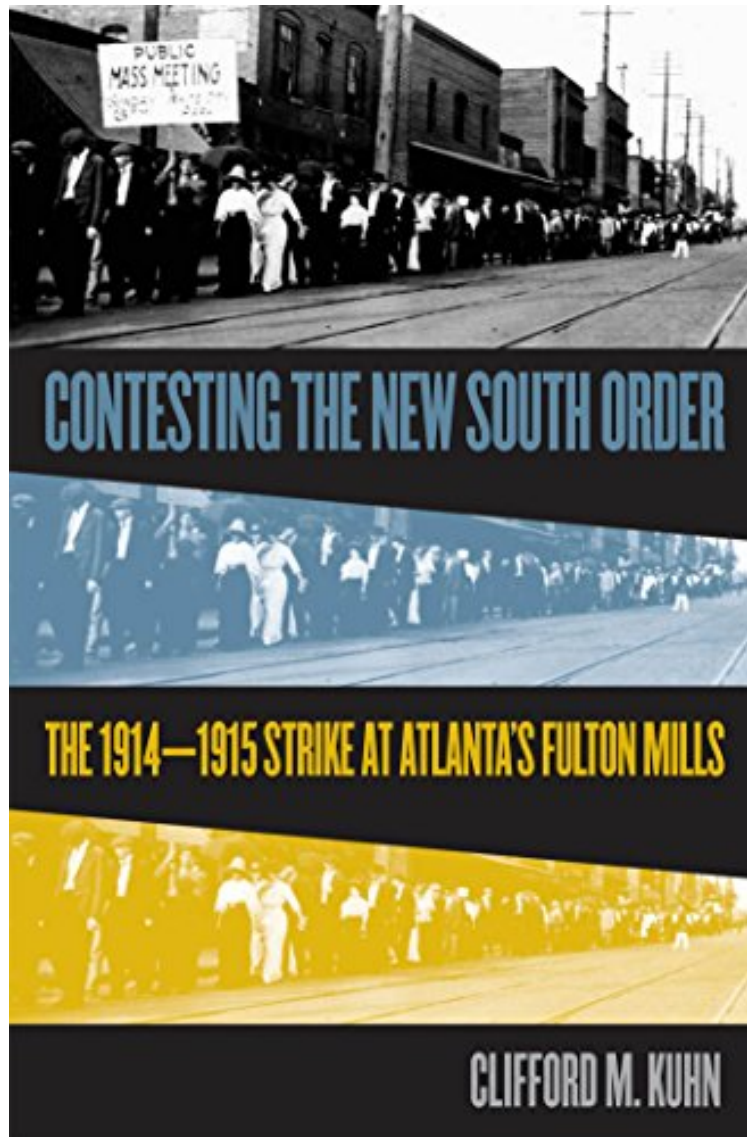


[Library ebook] Contesting the New South Order: The 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills

## Contesting the New South Order: The 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills

*Clifford M. Kuhn*

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Clifford M. Kuhn : Contesting the New South Order: The 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contesting the New South Order: The 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills:

In May 1914, workers walked off their jobs at Atlanta's Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills, launching a lengthy strike that was at the heart of the American Federation of Labor's first major attempt to organize southern workers in over a decade. In its celebrity, the Fulton Mills strike was the regional contemporary of the well-known industrial conflicts in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Ludlow, Colorado. Although ultimately unsuccessful, the strike was an important episode in the development of the New South, and as Clifford Kuhn demonstrates, its story sheds light on the industrialization, urbanization, and modernization of the region. Drawing on an extraordinary collection of sources--including reports from labor spies and company informants, photographs, federal investigations, oral histories, and newly uncovered records from the old mill's vaults--Kuhn vividly depicts the strike and the community in which it occurred. He also chronicles the struggle for public opinion that ensued between management, workers, union leaders, and other interested parties. Finally, Kuhn reflects on the legacy of the strike in southern history, exploring its complex ties to the evolving New South.

Historians of southern labor, business, society, and culture will profit from it. (David L. Carlton, Vanderbilt University) This crucial moment in American labor history is set before the reader not only accurately and comprehensibly, but with Kuhn's quintessential compassion and humanity. (Melissa Fay Greene, author of "Praying for Sheetrock" and "The Temple Bombing") Kuhn offers a detailed look at the issues that led to the strike and the personalities on both sides of the dispute. In addition, he does a good job of putting the dispute in a broader social context. . . . It is to Kuhn's credit that he leaves no aspect of the strike unexplored.--Business History A richly detailed and smartly analytical work. . . . It stands on its own as one of the most thorough chronicles of a lengthy strike in American history.--Business History Clifford Kuhn's account of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills strike illuminates not only the history of southern industrial labor, but also the tangled interplay of race, class, and ethnicity in the Progressive-era urban South. Especially arresting is his exploration of how representations of the strike, by both sides, helped shape the image of the southern working class. Historians of southern labor, business, society, and culture will profit from it.--David L. Carlton, Vanderbilt University Contesting the New South Order should assure the Fulton Bag strike's rightful place alongside the contemporaneous upheavals in Lawrence, Ludlow, and the Lower East Side as a pivotal moment in the nation's Progressive Era industrial history.--Journal of American History In Contesting the New South Order, Clifford M. Kuhn deftly saunters through the early twentieth-century dialectic of continuity and change in a transitional South. Through a thorough use of primary sources connected with the strike, and with the changing social climate of the region, he fashions a persuasive argument regarding both the unique qualities of the strike, and its regional, even national, significance. . . . The vivid descriptions of the behaviors, attitudes and environment of all the parties involved--workers, owners, management, politicians, union representatives--makes for fascinating reading. . . . Kuhn makes a unique and worthy contribution to the scholarship on traditionalism versus modernism in southern history, and on gender, race, and labor relations in the twentieth-century South.--Georgia Historical Quarterly Kuhn's narrative . . . is enhanced by vivid descriptions of key players and the actions of ordinary workers responding to an extraordinary situation. . . . An important book that advances our understanding of mill workers and owners in the early twentieth century.--Journal of Southern History Kuhn's book has considerable interest for southern labor history. . . His understanding of women's roles in the strike is welcome. . . . An enjoyable read.--Labor History Clifford Kuhn has long been admired among historians and journalists for the archival quality of his compendious mind; he carries whole epochs, and movements of classes, and industrial trends in his memory; foolish is the man or woman who would set out to compose a portion of Atlanta history without consulting him first. In Contesting the New South Order, Kuhn tells a dramatic story of life among early-20th-century mill workers. The data he has amassed is sharpened by the personal portraits he sketches, including glimpses of white, barefoot, laboring children. This crucial moment in American labor history is set before the reader not only accurately and comprehensibly, but with Kuhn's quintessential compassion and humanity.--Melissa Fay Greene, author of Praying for Sheetrock and The Temple Bombing From the Inside Flap Kuhn provides a richly detailed account of the famous 1914-15 strike at Atlanta's Fulton Mills. His sources include personnel records, photographs, correspondence, oral history, and the reports of labor spies. Although the strike ultimately failed, it was an episode of major importance in the industrialization, urbanization, and modernization of the New South, Kuhn reveals.