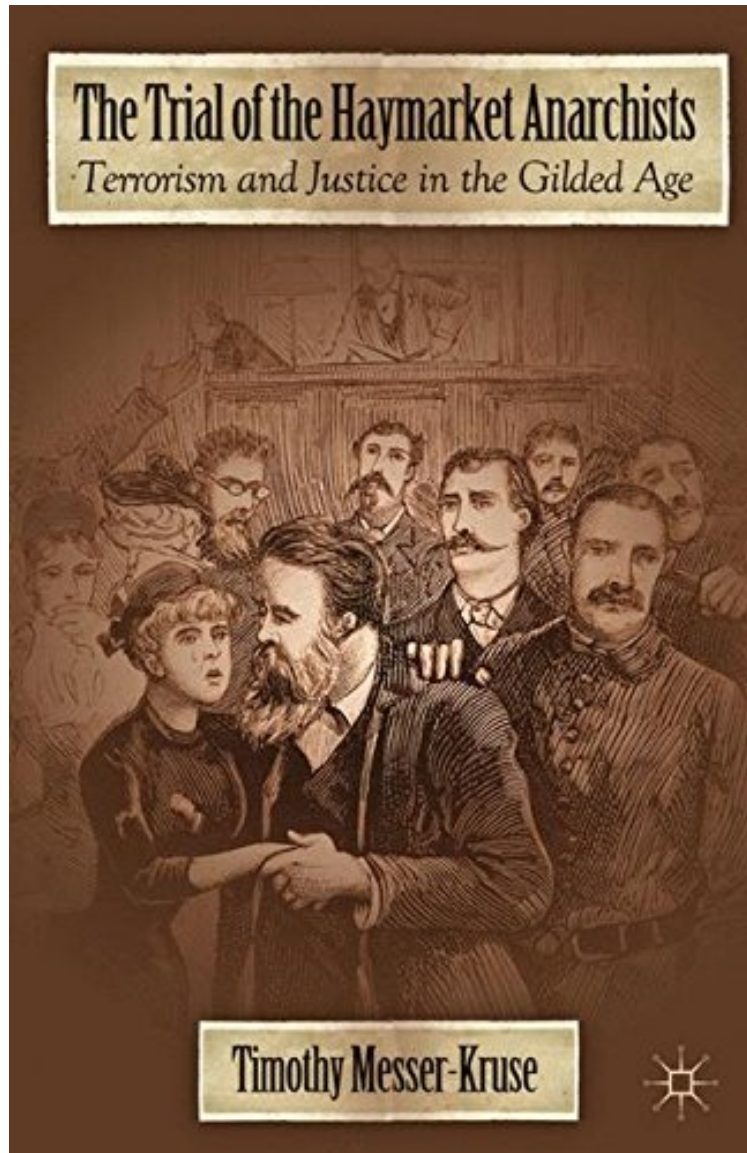


(Free pdf) The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists: Terrorism and Justice in the Gilded Age

The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists: Terrorism and Justice in the Gilded Age

T. Messer-Kruse

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T. Messer-Kruse : The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists: Terrorism and Justice in the Gilded Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists: Terrorism and Justice in the Gilded Age:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Another Look At Another TimeBy Tim MesserThe Haymarket:

Even the name conspires to create controversy and strong feelings nearly 135 years later. The battle between Labor and Capitol, in the 19th and early 20th Century has generated entire libraries of books and articles. As with most histories, the closer to the events, the more emotion and personal views skew the results. Similarly, sympathy with a cause can lead one to confuse that cause with the methods used. Such is the danger when writing about these times. It is easy to write off Capitol as merely greedy ogres who prayed upon the lowly worker who merely wanted social justice. But history is a tricky thing. One finds that most people are not so simple or their motives so selfish or arrogant. In writing *The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists*, Mr. Messer-Kruse avoids many of the pitfalls that await the historian. First, he doesn't fall into the trap of writing history using current morals and beliefs to judge history. This, one of the greatest failures of historians, is pleasingly absent here. He also sets aside much of the previous writings and goes directly to the source material, using subsequent writings to explain how views can be shaped. This also avoids another pitfall, and that is repeating errors of other writers as gospel: The Fallacy of Venerable Authority; a most common flaw. Instead, the author goes back to the trial record, the original news articles, the known facts and sets the stage with the rules, ethics and morals of the time in which this occurred. In doing so he has split the issue into the three basic components: The Cause, The Method and The Times. He also approaches the subject with no political agenda of his own; something that most other writers are unable to do. The author's journey started with an innocuous question from a student; "If these people were so clearly railroaded, what were they talking about for six weeks in the trial?" Having taught the traditional labor view of the Haymarket Massacre, he was intrigued by the question. In pursuing an author's curiosity, what he discovered was far from the accepted version of history. This is a fascinating read, a real journey into a time of revolution and almost-Civil War. It does not resolve who's cause was right, and that wasn't the goal. What it does do, is put this seminal moment in history in it's proper perspective, from which a more neutral view of history can be seen. The writing is stylish and interesting in the way the author juxtaposes our current judgements with accepted legal practices of the time. Where they right? Did they get a fair trial? Were they innocent? This book moves us closer to the truth and an understanding of what was, not what we think should have been. If you are interested in this period or the labor movement of America, this book is an essential read. A great addition to historical knowledge and accuracy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for history buffs
By highlandlas
I bought this book as a research tool for a novel I'm working on. It has lots of useful information and I was wishing I'd bought it in hardback so I could mark it up easier. (The hard cover is too expensive.) If you're a history buff, you'll like this one.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Difference Between Truth and Fiction
By The Ol' Kentucky Curmudgeon
The author did a public service in writing this summary of the trial. The public has for many years been misled by the leftist professors and writers who expound on the politics of the defendants and ignore the facts of the case. Yet the defendants themselves and their attorneys admitted their guilt in the trial's opening statements. The trial went on for weeks. The prosecution had to talk about something and then the defendants. The trial transcript verbatim is set forth on the internet if one would like to read the entire case. The defendants received justice, even in Chicago, in the waning days of the 19th century. You can read the summary or the whole trial of these individuals. It will wash out the socialist nonsense schoolchildren have been inculcated with in pro-labor union history classes in the modern public and some private and religious classrooms.

The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists is the culmination of seven years of research into the 1886 Haymarket bombing and subsequent trial. It not only overturns the prevailing consensus on this event, it documents in detail how the basic facts, as far as they can be determined, have been distorted, obscured, or suppressed for seventy years.

Winner of the Best Book award from Labor History "In *The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists*, Timothy Messer-Kruse rewrites the Haymarket trial's legacy. He provides well-written, counter-arguments for historians to consider." *Journal of Illinois History* 'Messer-Kruse chronicles Chicago's underground network of anarchists sensational stories, ripe for a Hollywood movie.' *Time Out Chicago* "Messer-Kruse's greatest discovery: 'Textbooks ignore the transcript and say the trial was unfair. But if you judge it by standards of its day, it was (fair). In those days, you were convicted by testimony, not fingerprints and DNA. They had 162 witnesses and a lot of he said/she said. But then, that's what a trial was.'" *The Chicago Tribune* 'Desiring to present a more complete and nuanced telling of this monumental event in US history, Messer-Kruse will undoubtedly ruffle many academic feathers with his revisionism. Clearly written and impressively researched, this text will spark conversation among historians and those interested in US labor history. Highly recommended.' *CHOICE* 'Messer-Kruse chronicles Chicago's underground network of anarchists sensational stories, ripe for a Hollywood movie.' *Time Out Chicago* 'Drawing on his meticulous research, Timothy Messer-Kruse raises provocative questions about a momentous event that scholars thought we understood. He shows that history is in the details, from the chemical makeup of a bomb fragment to the exact moment when a man boarded a streetcar. *The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists* challenges us to set aside preconceptions, read sources carefully, and challenge prevailing assumptions. How do we reconcile conflicting points of view, and how do we place the minutiae of courtroom records in broader context? Messer-Kruse offers persuasive insights into how various actors in the Haymarket violence saw themselves, and what it all meant for labor, politics, and ideology in industrializing America.'

Rebecca Edwards, Vassar College, author of *New Spirits: Americans in the 'Gilded Age,' 1865-1905* 'Timothy Messer-Kruse's study extends earlier challenges by Paul Avrich to the generally iconic treatment of the Haymarket 'martyrs' and their martyrdom. It explicitly and directly explodes assumptions about the anarchists in the labor movement and their alleged innocence in the use of dynamite. Whatever the purposes, his subjects emerge sharply and credibly not as victimized leaders of an eight-hour movement but as genuine anarchists attempting to seize and direct the course of history.' Mark Lause, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Cincinnati

About the Author
T. MESSER-KRUSE Interim Vice-Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate College at Bowling Green State University, USA. He is the author of *The Yankee International: Marxism and the American Reform Tradition* among other books.