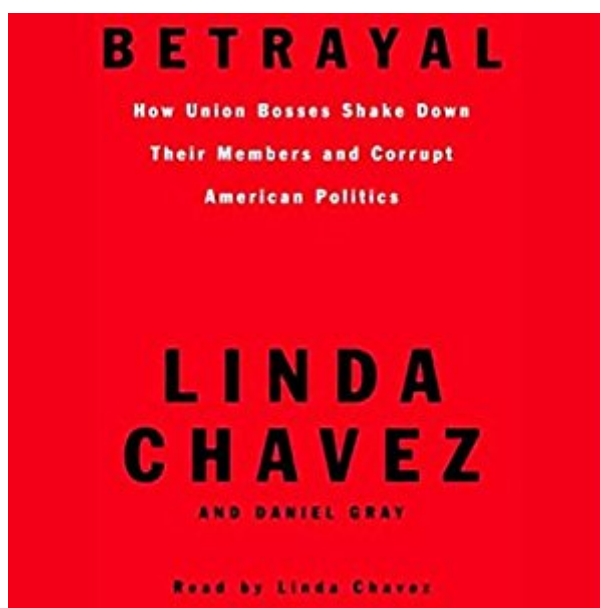


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Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members And Corrupt American Politics



Synopsis

“Simply put, the leftist labor unions have the Democrats in their pockets. And we’re all paying the price.” Linda Chavez, President George W. Bush’s original choice for Secretary of Labor and a former union official, is one of the foremost authorities on America’s labor unions. Now, in the explosive new book *Betrayal*, she and fellow union expert Daniel Gray expose the corrupt bargain between the labor movement and the Democratic Party. Committed to a far-left political agenda and to enhancing their own power, union bosses funnel at least half a billion dollars into Democratic coffers every year. And they do it, illegally, by using dues money that workers are forced to pay as a condition of their employment—dues money that each year brings the unions \$17 billion, all of it tax-free. What do labor bosses get in return? The power to call the shots in Democratic campaigns and on party policy, extraordinary influence at all levels of government, billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded federal grants, and special legal privileges that leave them free to act as they please, no matter the consequences for the American people. The cycle of corruption is seemingly endless. Chavez and Gray name names, exposing the many politicians who are in Big Labor’s pocket—including the leading lights of the Democratic Party. *Betrayal* also reveals: Big Labor’s all-out efforts in the 2004 election, including how just one local union has launched a \$35-million campaign to unseat President Bush. How corrupt union officials use members’ hard-earned money to fund lavish lifestyles and how their Democratic supporters let them get away with it. How unions flout the law by failing to report any of their political spending to the IRS. How a government report uncovered the Democrats’ sellout to Big Labor—but how the unions and the Democrats sued to keep the report from going public. How the U.S. government lets unions practice legalized terrorism against American citizens. How public-employee unions extort concessions from the government and put Americans at risk by refusing to provide vital services like policing and firefighting. How Americans now live under a system of legal apartheid—one set of rules for labor bosses, another for the rest of us. All of us foot the bill for this corrupt system. Now it’s up to us to do something about it. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

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Customer Reviews

100% Satisfied.

Henry David Thoreau gave a clear-eyed description of politics and life (as well as inspired the name of one of my favorite web sites) when he wrote, "There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root." Today, for all the seeming thousands of books hacking at Haliburton, Big Oil, swift boats, who-lied-about-what, and all the other leafy branches of American politics, at least one book has finally struck at the root: The massive and growing Big Labor political empire. In another memorable quote, Thomas Jefferson once said something along the lines that "To force a man to pay for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical." "Betrayal," by Linda Chavez and Daniel Gray, is the story of how this sin and tyranny has come to be visited on us through the government-granted power of forced unionism, and how all of American politics has been twisted as a result. Indeed, from the presidency to local school boards, it's hard to find any political arena where the forced-dues-fueled Big Labor political machine isn't a -- or *the* -- most significant power. In fact, Big Labor's political power dwarfs that of corporations, the various "special interests," and even the political parties themselves. The authors give us chapter and verse, figures, footnotes, and lots of disturbing stories. The special legal privileges enjoyed by Big Labor, up to and including immunity from prosecution for committing acts of violence, should be especially disturbing to anyone who believes in a level playing field. It's a shame that this book probably won't get the attention it deserves. Anyone who doubts that the political game is by and large a fixed one needs to open these pages and discover that far more than Big Oil, Skull and Bones, or various other alleged Illuminati "running the country," the hands really pulling the strings

belong to the labor union bosses.

A book the union leaders would rather you didn't read! Few teachers, for instance, are fully aware of just how political teachers' unions have become over the years and how their own hard-earned money--paid out each month in membership dues--fuels the partisan political machine that the National Education Association (NEA), for example, has converted itself into. Other major unions have gone down the same road. As the authors lay out in chilling detail, the union movement in general no longer fights for better and safer working conditions for its members--but rather for revenues and political power. The continued inflow of dues money has become an obsession at union headquarters, and what they're able to do with this mountain of wealth and just how they go about it makes for unsettling reading. A riveting look at behind-the-scenes American politics.

This book is extremely well written and documented, and easily understandable. I'm outraged that things like this happen in America. After reading this book, it's pretty obvious that if the Democratic party (Big Government) takes back control of this country we'll be heading down the path of Socialism. I guess I've been a very naive person--I never knew the things outlined in this book went on behind the scenes. I married into a big-time union family that also included several teachers. My mother-in-law taught school at the time the union was trying to get a foothold. I remember at that time she said if the teachers are unionized, education will immediately start to go downhill. She was right--and this was a family supported by a Steelworker's salary. I admire Linda Chavez for her courage in bringing this information to the American public.

The original objectives for creation and existence of labor unions were to protect members' economic welfare and assure fair treatment from rapacious employers. This book describes how those goals have increasingly been betrayed by union managers. Almost all the money that Unions get, over \$17 billion per year, comes from dues and fees paid by workers in organizations that have been Unionized. These payments are compulsory for both Union members and non-members: they can keep their job only if they pay up. The money collected, originally intended to pay for contract negotiations and other services beneficial to members, is entirely untaxed. In fact, it is largely unaccounted for, and its uses unreported. These conditions are ideal for abuse; and abused they are. Because payments are compulsory and spending is unaccounted, Union managers have no incentive to consult their members about how that money is spent, nor to care about their wishes. And they don't; instead they spend the money to increase their own power and promote their

political views. Part of this abuse, the book explains, appears as outright corruption and criminality. Examples include the money embezzlements by various Union bosses, such as Barbara Bullock and Pat Tornillo. The reliable and easily controlled source of money from compulsory dues and fees has inevitably attracted organized crime, which has sunk its teeth into several Unions and is exerting a large influence on their activities. Another form of abuse is the [collection of] coercive tactics used to force employers into submission. Most people have read about the actual or attempted killings orchestrated by Union bosses and carried out by Union thugs. Some of the tactics used are not only illegal, but put the general public in danger from crime, emergencies, etc. Like any organism whose main goal is its own power and growth, Unions feed their appetite for power by doing everything they can to increase their food supply. In this case the food supply is the dues/fees paying workers in Union-controlled organizations. Since the private-sector has increasingly been rejecting Union membership, the Unions have turned to forcing Unionization on the public sector: federal and state organizations. The bigger this sector, the larger the money harvest. This helps explain why Union contributions have been almost 100% to the Democratic Party, which is generally in favor of big government. The contributions have been so great, in fact, that the Democratic Party is not just beholden to the Unions, but is largely controlled by them. The detailed descriptions in the book are eye-opening. This is due in part to the fact that both the Unions and the Democratic Party, and some of the Media, have tried to hide the inter-dependency from the general public. That the size of the problem is substantial can be seen from the fact that the number of Union political lobbyists exceeds the number in both the major political parties combined. But even this is not the whole story. The present day Union top brass is far from politically neutral. The original Union leadership was strongly anti-Communist and pro-American. Now, in contrast, head of the AFL/CIO John Sweeney proclaims myself a proud member of Democratic Socialists of America, and an official of the AFSCME, Brenda Stokeley, claims "we are fighting for socialism". Far-left causes are therefore actively being funded and supported by dues/fees-paying workers who may disagree with these causes, but who are not given a choice to withhold support. Indeed, 40% of Union members vote Republican, and 80% of all members don't want any of their Union-collected money going to politics. These member preferences are ignored by Union management. It is not easy to see how the Democratic Party can extricate itself enough from corrosive Union influence to start again representing a majority of reasonable US citizens. The book's last chapter suggests steps to address this problem. "Betrayal" also explains why politically-engineered agreements between government and Unions, which specify that contracts be awarded to Union shops, increase costs to the general taxpaying public as a whole and not just to workers in Union-controlled organizations.

The inflated, uncompetitive contract costs are passed on to individual and business taxpayers, who have to endure higher tax rates. Additionally, because of the much decreased competition, the Union-mediated job may be of lower quality than might have been performed by a competing firm. The anti-competitiveness and higher effective tax rates are an inducement to businesses to move to different states that are less Union-controlled. Statistics show that Right-to-Work States, in which Unions cannot have workers fired for refusing to pay union dues, consistently have better average living conditions and faster rates of business growth. The book provides many other examples showing how Union management, or a thieving Union official, is much more concerned with its own hold on power than with either the public's or the Union's own members' desires and economic welfare. The sources for all the facts cited in the book are given in 32 pages of notes, so they can all be checked. The first author, Linda Chavez, was a labor union official and clearly seems to know what she's talking about. The beginning part is suppositional, to grab attention, but is nevertheless accurate. The remainder of the book contains a wealth of documented information. "Betrayal" is, for those willing to see, a valuable portrayal of the many things that are seriously wrong with the present structure of labor unions. It also has the beginning of a recipe for making unions, once a useful, indeed an essential counter-balancing force to employers' transgressions, become once again respectable agents working for the members of the labor force, not irrespective of them and at their expense.

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