusing on the Middle East and other regions of the world that remain overlooked or not sufficiently updated. We congratulate the editors of the 2010 ILHA award-winning book and wish them continued success in expanding the borders of international labor history research.

The ILHA, founded in 1988 in Madison, Wisconsin, is a non-profit educational association dedicated to promoting original international labor history scholarship, teaching, and research. The ILHA has

issued its non-monetary Book of the Year Award periodically to recognize such engaged work. A copy is furnished to all ILHA members.

The ILHA joins with all progressive labor in the United States in condemning the union-bashing legislative attacks on public employees in Wisconsin, Ohio, New Jersey, Indiana, and other US states. Public employees should have full collective bargaining rights. Only approximately 30 states in the United States grant public employees collective bargaining rights of any kind and about 20 deny collective bargaining to some or all employees within their state borders. Collective bargaining for public employees began in 1959 with a framework law for local government employees, authored by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson (a former AFSCME lobbyist and attorney). Currently proposed or recently enacted take-backs of collective bargaining include stripping the right of unions to bargain benefits (health insurance, sick leave, transfer rights, lay-off protection, and discipline), denying labor-law protection from unfair labor practices, and destroying union security (dues) agreements along with democratic election procedures for fair share agreements. The ILHA condemns such actions and calls upon its members and friends to fight and to organize public resistance to these reactionary assaults on public employee unions in the United States.

We will continue to work toward an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and to similar conflicts throughout the world.

Good luck in your research, teaching, and work.

Peace,


Ronald C. Kent, ILHA Editor

P.S. Thank you for publishing this wonderful volume. Best regards! R/C

"The Cause of Labor is the Hope of the World" — WALTER CRANE

PEACE • PAZ • PAIX • MIR • PAX

