

International Studies
in Social History

Volume 19

General Editor: Marcel van der Linden

Published under the auspices of the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, this series offers transnational perspectives on labor and workingclass history. For a long time, labor historians have been working within national interpretive frameworks. But interest in studies contrasting different national and regional experiences and studying cross-border interactions has been increasing in recent years. This series is designed to act as a forum for these new approaches.

Charismatic Leadership and Social Movements

The Revolutionary Power of Ordinary Men and Women

Edited by Jan Willem Stutje

This is an interesting and stimulating collection...which, taken together, cover both conceptional/theoretical and empirical aspects of the role and features of charisma in general, and charisma in social movements in particular. The range of case studies is impressive.

Dieter Rucht, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialwissenschaft (WZB)

Much of the writing on charisma focuses on specific traits associated with exceptional leaders, a practice that has broadened the concept of charisma to such an extent that it loses its distinctiveness – and therefore its utility. More particularly, the concept's relevance to the study of social movements has not moved beyond generalizations. The contributors to this volume renew the debate on charismatic leadership from a historical perspective and seek to illuminate the concept's relevance to the study of social movements. The case studies here include such leaders as Mahatma Gandhi; the architect of apartheid, Daniel F. Malan; the heroine of the Spanish Civil War, Dolores Ibarruri (la Pasionaria); and Mao Zedong. These charismatic leaders were not just professional politicians or administrators, but sustained a strong symbiotic relationship with their followers, one that stimulated devotion to the leader and created a real group identity.

Jan Willem Stutje is a research fellow at The Institute of Biography at the University of Groningen. From 2001–05, he was a fellow at the International Institute of Social History and at the Free University of Brussels. He is the author of several biographies including *Ernest Mandel: A Rebel's Dream Deferred* (Verso 2009).

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