The first of the two main sections of this chapter discusses Marx's goal and the elements of a Marxist tradition, and presents the views of various later scholars (David Little, Steven Lukes, Alvin Goulder, Edward Thompson, Leonard Krieger, Georg Lukács, Antonio Gramsci, and others) on these elements. The three distinctive but inter-related projects elaborated in Marx's aim of reconstructing the post-capitalist world are examined in detail: the construction of a theory of history to account for the change between epochs on the largest possible scale, which focuses on the struggles between social classes within the twin frame of the development of the forces of production, and the nature of the relationships joining people in the social features of the production process; the building of a model of the economy within the capitalist epoch; and the construction of a social theory capable of inventing explanations about specific capitalist societies (the focus of most of this book). Gramsci elaborated on the most promising lines of inquiry embedded in Marx's historical writings to develop the base–superstructure distinction as a complex web of relations in which the economic, political, and cultural elements of a situation are interconnected, and in which the historicity of social structure is made central. The final section of the chapter explores these issues of Marxist social theory in the work of Edward Thompson, Raymond Williams, Eric Hobsbawm, and G. A. Cohen (who demonstrate the repertoire of alternative theoretical moves developed since Gramsci), and points out that the capacity of Marxism to provide an attractive alternative to the differentiation problematic in studies of the city hinges on the character and persuasiveness of these linkages. In the concluding discussion, the author returns to the issue of the capaciousness of Marxist theory.
The Elusive Meaning of the Debate over Ratification
Max. M Edling

in A Revolution in Favor of Government: Origins of the U.S. Constitution and the Making of the American State

Published in print: 2003 Published Online: January 2005
Item type: chapter

The first two sections of this chapter discuss the two main approaches to the analysis of the ratification debate over the US Constitution. Until the late 1960s, the predominant interpretation described the debate over ratification as a conflict between “aristocratic” and “democratic” ideals and interests, but at about that time, scholars began to shift to a second approach that used the terms “liberalism” and “classical republicanism” to account for ideological differences during the revolutionary era; this shift was also accompanied by a change in the interpreters’ concerns away from social struggle toward the study of the development of political ideas. The argument presented here is that the terminology so far favored by historians and political scientists has obscured important aspects of the ideological differences between the Federalists and their opponents because it has drawn attention away from the actual issues debated during the ratification struggle. This claim can be supported in different ways, but the approach used here is to look closely at what prominent interpreters say about the limits of their own interpretation, even though this it risks being unfair to the perspectives reviewed. The last two sections of the chapter present an approach that promises better to capture the essence of the ideological disagreement between the Federalists and the Antifederalists as presented in the debate over ratification, and suggest that the debate is best seen as neither about democracy nor about liberalism, but about state formation.

Citizenship, Collective Action, and the State
Joe Foweraker and Todd Landman

in Citizenship Rights and Social Movements: A Comparative and Statistical Analysis

Published in print: 2000 Published Online: October 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter looks at the complexities and contradictions of citizenship rights, as well as their relation to histories of social struggle, and
explicates their normative content. It also defends the exclusive focus of the book on the civil and political rights of citizenship.

Introduction
Daniel Perlman and Ananya Roy

in The Practice of International Health: A Case-Based Orientation

This introductory chapter discusses the rationale behind this book, which seeks to show how the practice of public health engages with public issues such as social struggle, political intrigue, and ethical calculations. It discusses the medicalization of health, the geopolitics of health, the case-based approach used, and the ethics of practice.

The Political Economy of Tank Management in Tamil Nadu
Dik Roth and Linden Vincent

in Controlling the Water: Matching Technology and Institutions in Irrigation Management in India and Nepal

In academic and policy debates, tanks are seen as appropriate alternative irrigation infrastructure to large dams in terms of efficiency, equity, and sustainability. Though partially true, this perspective masks several characteristic features of the tank as a resource and fails to look at its historicity and dynamism. This chapter questions this partially inadequate standpoint. It maps social struggles over tank resources in south India in the context of agrarian transformation from the perspectives of political economy and legal anthropology. It employs a comparative approach that examines the character of struggles in two different tank-irrigated agrarian landscapes of Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu, both tank cascades. It argues that the tank is a socio-technically constructed landscape and a politically contested resource. The prevailing use and management pattern of tank resources in the region is an outcome of prolonged social struggle, contestation, and negotiation among competing actors with conflicting interests.
This chapter discusses Cicero's creation of his new self — a novus homo. It explains that the political and social struggles that he faced as a novus homo were the factors that shaped his subsequent theoretical elaboration of the process of self-fashioning in the De officiis. It briefly narrates Cicero's family background and early years. It examines some of Cicero's speech against Verres. It investigates Cicero's strategy of self-fashioning and describes it as a conventional one, following a familiar script of political and social advancement. It then discusses the book's scope and methodology.

Other Struggles
in Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: University of Chicago Press
doi:10.7208/chicago/9780226496436.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the role of migration of in the transformation of social relations in the Machaze district in Mozambique. It describes how migrancy reshaped local social relations and the struggles over gendered, generational, and community power within Machazian society. This chapter also shows that migration was continuously and dynamically resituated as a strategy deployed in a multitude of social and political struggles at various levels in Machazian society. It also discusses migration in intergenerational struggle and the social advantages of nonmine migrancy.

Laboring under Documentary
Angela J. Aguayo
in Documentary Resistance: Social Change and Participatory Media
Published in print: 2019 Published Online: Oxford University Press
doi:10.1093/oso/9780190676216.003.0004
Item type: chapter
The impulse to record and document labor struggle is almost as old as the concept of documentary itself. From the Worker’s Film and Photo League to the activist programming of Labor Beat, documentary has had an intimate relationship with the labor struggle. This chapter addresses the history of labor documentary production in the United States as an expression of radical ideology. Challenging the aesthetic form and content of the mainstream media, the labor movement is a loosely connected network of activists and artists across the country, engaged in efforts to produce media outside mainstream institutions. Specifically, this chapter focuses on elements of labor history that made significant contributions but are now largely ignored and undocumented: the efforts of radical women, rank-and-file amateur videographers, and undocumented workers. Existing on the fringes of the mainstream and counterculture, the work of women in alternative media in the early 1970s reflected a direct relationship between their lived experience, the camera, and political engagement, embodying a liberated agency that is magnified by the documentary camera. The chapter creates a portrait of the documentary commons as it expands and works for citizens in their daily lives. They represent a whole population of radical activists carving out a space for themselves to engage labor and social change with their cameras.

The Vykom Compromise
Mary Elizabeth King
in Gandhian Nonviolent Struggle and Untouchability in South India: The 1924–25 Vykom Satyagraha and Mechanisms of Change
Published in print: 2015 Published Online: March 2015
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199452668.003.0007
Item type: chapter

An important social struggle of modern India, Vykom inherently questioned the basis of social power. Yet as an emerging sense of citizenship and democratic inclination were becoming tangible, Gandhi obstructed the logical expansion of the Vykom campaign, creating predicaments due to his insistence on “converting” the upper castes. Not fully grasping the import of untouchable communities’ organizing, he thwarted the larger democratizing movement. The chapter critically reviews Gandhi’s role and examines satyagraha, a technique developed in South Africa for exerting mass political force and social power. Vykom’s equivocal compromise would not occur elsewhere; other satyagrahas were not successful. It, too, might have come to nothing, but for Gandhi. On November 2, 1936, 12 years after Vykom’s campaign ended, and a consequence of it, Travancore’s maharaja officially issued
a temple-entry proclamation—“no restriction should be placed on any Hindu by birth or religion on entering or worshipping at the temples.”

An Inconvenient Ally: Clodius
Luciano Canfora and Julian Stringer (eds)
in Julius Caesar: The People's Dictator
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: September 2012
Publisher: Edinburgh University Press
DOI: 10.3366/edinburgh/9780748619368.003.0012
Item type: chapter

Publius Clodius Pulcher who was born into the patriciate but had become a plebeian — with the authority of Caesar as pontifex maximus — with the sole aim of being elected tribune, was the prototypically unprincipled agitator. His case is a striking illustration of the degeneration of the social struggle in the capital of the empire. He had incited mutiny among Lucullus' troops in the East. Then he had appeared as the accuser of Catiline, but later, apparently, changed sides. The most salient fact of his career, before his election as tribune, was an amorous escapade that ended badly in the house of Caesar, not long after the latter had become pontifex maximus, on the day of the festival of Bona Dea in 62 bc.

Prosecuting Life by Other Means
in Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: March 2013
Publisher: University of Chicago Press
DOI: 10.7208/chicago/9780226496436.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This chapter investigates how war-time violence in the Machaze district in Mozambique was profoundly influenced by local social struggles with their own historical specificity and cast in culturally specific terms that had little to do with the contest for state power. It argues that war-time violence in Machaze was neither solely motivated by the political struggle between the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) and the Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO), nor exclusively organized by these factions. This chapter concludes that Mozambique's civil conflict was a “fragmented war” in which violence was problematized by the social and cultural formations across which it was staged.
The EZLN and Indymedia
Todd Wolfson (ed.)

in Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: April 2017
Item type: chapter

In 1994, as the political and economic elite of the United States, Canada, and Mexico inaugurated the North American Free Trade Agreement, an army of masked guerillas from the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) declared the birth of a new Mexican revolution. The ensuing encounter between the indigenous army and the Mexican state, and in particular the EZLN's flexible adaptation to modern warfare, has rewritten the common story of twentieth-century revolution, leading to new strategies and dynamics of social struggle. This chapter looks at the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas to illustrate how it laid the foundation for the indymedia movement and other Cyber Left institutions. It focuses on the conditions within Mexico that led to the EZLN's political praxis. It argues that the revolutionary strategy of the EZLN was shaped through the social and economic conditions of the region as well as a series of confrontations between Marxist revolutionaries, Mayans, and eventually the Mexican state.

Civic Labors
Dennis Deslippe, Eric Fure-Slocum, and John W. Mckerley (eds)

Published in print: 2016 Published Online: April 2017
Item type: book

Labor studies scholars and working-class historians have long worked at the crossroads of academia and activism. This book brings together a collection of essays that explore long-standing themes in labor history and working-class studies as well as contemporary struggles over the relationship between engagement, teaching, and scholarship. The book examines the challenges and opportunities for engaged scholarship in the United States and abroad. The chapters discuss how scholars' participation in current labor and social struggles guides their campus and community organizing, public history initiatives, teaching, mentoring, and other activities. The chapters also explore the role of research and scholarship in social change, while acknowledging that intellectual labor complements but never replaces collective action and movement building. The book supports the argument that
scholar activism and engaged teaching are and should be pursued. It demonstrates the many ways that scholars and teachers can be effective advocates when acting outside traditional definitions of their academic work.

Conclusion: John Henry, Efficiency, and Community
Bryan T. McNeil

in Combating Mountaintop Removal: New Directions in the Fight against Big Coal
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: April 2017
DOI: 10.5406/illinois/9780252036439.003.0010
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the origin of the John Henry legend and how it has been attributed to West Virginia around the time railroads expanded into the new frontier, seeking the region's rich raw materials. Though there are many interpretations of the legend, John Henry still serves as a parable for the shift to modern industrial society and its ramifications. The social struggles represented by the conflict over mountaintop removal belong not to John Henry's era, but to a subsequent social shift that West Virginians and Americans in general struggled with at the turn of the twenty-first century. Nevertheless, the relationships between corporate efficiency and community bonds are similar enough to warrant revisiting the parable.