



Failure of a Dream? Essays in the History of American Socialism, Revised edition

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Contrary to most popular beliefs, the United States has an indigenous socialist tradition which exerted a significant influence both in the labor movement and in American politics in the years before the first world war. In 1912 the Socialist Party of America had more than a thousand of its members in public office as mayors, state assemblymen, and other elected officials, and Eugene V. Debs received nearly a million votes in his campaign for the presidency that year. Yet by 1919, with the reforms of the Progressive movement, the Red Scare, and the split over Bolshevism, the American socialist movement received a setback from which it never recovered, not even during the Depression of the 1930s. The purpose of this book is to examine the reasons for the relative weakness of American socialism with respect to the internal problems of the party and the movement in matters of tactics, ideology, and leadership. It also deals with the negative effects on socialism stemming from the nature of American society itself. This revised edition includes new essays on "Socialism and Race," "Socialism and Ethnicity," and "Socialism and Women."

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