

## **A Rehabilitation of the American Left: Class Struggle and the Ideology of the I.W.W.**

*Abstract:* The purpose of this paper is to bring to light the radical philosophical nature of the International Workers of the World or the IWW, a radical labor union established in 1905. This project outlines a critique of ideology present in I.W.W. literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which furthered the unions organizational, and educational goals through an emphasis on Marxian and socialist principles. The ideology the I.W.W. espoused was fundamentally based on the worker as philosopher and philosopher *only* as worker. The future society, which the I.W.W. envisioned, was based upon the organization of the working class around modern production, within the everyday experience of work. Because of this emphasis on shared working experience I claim that the I.W.W. fundamentally based its ideology on the body of the worker; and, that in doing so, the I.W.W. was able to propose an embodied form ideology that overcame the distinction between theory and practice.