

Comparison of the relative strength of organized labor in san francisco and los a...

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Comparison of the Relative Strength of Organized Labor in San Francisco and Los Angeles in 19th and 20th centuries

The 19th to mid 20th centuries marked a turning point for the development of organized labor in the California's cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles. During these centuries, the power, functionality and strengths of organized labor got a sharp and a massive improvement of performance in the labor movement. Organized labor unions and movements in these two cities of California formed the principal bedrock and pillar of labor movements (Rawls & Walton 243).

Both in cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles, in the 1920s, the labor union membership increased sharply following the economic prosperity registered. The increased union memberships contributed in improving the strengths of the organized labor movements. The reason behind it was the organized labor movements achieved financial boost that provided them with more ability to organize labor strikes if a matter of workers' welfare concern could have arisen. As a result, the fight for the right of workers in terms of agitating for a good pay and improved working conditions, were increased.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was evidentially clear that the relative strengths of organized labor in both San Francisco and Los Angeles had improved. The relative strengths of organized labor improved the representation of the workers' concerns and issues. In addition, it addressed and fought for the plights resulting to decreased workers' strikes incidences. Statistically proven, in 1919 more than 7 million workers (42% of the labor force in both San Francisco and Los Angeles) participated in strikes.

However, from mid-1919 to 1929, only 412, 839 workers staged strikes.

There was a good and strong leadership existing in the organized labor

movements. The factor hugely increased the strengths of organized labor in both San Francisco and Los Angeles. In addition, both the California state in San Francisco and Los Angeles showed more hospitality to the union activities and their raised issues during the 19th and 20th centuries (Rawls & Walton 248). The support from the courts promoted the performance of organized labor movements thus was the organized labor strengths improved too.

Works Cited

Rawls, James J, and Walton Bean. California: An Interpretive History. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2012. Print.