

David Montgomery, who was repeatedly blacklisted for his attempts to unionize his fellow factory workers, has since gone on to be one of the most important historians of labor. He describes the history of labor in the following manner:

The history of American workers has not been the story of progressive ascent from oppression to securely established rights, nor has it offered a past moment of democratic promise that was irretrievably snuffed out by the consolidation of modern capitalism. Their movement has grown only sporadically and through fierce struggles, been interrupted time and again just when it seemed to reach flood tide, overwhelmed its foes only to see them revive in new and more formidable shapes, and been forced to reassess what it thought it had already accomplished and begin again. (*The Fall of the House of Labor*, pp7-8)

To understand the rise of ethnic, urban, industrial America, we must not only be familiar with the Captains of Industry, but also the unions that challenged them. As Montgomery suggests, struggle is at the heart of the labor movement.

ASSIGNMENT

Below are some of the most important strikes in America at the turn of the century. They represent the fortunes of labor. Using your textbook, the internet and any other resource available to you, find the following information on your assigned strike. Wherever possible consider the point of view of management & labor. Information should be **typed** and may be presented in a **bulleted format**.

- Timeline/Chronology of the Strike—Major/Key Events
- Proximate Cause of Unrest—Specific Grievances & Demands of Each Side
- Underlying Causes of Strike—Economic & Political Conditions
- Community & Government Reaction & Response
- Long-term Impact & Assessment
 - On Industrialization
 - On the Labor Movement
 - On Government Policy & Law

STRIKES

1. Great Railway Strike, 1877
2. Homestead Strike, 1892
3. Pullman Strike, 1894
4. Great Anthracite Coal Strike, 1902

This assignment may be done alone or with a partner.