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of the
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unite!"

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ARE WORKER RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS?

Richard P. McIntyre

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Praise

"An important, timely, and
needed contribution to our
understanding of worker rights."

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interdisciplinary study of labor.
McIntyre's book will challenge the
debate over labor rights on all
fronts."

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About the Book

Karl Marx's famous call to action still promises an
effective means of winning human rights in the modern global
economy, according to economist Richard P. McIntyre.

Currently, the human rights movement insists upon a person's
right to life, freedom, and material necessities. In democratic,
industrial nations such as the United States, the movement
focuses more specifically on a person's civil rights and equal
opportunity.

The movement's victories since WWII have come at a
cost, however. The emphasis on individual rights erodes
collective rights—the rights that disadvantaged peoples need to
assert their most basic human rights. This is particularly true for
workers, McIntyre argues; and theorists who treat them as
autonomous beings ignore reality. By reintroducing Marxian and
Institutional analysis, he reveals the class relations and power
structures that determine the position of workers in the global
economy. The best hope for achieving workers' rights, he
concludes, lies in grassroots labor organizations that claim the
right of association and collective bargaining.

*Richard P. McIntyre is Director of the University Honors
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