The specter of Black labor: African American workers in Illinois before the Great Migration, 1847 to 1910

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Description

Title: The specter of Black labor: African American workers in Illinois before the Great Migration, 1847 to 1910

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African Americans are known to have participated in labor actions before the Civil War. In the early nineteenth century, African Americans played a dominant role in the caulking trade, and there is documentation of a strike by black caulkers at the Washington Navy Yard in 1835. Caulking was of great importance in shipbuilding, for a ship was not fit for service unless it was caulked to prevent leaking. The United Mine Workers of America Union was light years ahead of other AFL unions in its organization of black miners, but white miners and employers, however, more often than not shared fundamental ideas of black inferiority. Despite the uneven relationship between black and white coal miners, a substantial degree of solidarity arose among miners of all colors and nationalities. The Great Migration, sometimes known as the Great Northward Migration or the Black Migration, was the movement of 6 million African Americans out of the rural Southern United States to the urban Northeast, Midwest and West that occurred between 1916 and 1970. It was caused primarily by the poor economic conditions as well as the prevalent racial segregation and discrimination in the Southern states where Jim Crow laws were upheld. As Black History Month draws to a close, we want to continue to share and celebrate a labor history that is often overlooked. Recognizing and honoring the important contributions that black people have made to American history matters. From notable women leaders to the desegregation of union organizing, here’s a list of important black contributions to labor history that should be taught all year long. Workers Rights Working Class Black History Month Black People Helping Others American History Organization Slc Organisation.