

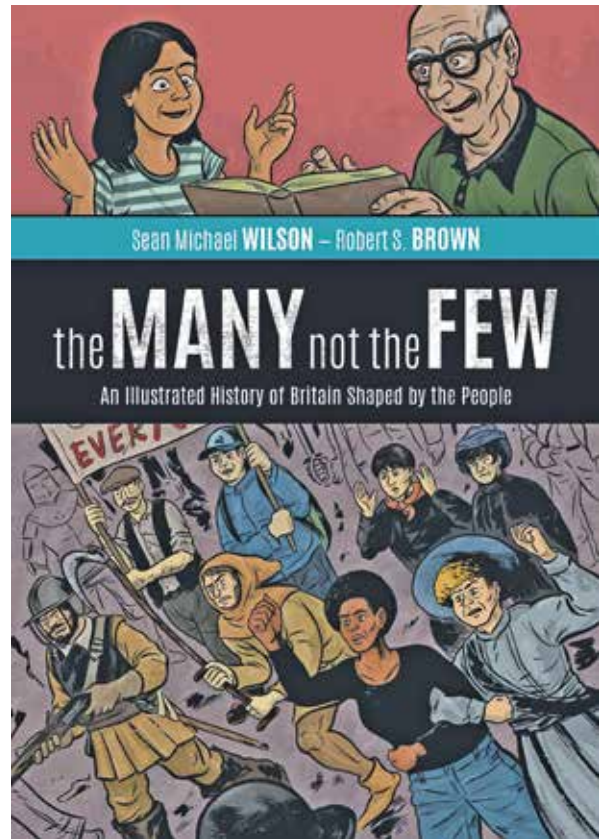
The many not the few

An Illustrated History of Britain Shaped by the People

Written by Sean Michael Wilson
and Illustrated by Robert Brown

Published by Workable*, 6 June, £9.99
Launch at Houses of Parliament**, 20 May

The first graphic history of the union movement,
from the Peasants' Revolt to Brexit



About the AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Sean Michael Wilson is an award-winning graphic novel writer known for his books tackling social issues and history. He was co-author of *Fight the Power: A Visual History of Protest Among the English-Speaking People*, *Portraits of Violence: An Illustrated History of Radical Thinking*, and main author of *Goodbye God?: An Illustrated Exploration of Science vs Religion* (all New Internationalist).

Cartoonist **Robert Brown** is a regular contributor to anthology titles, including Soaring Penguin's Eisner-nominated *To End All Wars* and *Portraits of Violence*. He has his own critically acclaimed comic series, *Killjoy*.

An elderly union rep, Joe and his granddaughter, Arushi discuss the history of the labour movement from the 14th century to the present day. Spending a few pleasant days together they consider the whole wide sweep of the movement and points of connection throughout history.

Key episodes are brought to life with black and white comic book panels, starting way back with the 14th-century Peasants' Revolt, taking in the Levellers and the Luddites, the expansion of the unions in the 19th century, the height of their power in the '70s, the great conflicts and decline of the '80s and ending with Brexit and the future.

Mixing serious research with family jokes, Joe and Arushi talk through the complicated history, the ideological battles, the class conflict, a consideration of what unions are for, and what the future of unions may be.

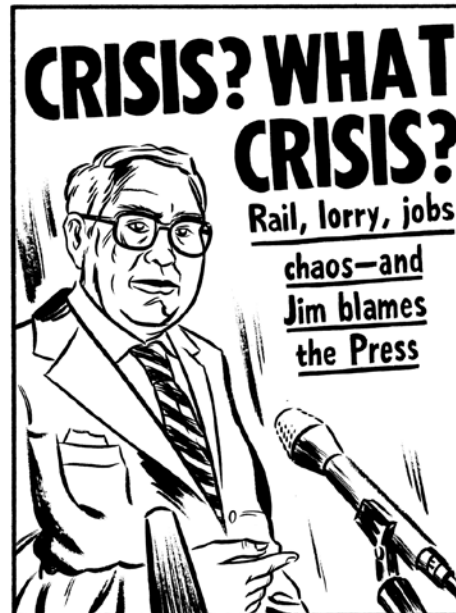
Note to Editors:

* Workable is an imprint of New Internationalist and the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) and a platform for organized workers to express themselves.

** The book will be launched at a reception to celebrate 120 years of the GFTU at the Houses of Parliament on 20 May 2019.



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During that winter many strikes were called for higher wages. With many union leaders not being able to control their radical members. It was the largest amount of people on strike since 1926.



The media portrayed unions as holding the country to ransom and disrupting normal life, and showed the Labour leadership as incompetent and out of touch.



But with inflation as high as it was then, the wage demands were not so unreasonable. The money went to feed and clothe the kids of working people, not on luxury yachts or heated swimming pools!



Anyway, we could make the point that it's the workers who do most of the hard graft - so why shouldn't they get a fair share of the rewards? By what right do the owners grab the largest share?