### From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Celebration of Labor Day and the Enduring Fight for Workers' Rights



From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: An Illustrated History of Labor in the United States

#### by Priscilla Murolo

🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 4.5 out of 5		
Language	: English	
File size	: 61422 KB	
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled	
Screen Reader	: Supported	
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled		
Word Wise	: Enabled	
Print length	: 480 pages	
Lending	: Enabled	



Labor Day is a holiday that celebrates the American labor movement and the many contributions workers have made to the country. This year, Labor Day falls on Monday, September 5th. In honor of the holiday, we're taking a look back at the history of Labor Day and the enduring fight for workers' rights.

#### The History of Labor Day

The origins of Labor Day can be traced back to the late 19th century, when the American labor movement was growing in strength. In 1882, the Knights of Labor, a national labor union, proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate the contributions of workers. The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City.

In 1894, Congress passed a law making Labor Day a national holiday. The law states that Labor Day is "a day of celebration for the working class and a day of recognition of the many contributions workers have made to the country."

#### The Enduring Fight for Workers' Rights

The fight for workers' rights has been a long and difficult one. In the early days of the labor movement, workers faced dangerous working conditions, low wages, and long hours. They also had little or no say in their working conditions.

Over the years, workers have made significant progress in their fight for rights. They have won the right to a fair wage, safe working conditions, and a voice in their workplace. However, the fight for workers' rights is not over.

Even today, workers face challenges such as stagnant wages, rising healthcare costs, and a shrinking middle class. The enduring fight for workers' rights is a reminder that we must never take our rights for granted.

#### **Celebrating Labor Day**

Labor Day is a day to celebrate the contributions of workers and to recommit ourselves to the fight for workers' rights. There are many ways to celebrate Labor Day, such as:

\* Attending a Labor Day parade or festival \* Volunteering at a local food bank or homeless shelter \* Reading about the history of the labor movement \* Talking to your children about the importance of workers' rights

However you choose to celebrate Labor Day, take some time to reflect on the contributions of workers and the importance of the fight for workers' rights.

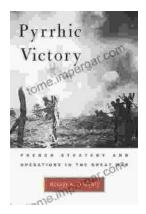


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