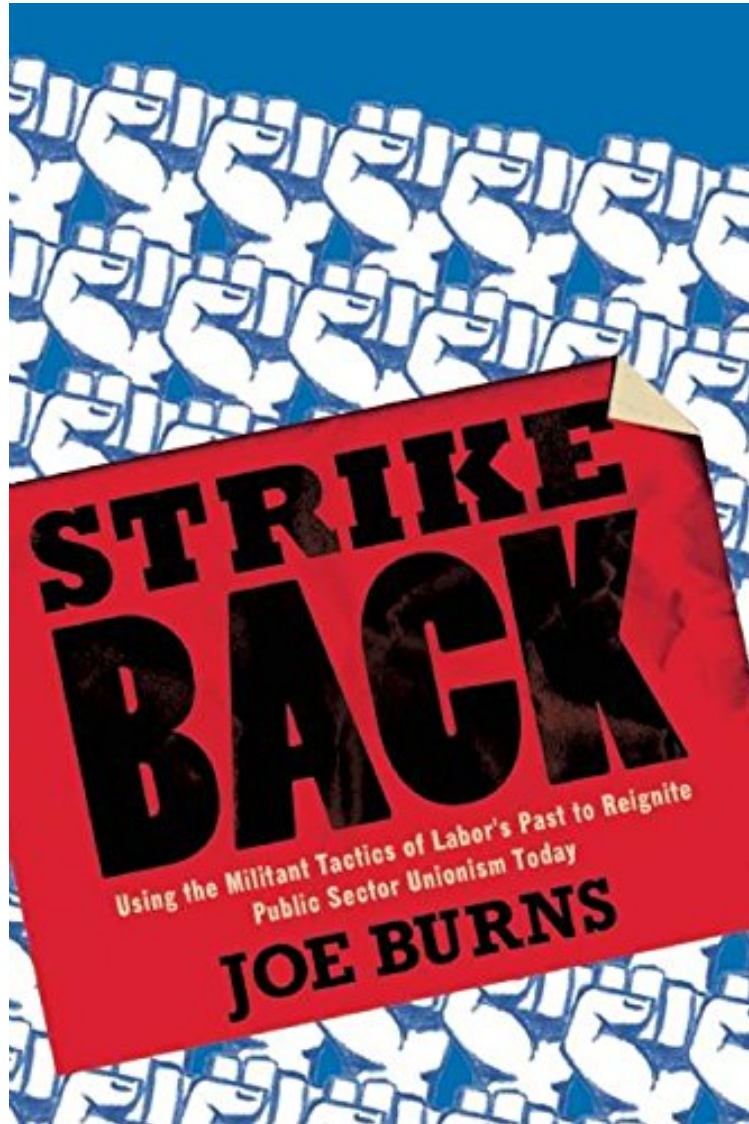


## Strike Back: Using the Militant Tactics of Labor's Past to Reignite Public Sector Unionism Today

Joe Burns

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**Joe Burns : Strike Back: Using the Militant Tactics of Labor's Past to Reignite Public Sector Unionism Today** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strike Back: Using the Militant Tactics of Labor's Past to Reignite Public Sector Unionism Today:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for all interested in reinvigorating public employee unions!By Daniel PlonseyThis book critiques the prevailing teachers' unions' strategy of 1) "cooperation" with reformers 2) endorsement of mainstream Democrats (most notoriously AFT's endorsement of Hilary Clinton and

Andrew Cuomo). Burns argues (fairly convincingly) that public employee unions made their biggest gains -- both in membership and in pay and other job issues -- by a series of strikes in the 60's and 70's. He argues that if the unions do not wish to reach a "tipping point" beyond which they cannot recover, they will need to relearn these strategies which were worker centered. Burns says labor should not be deterred by laws and contracts which make strikes illegal, as he shows that there were actually as many or more strikes which were illegal than legal. The book is easy to read, and fairly lively in tone. I withhold one star only because the book could use one more pass of proofreading (too many typos), perhaps a bit of editorial reorganization to remove small redundancies, and an index. I'd also appreciate more data backing up basic assertions, for instance tables or graphs charting salary by year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Every public employee should read this book. By Gregory A. Butler Every union member - public and private sector - needs to read this book. Especially my fellow public employees. Our unions were born in struggle, just like the private sector unions, and struggle is the only thing that's going to save them. We're not going to save labor by voting for Democrats. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars. By robert buratt Not at all deep. Very superficial treatment of a fundamental political, economic, and societal problem.

During the 1960s and 1970s, teachers, sanitation workers and many other public employees rose up to demand collective bargaining rights in one of the greatest upsurges in labor history. These workers were able to transform the nature of public employment, winning union recognition for millions and ultimately forcing reluctant politicians to pass laws allowing for collective bargaining and even the right to strike. *Strike Back* uncovers this history of militancy to provide tactics for a new generation of public employees facing unprecedented attacks on their labor rights.

"Joe Burns' account of the public sector labor breakthroughs in the 1960s and '70s provides a timely reminder of what it will take to defend and extend past union gains that are now greatly endangered. Too many public employee unions have forgotten their own history and/or kept their own members in the dark about it. *Strike Back* is the perfect cure for such organizational memory loss!" Steve Early, former organizer for the Communications Workers of America and author of *Save Our Unions: Dispatches from a Movement in Distress* "In *Strike Back*, Joe Burns shows us that labor unions searching for new strategies and tactics to reverse this escalating trend need look no further than the all-but-forgotten labor history of the 1960s and '70s. This book provides a thought provoking historical look back at how public employee unions took an aggressive and fresh approach to fight back and build support during that tumultuous era. All union members should read this book to learn from our past and build a stronger and more effective labor movement now and in the future." Larry Hanley, International President, Amalgamated Transit Union, AFL-CIO/CLC "When I read Joe Burns' *Reviving the Strike* I thought that was the definitive book. But *Strike Back* must be included in the canon. For those of us who are new to the labor movement or who have just forgotten the gains made during the 60's and 70's, this book puts it all into perspective. From the careful reconstruction of the historical events to his analysis of those events, Joe Burns provides us with a clear roadmap to what type of unionism it will take to get working people engaged with communities and back to real prosperity." Karen GJ Lewis, President, Chicago Teachers Union, Local 1 "Nobody better understands the vital role of the strike or the injustice of anti-strike laws than Joe Burns. If you think that economic inequality is a problem in the United States, read this book." James Gray Pope, Professor of Law Sidney Reitman Scholar, Rutgers University School of Law