



On the Left in America : Memoirs of the Scandinavian-American Labor Movement

Introduction by Michael Brook, Henry Bengtson, Kermit B. Westerberg



Previously available only in an out-of-print Swedish edition published in 1955, Henry Bengtson's firsthand account deals with what historian Dag Blanck calls the other Swedish America. Swedish immigrants in general were conservative, but Bengtson and others, most notably Joe Hill, joined the working-class labor movement on the left, primarily as Debsian socialists, although their ranks included other socialists, communists, and anarchists. Involved in the radical labor movement on many fronts, Bengtson was the editor of Svenska Socialisten from 1912 until he dropped out of the Scandinavian Socialist Federation in 1920. Even after 1920, however, his sympathies remained with the movement he had once strongly espoused.

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