

focused on those individuals as consumers whose second-class status was shown most dramatically in the “free market” of consumption. African Americans were shown as consumers who faced discrimination in the housing market. They were consumers who often overpaid for inferior merchandise.

This meant that the role African Americans played as producers in the industrial system of the North was largely ignored. Rather, the black experience was analyzed almost exclusively from the standpoint of life in ghettos. As Trotter points out, “Despite its salient strengths, the ghetto synthesis alone is too narrow to organize a satisfactory history of blacks in northern cities” (273). Going beyond this accepted model, the author presents African Americans not merely as consumers. Moreover, he reintroduces the concept of class to show that all members of the African American community did not necessarily think alike or have the same interests.

Black Milwaukee shows how African Americans became industrial workers. While not ignoring the discrimination they faced as consumers, this book looks to the struggles blacks engaged in to join the industrial workforce. Racist employers and whites-only unions, particularly those in the AFL, were both barriers that had to be overcome or negotiated. White allies in the CIO were particularly helpful at key junctures, but even the progressive unions were not free of racial bigotry.

Having a socialist mayor of Milwaukee was a unique feature of that city’s black experience during the time period discussed, but this in no way prevented the exercise of blatant antiblack discrimination by both employers and unions alike. In fact, Trotter suggests that even while sympathetic to black aspirations, socialists were more likely to find themselves in office than in actual power.

This expanded second edition is even more valuable as it contains an essay on African American urban history since 1985, a discussion of the nineteenth-century roots of Milwaukee’s black community, as well as brief but insightful essays by four experts in the field. It is true that this work “created a new synthesis of African American social and labor history that highlighted themes of working-class formation, grassroots community building, and the productive role of ordinary and elite black urbanities” (327). Taken as a whole, this volume is a vital source for those who wish to understand how the process of proletarianization took place for blacks in the North.

William A. Pelz
Elgin Community College

Economics for Everyone: A Short Guide to the Economics of Capitalism. By Jim Stanford. London: Pluto Press, 2008. 350 pp. \$22.95 paper.

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Only a few short pages into *Economics for Everyone*, Jim Stanford warns his reader to “never trust an economist with your job” (5). This bold statement makes

Stanford, an economist for the Canadian Auto Workers Union, a true iconoclast in a field which has increasingly become dominated by supply-side neoliberal practitioners. These are the “experts” who can be seen on television and in print treating economic questions as apolitical abstractions, reinforcing the hegemonic logic of unregulated free-market capitalism, even in a time of economic crisis.

In this book, Stanford breaks with convention to present a populist, worker-centered perspective on economics that challenges the prevailing apolitical models of capitalist economic orthodoxy. Stanford accomplishes this task by structuring the book into short, readable chapters, free from excessive economic jargon or mathematics. The use of cartoons and easy-to-read flow charts throughout helps the reader connect their actual lived economic circumstances in the workplace, at home, and in their communities to the bigger economic picture and the capitalist system as a whole. Stanford has also included a blog, a Web-based glossary, and ready-made lecture slides to accompany the book, thus giving activists the tools necessary to teach a popular economics course, based on the content of the book.

The book is organized into five parts, each containing a number of small chapters. Part I introduces the reader to basic economic and political concepts. The next section reviews the concept of work (both paid and unpaid), focusing on the relationship between bosses, workers, companies, and profit. Part III considers capitalism as an economic system and introduces the reader to the concepts of competition, investment, employment relations, and the distribution of wealth. This is followed by an examination of the monetary and financial systems that sustain capitalist economics both nationally and internationally. The final section evaluates the capitalist system with a report card, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses, before imagining alternative economic systems.

Three chapters stand out. Chapter 8 effectively explains, in plain language, the adversarial nature of the employment relationship under capitalism. Chapter 15 focuses on reproduction and documents the important role that domestic labor plays in the capitalist economic system. And in an analysis of capitalism and the environment, chapter 15 explores issues of sustainability and growth, casting doubt on market-based mechanisms, such as carbon taxes and cap and trade, as effective means to address the important issue of global warming.

Although Stanford does a good job explaining the relationship between capitalism and the class power structure throughout the book, a sustained discussion or even a stand-alone chapter on the relationship between capitalism and the racial power structure would have helped to make the book even more relevant to a wider audience.

Finally, while Stanford does hold out hope for an alternative to capitalism, he provides no real road map for activists interested in building a transformative political project. For segments of the activist Left who are forever asking, “What is to be done?” Stanford’s discussion of alternatives to capitalism will likely disappoint. That said, understanding the system one seeks to replace is a good starting point for any activist with aspirations of changing the world. To that end, Stanford’s

Economics for Everyone is an exceptionally valuable contribution to the field of union education and could easily be adopted as a course text in introductory labor studies courses at the postsecondary level.

Larry Savage
Brock University

Global Unions: Challenging Transnational Capital through Cross-Border Campaigns. Edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2007. 261 pp. \$22.50 paper.
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Twentieth-century union strategies were suitable for battling companies that were relatively simple in structure and national in scope. However, the mega-corporations of the twenty-first century are staggeringly complex, global in scope, multi-layered, and using multiple names. This requires unions to utilize new strategies. While still relying on their collective power, unions must have a more complete understanding of transnational corporate ownership structures and an ability to build authentic international alliances.

Global Unions is the outcome of a February 2006 conference, “Global Companies—Global Unions—Global Research—Global Campaigns,” which had the goal of strengthening “labor’s capacity to conduct more effective strategic corporate research and run more effective cross-border campaigns against the world’s largest companies” (1). The resulting volume is a collection of richly detailed essays that add greatly to the body of scholarly research in this area and should prove inspiring to every labor activist.

Tom Juravich’s opening chapter, “Beating Global Capital,” provides a historical context, demonstrating that strategic campaigns are the next evolutionary stage of union strategy to keep pace with the transformations taking place in the structure of the economy. He then presents a comprehensive model for strategic corporate research, pinpointing twenty-four separate topic areas—such as the board of directors, subsidiaries, transportation/procurement, and community—which are then analyzed and reconceptualized to build a strategic campaign around profit centers, growth plans, decision makers, and key company relationships.

Armed with this foundation, readers can tackle the collection of case studies that focus on cross-border solidarity, worker activism, and coordinated international campaigns. Peter Wad analyzes a long recognition campaign by Malaysian medical equipment manufacturing workers, which was won by building an alliance of Danish and Malaysian unions and nongovernmental organizations against the

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