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Pathfinder

410 West St. New York, NY 10014.

Trade Unions In The Epoch Of Imperialist Decay

I have been asked by Russell Johnson to comment on the above which you would like by 6 July. As time is short I ask you to excuse the fact that it is not typed and that my comments are somewhat briefer than I would have liked.

Yours in solidarity
Jack Barnes

This is a text book for trade unions everywhere. A study that illustrates to the full the supreme and unquestionable knowledge of the trade union movement possessed by Leon Trotsky.

Pertinent and real as his analysis its even greater relevance to events of today is remarkable. He writes -

"There is one common feature in the development, or more correctly, the degeneration of modern trade union organizations throughout the world; it is their growing close to and growing together with the state power." What was then a common feature has today become open and undisguised practice by so many renegade unions, or more correctly, union officials.

Again he speaks of "labor aristocracy and the labor bureaucracy, who fight for a crumb in the share of super profits of imperialist capitalism. The labor bureaucrats do their level best to demonstrate how reliable and indispensable

They are by transforming the trade unions into organs of the state."

True then, even more so today.

One ^{could} comment on and approve of so much more but perhaps the above quotes are as significant as any.

Perhaps the first task of workers world wide is to recognize the wisdom of Trotsky's words and to take appropriate action. First step being to keep control in the hands of the rank and file and never relinquish it.

I cannot praise this exceptional book too highly.

No wonder he was assassinated

In solidarity
Jack Barnes