



Forty Gavels

Authors

Carl Soderstrom
Robert Soderstrom
Chris Stevens
Andrew Burt

Category

Biography
Social Activists
Political Science
Labor & Industrial Relations

Hard Cover (3 Volumes)

978-0998257532
\$199.95

*Union Members Receive
A Special Discount*

Availability

Amazon.com
FortyGavels.com

Contact: Simone Gehner
www.fortygavels.com
simone.gehner@fortygavels.com

What Would Life Be Like without Unions?

New Biography Offers Absorbing Tale of Labor Unions' Rise Amid Abuse, Exploitation, and Violence

Today, organized labor is locked in a fight for survival. In the courts, legislatures, and media, unions are attacked as outdated, unnecessary, and irrelevant. But *Forty Gavels*, the award-winning new book written by Carl Soderstrom, Robert Soderstrom, Chris Stevens, and Andrew Burt, offers a compelling counter-narrative.

Forty Gavels tells the story of President Reuben Soderstrom, the labor organizer who led the Illinois Federation of Labor and AFL-CIO during its most crucial decades, from the start of the Great Depression through the height of the Civil Rights Movement. In the process, it chronicles the rise of the American Labor Movement, which overcame abuse, exploitation, imprisonment, violence, and even murder to secure a better future for all Americans, union and non-union alike.

Spanning three volumes and complemented by full-color photographs and illustrations, this groundbreaking biography documents that struggle in vivid detail. It follows the action from front-line brawls and backroom negotiations all the way to summits at the White House, making *Forty Gavels* one of the most in-depth studies of the American Labor Movement ever made.

Co-author Carl Soderstrom, Reuben's grandson, comments, "This book needed to be written, because the stories of the great century of American labor are being lost and forgotten." Co-author Andrew Burt adds, "The weekend, 40-hour week, unemployment insurance, and social security didn't come from benevolent industrialists or the market's 'invisible hand.' They were the hard-won victories of the American Labor Movement. Given the current climate, this history is not only inspirational but instructive."

Forty Gavels is the winner of the 12th Annual National Indie Excellence Award for Best Biography and was a bronze medal recipient at the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards.

"Reuben Soderstrom was a giant, one of the seminal figures of the labor movement...It is profoundly gratifying to see his story—and the story of labor itself—told in such an in-depth and celebrated fashion."

~ **Robert Bruno, Ph.D., Professor of Labor and Employment Relations,
University of Illinois**