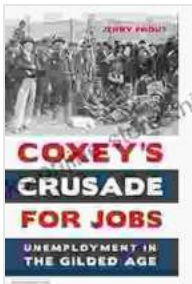


The Coxey Crusade: A Quest for Jobs and Justice in the Gilded Age



The Coxey Crusade, a pivotal episode in American labor history, was a mass protest march that took place from 1894 to 1895. Led by former Ohio businessman Jacob Coxey, the march aimed to demand government relief

for the massive unemployment and poverty caused by the Panic of 1893. Known as "the commonweal of Christ," the marchers advocated for a revolutionary economic plan known as the "Good Roads Bill," which proposed the construction of public roads to provide jobs and stimulate economic recovery.



Coxey's Crusade for Jobs: Unemployment in the Gilded

Age by Jerry Prout

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1804 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 179 pages



Origins of the Coxey Crusade

The Panic of 1893 plunged the United States into a deep economic depression, resulting in widespread unemployment, factory closures, and widespread social unrest. Jacob Coxey, a wealthy entrepreneur from Massillon, Ohio, was deeply affected by the plight of the unemployed workers in his community. Inspired by the populist rhetoric of the era, he devised a plan to lead a march to Washington, D.C., to demand federal aid for the unemployed.

Coxey's plan envisioned a "commonweal of Christ," a utopian society based on the principles of Christianity and social justice. He proposed the "Good Roads Bill," which called for the federal government to issue \$500

million to finance the construction of roads and other public works projects. This program, he argued, would create jobs, stimulate the economy, and provide a path towards a more equitable society.

The March to Washington

On March 25, 1894, Coxey, accompanied by a small band of supporters, set out on his march from Massillon. As the marchers traveled east, they gained momentum and support from other unemployed workers and sympathetic citizens along the way. By the time they reached Washington, D.C., in April 1894, their numbers had swelled to over 500.

On May 1, 1894, Coxey and a group of his followers marched on the Capitol building, intending to present their petition to Congress. However, they were met with a large force of U.S. Army troops, who blocked their path and prevented them from entering the Capitol grounds. Coxey was arrested for trespassing and spent 20 days in jail.

The Aftermath of the Coxey Crusade

Despite their failure to deliver their petition, the Coxey Crusade had a significant impact on public discourse and helped to raise awareness of the plight of the unemployed. The marchers' demands for government relief and economic reforms resonated with many Americans, who had come to distrust the corporations and financiers blamed for the economic crisis.

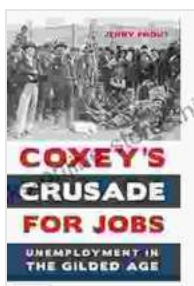
The Coxey Crusade also contributed to the rise of the Populist Party, a third-party movement that emerged in the 1890s to challenge the dominance of the Republican and Democratic parties. The Populists adopted many of the demands of the Coxey Crusade into their platform,

including calls for a graduated income tax, government ownership of railroads, and the creation of a national postal savings bank.

Legacy of the Coxe Crusade

The Coxe Crusade remains an iconic symbol of the struggle for economic justice in American history. It demonstrated the power of organized labor and the ability of ordinary citizens to mobilize for change. The marchers' demands for government relief and public works programs laid the groundwork for the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression.

The Coxe Crusade also paved the way for the rise of the Populist Party and other progressive movements that fought for social reforms and economic equality. Its legacy continues to inspire activists and advocates who work to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality in the United States today.



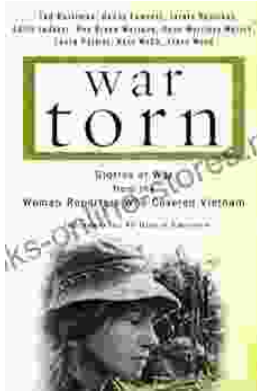
Coxey's Crusade for Jobs: Unemployment in the Gilded

Age by Jerry Prout

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

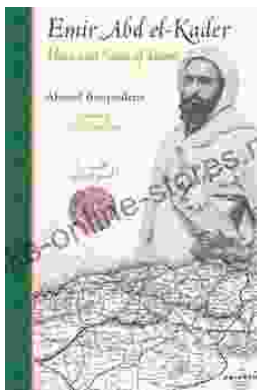
Language : English
File size : 1804 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 179 pages





Stories of War from the Women Reporters Who Covered Vietnam

The Vietnam War was one of the most significant events of the 20th century. It was a complex and controversial conflict that had a profound impact on both the United States...



The Hero and Saint of Islam: A Perennial Philosophy

Ali ibn Abi Talib, the fourth caliph of Islam, is a figure of great significance in the Muslim world. He is revered as a hero and a saint, and his...