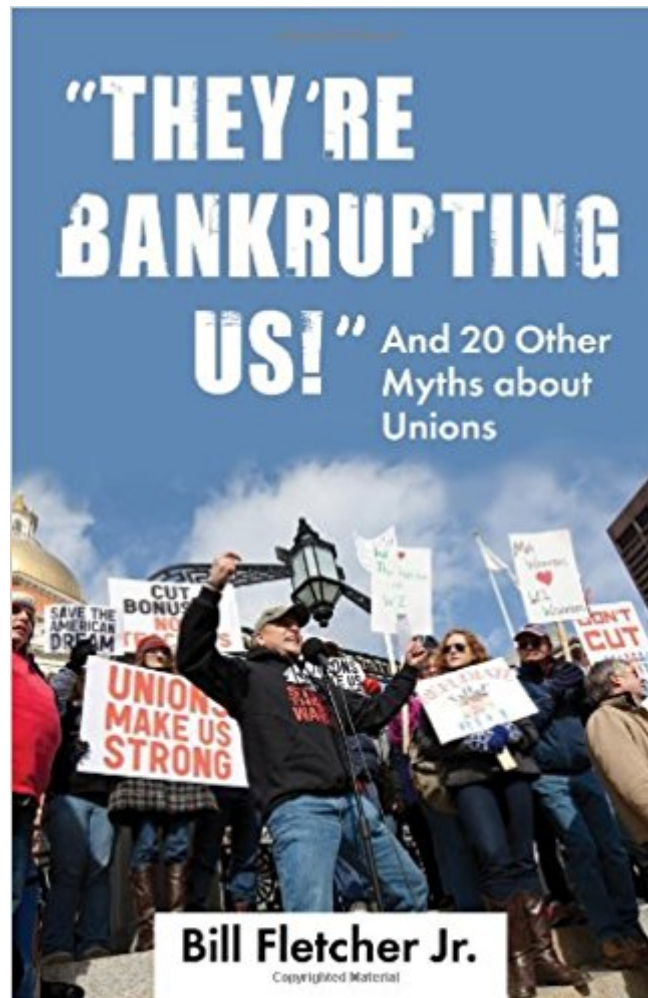




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# "They're Bankrupting Us!": And 20 Other Myths About Unions



## Synopsis

From Wisconsin to Washington, DC, the claims are made: unions are responsible for budget deficits, and their members are overpaid and enjoy cushy benefits. The only way to save the American economy, pundits claim, is to weaken the labor movement, strip workers of collective bargaining rights, and champion private industry. In *"They're Bankrupting Us!": And 20 Other Myths about Unions*, labor leader Bill Fletcher Jr. makes sense of this debate as he unpacks the twenty-one myths most often cited by anti-union propagandists. Drawing on his experiences as a longtime labor activist and organizer, Fletcher traces the historical roots of these myths and provides an honest assessment of the missteps of the labor movement. He reveals many of labor's significant contributions, such as establishing the forty-hour work week and minimum wage, guaranteeing safe workplaces, and fighting for equity within the workforce. This timely, accessible, "warts and all" book argues, ultimately, that unions are necessary for democracy and ensure economic and social justice for all people.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Coming from a union family helped shape who I am today. Unions have been critical for African Americans, and for all working people, and are essential for social justice. Read Bill Fletcher's important and timely book so we can reassert the humanity of working people and help them stand against the larger societal forces that are trying to crush them." — Danny Glover, actor/activist  
"As someone who has written about the daily lives and struggles of working

people I am constantly impressed and enlightened by Bill Fletcher's work. In

“They’re Bankrupting Us!” he answers the question of why unions are so essential – not just for economic uplift, but for democracy itself. Fletcher is one of our leading labor intellectuals, and once again, he has the last word on a subject of central importance to all Americans. “It’s amazing how much nonsense about unions is believed, and how little is really known about their purpose and proud history. Bill Fletcher sets the record straight, and he tells us a thrilling story while doing it. A thriving union movement is crucial to the well-being of working men and women and to the overall health of our democratic way of life. This book is better than any other I’ve read – explains why.” – Barbara Ehrenreich “It’s amazing how much nonsense about unions is believed, and how little is really known about their purpose and proud history. Bill Fletcher sets the record straight, and he tells us a thrilling story while doing it. A thriving union movement is crucial to the well-being of working men and women and to the overall health of our democratic way of life. This book is better than any other I’ve read – explains why.” – Bob Herbert, Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos and former Op-Ed columnist for The New York Times “Isn’t it curious that the loudest, most venomous voices against unions are the CEOs and Wall Streeters who profit by keeping America’s working families down and unions out? In this powerful book, Bill Fletcher exposes their self-serving lies, and points out the obvious: unions work. Not only do they advance our economy, but also our democracy and our nation’s historic pursuit of social justice.” – Jim Hightower, author, radio commentator, public speaker, and editor of The Hightower Lowdown “Even before I read Bill Fletcher’s new book, I knew it was a ‘must read.’ Having read it now, my instincts have been confirmed. Bill Fletcher is a brilliant thinker in Ella Baker’s tradition. He is an organizer extraordinaire who writes from thirty years experience in labor and freedom movements. “They’re Bankrupting Us!” speaks to a very broad audience about the diversity, complexity and vitality of the United States labor movement. And who better to tell that story and teach that lesson, than this amazing intellectual, committed activist and tireless movement teacher.” – Barbara Ransby, Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago and author of Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement “Bill Fletcher’s new book is a must read for every worker in America. Full of surprising stories and useful facts, “They’re Bankrupting Us!” uncovers everything we ever wanted to know about how unions work, and the true role that unions have played in shaping the nature of our work today.” – Ai-jen Poo, Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a long-time racial-justice, labor, and international activist, scholar, and author. He has been involved in the labor movement for decades, and is a widely known speaker and writer in print and on radio, television, and the Web. He has served in leadership positions with many prominent union and labor organizations, including the AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union. Fletcher is currently the director of field services for the American Federation of

Government Employees.

Great stuff, if you need a reference to help you refute the ignorant prattle of anti worker 1% brown nose scabs this is it.

An excellent concise summary of some of the existential problems labor unions face in ensuring their continued existence in America. Many have been self-inflicted wounds by corrupt, racist or obsessively-politically-correct union leaders, not always at the hands of persons who are ideologically opposed to the existence of unions at all. But authentic democratic trade unions and the right to organize and bargain collectively are basic human rights with roots that can be traced to the bible. And if organized labor becomes extinct in America, this country will be greatly diminished by the loss.

It is a very informative book. It's just a little too long. He made his point long before he ended the book. But it's worth reading.

The center-piece of the Neoliberalism agenda is the maximization of corporate profits. Worker solidarity hinders this objective. Within this context, we are witness to war of ideas in which disciples and followers of the neoliberal program promote a fictitious assault on labor unionism. The attack is based on myth, lies, and intentional misinformation meant to sway the public away from supporting labor solidarity. This attack is as old as the story of labor's struggle. Fletcher soundly repels the attack, providing clarity and truth in an easy to follow narrative. This book should be read by anyone interested in the plight of the declining American middle-class working family.

A quite straightforward and honest review of unions, both good and not-so-good. The description is written by a union organizer, and so one gets a good idea of what unions can do and can't do.

This book will educate you more about unions and their importance.

super grat book to learn about unions

Bill does an excellent job explaining how unions are misunderstood by workers, politicians, and the public. And how the media makes them appear to be big power structures that control our workers

and the economy which is absolutely false. It's a must read for anyone interested in the truth about unions.

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