



Midwest Book Review
MBR Bookwatch
October 2015

Teamster Politics, second edition

Farrell Dobbs

Pathfinder Press

PO Box 162767, Atlanta, GA 30321-2767

www.pathfinderpress.com

9781604880458, \$19.00, 345pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: Farrell Dobbs, was a central leader with respect to the labor battles and debates recorded in "Teamster Politics", which tells the story of how in the 1930s the leadership of Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis fought to lead workers across the Midwest onto an independent working-class political course. "Teamster Politics" covers a number of issues including: How they organized the unemployed and truck owner-operators into fighting union auxiliaries; How they deployed a Union Defense Guard to stop the fascist Silver Shirts; How they campaigned for workers to break politically from the bosses and organize a labor party based on the unions; How they mobilized labor opposition to U.S. imperialism's entry into World War II. This newly published second edition includes special 20-page photo section, featuring many photographs from the Northwest Organizer newspaper of Teamsters Local 544.

Critique: Exceptionally well written, impressively organized and presented, and enhanced with the inclusion of a section of period photos, "Teamster Politics" is very highly recommended for both community and academic library 20th Century Political Science and American Labor History reference collections and supplemental studies lists in general, and to the attention of non-specialists general readers with an interest in the history of the Teamsters Union in particular.

Able Greenspan, Reviewer