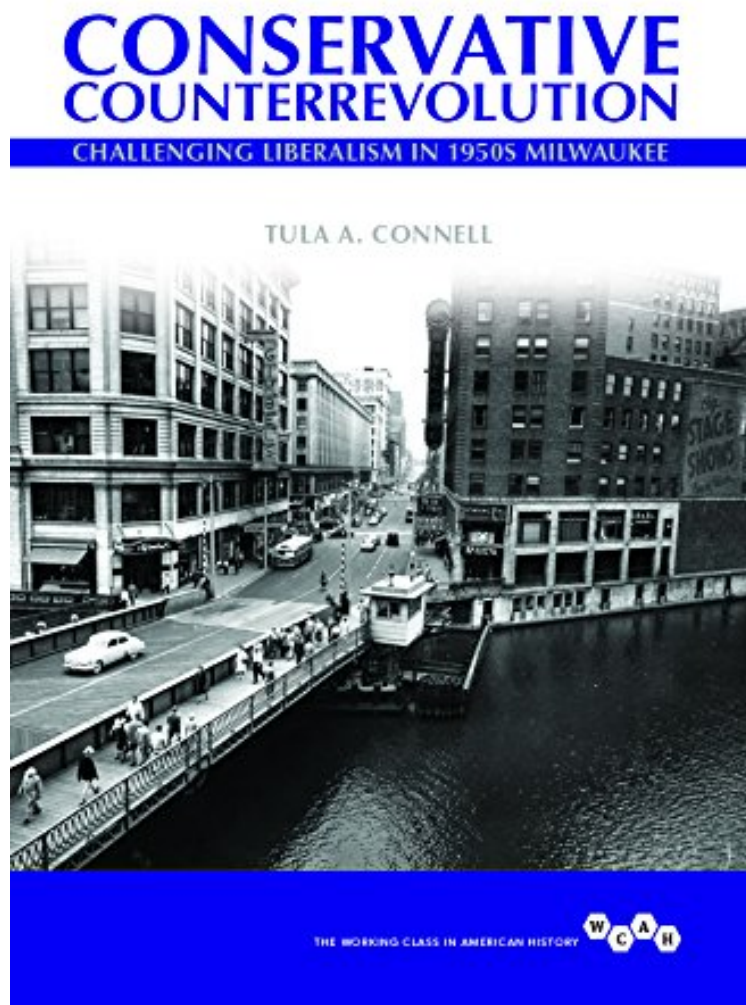


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## Conservative Counterrevolution: Challenging Liberalism in 1950s Milwaukee (Working Class in American History)

*Tula A Connell*

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**Tula A Connell : Conservative Counterrevolution: Challenging Liberalism in 1950s Milwaukee (Working Class in American History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conservative Counterrevolution: Challenging Liberalism in 1950s Milwaukee (Working Class in American History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Zeidler was that rare political leader for whom the common good

was paramountBy Alan E. JohnsonThe decade of the 1950s is often something of a mystery to those of us born after the end of World War II. What Tula Connell demonstrates in this well-researched book is that the postwar economic and political system of the United States was fundamentally shaped by the conservative economic and anti-New Deal counterrevolution that gained strength during these years, even though some of its origins can be traced to earlier decades. We live with the results in the twentieth-first century. This book examines these developments through the lens of a case study of Milwaukee politics. The hero is Frank Zeidler, who was mayor of that city from 1948 to 1960. Zeidler was that rare political leader for whom the common good was paramount. Although Connell contrasts Zeidler's public-spiritedness with the more sordid objectives of other political, economic, and media actors, this book is not an exercise in hero worship. Zeidler's possible errors are also adumbrated. And, albeit a great man, Zeidler was, in a sense, a tragic hero in that his struggles were often unsuccessful, especially in the long term. This book sets forth, fairly dispassionately, the various ideological views and actions of local and national figures in the mid-twentieth century. It is accessible to the general reader, though clearly based on solid scholarship.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must background reading for today's politicsBy DKGreat book and a good read on an interesting period in our history. Quite relevant for today, and sheds light on historical precedents for today's tumultuous politics, both in Wisconsin and nationally.

In the 1950s, Milwaukee's strong union movement and socialist mayor seemed to embody a dominant liberal consensus that sought to continue and expand the New Deal. Tula Connell explores how business interests and political conservatives arose to undo that consensus, and how the resulting clash both shaped a city and helped redefine postwar American politics. Connell focuses on Frank Zeidler, the city's socialist mayor. Zeidler's broad concept of the public interest at times defied even liberal expectations. At the same time, a resurgence of conservatism with roots presaging twentieth-century politics challenged his initiatives in public housing, integration, and other areas. As Connell shows, conservatives created an anti-progressive game plan that included a well-funded media and PR push; an anti-union assault essential to the larger project of delegitimizing any government action; opposition to civil rights; and support from a suburban silent majority. In the end, the campaign undermined notions of the common good essential to the New Deal order. It also sowed the seeds for grassroots conservatism's more extreme and far-reaching future success.

Conservative Counterrevolution will make a significant impact upon the historical profession and the public at large. This is a great book.--Andrew E. Kersten, author of Clarence Darrow: American Iconoclast