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978-0-521-11540-7 - Working for the Union: British Trade Union Officers

John Kelly and Edmund Heery

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This book is a study of the relationship between full-time union officers and shop stewards across the whole of British industry (public and private, manufacturing and services) in 1986–91. It is the first major study of union officers for twenty years, and one of the most detailed studies of workplace collective bargaining and union organization following the recession of the early 1980s. In the wake of recession, union decline, industrial restructuring, anti-union legislation, and changes in union policies (towards a ‘new realism’), Britain is said by some commentators to be entering ‘a new industrial relations’. This book provides a unique body of evidence that throws new light on this claim, and casts serious doubt on its validity. It combines survey, interview, questionnaire and observation data and thus overcomes the well known limitations of both large-scale surveys and individual case studies.

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Working for the union

British trade union officers

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Preface

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Abbreviations

ACTT	Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (now BECTU)
AEU	Amalgamated Engineering Union (now AEEU)
AEEU	Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union
AMMA	Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association (now ATL)
APCT	Association of Polytechnic and College Teachers
APEX	Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staff (now GMB)
ASLEF	Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen
ASTMS	Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (now MSF)
AUEW	Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (became AEU)
AUT	Association of University Teachers
BACM	British Association of Colliery Management
BALPA	British Airline Pilots' Association
BECTU	Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Television Union
BETA	Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance (now BECTU)
BFAWU	Bakers' Food and Allied Workers Union
BIFU	Banking Insurance and Finance Union
CATU	Ceramic and Allied Trades Union
CMA	Communication Managers' Association
COHSE	Confederation of Health Service Employees (now UNISON)
CPSA	Civil and Public Services Association
EETPU	Electrical Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (now AEEU)
EIS	Educational Institute of Scotland
EMA	Engineers' and Managers' Association

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EQUITY	British Actors' Equity Association
FBU	Fire Brigades' Union
FDA	Association of First Division Civil Servants
FTAT	Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union
GEC	General Executive Council
GMB	General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union
GPMU	Graphical Paper and Media Union
HCSA	Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association
HVA	Health Visitors' Association (now MSF)
IPCS	Institution of Professional Civil Servants (now IPMS)
IPM	Institute of Personnel Management
IPMS	Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists
IRSF	Inland Revenue Staff Federation
ISTC	Iron and Steel Trades Confederation
MSC	Manpower Services Commission
MSF	Manufacturing Science and Finance Union
MU	Musicians' Union
NACO	National Association of Cooperative Officials
NACODS	National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers
NALGO	National and Local Government Officers' Association (now UNISON)
NALHM	National Association of Licensed House Managers
NAPO	National Association of Probation Officers
NAS/UWT	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers
NATFHE	National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education
NCU	National Communications Union
NGA (1982)	National Graphical Association (1982) (now GPMU)
NLBD	National League of the Blind and Disabled
NUCPS	National Union of Civil and Public Servants
NUDAGO	National Union of Domestic Appliances and General Operatives
NUFLAT	National Union of the Footwear Leather and Allied Trades (now NUKFAT)
NUHKW	National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers (now NUKFAT)
NUIW	National Union of Insurance Workers
NUJ	National Union of Journalists
NUKFAT	National Union of the Knitwear Footwear and Allied Trades

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NULMW	National Union of Lock and Metal Workers
NUM	National Union of Mineworkers
NUMAST	National Union of Marine Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers
NUPE	National Union of Public Employees (now UNISON)
NUT	National Union of Teachers
NUTGW	National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers (now GMB)
PAT	Professional Association of Teachers
POA	Prison Officers' Association
RCN	Royal College of Nursing
RMT	Rail Maritime and Transport Workers' Union
SOGAT '82	Society of Graphical and Allied Trades '82 (now GPMU)
SPOA	Scottish Prison Officers' Association
STE	Society of Telecom Executives
T&GWU	Transport and General Workers' Union
TSSA	Transport Salaried Staffs' Association
UCATT	Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians
UCW	Union of Communication Workers
URTU	United Road Transport Union
USDAW	Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers
YTS	Youth Training Scheme