

# The Politics of Unionization

Eugene Foley

# History of Unionization

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-Unionization began in the United States during the industrial revolution

-Started as a means to represent skilled workers

-Began to represent unskilled laborers in the late 1800's

# Politics of Unionization

- Labor unions began to fight for reforms in the 1900's
- After a series of court losses unions began to back certain parties or candidates
- During the Hoover administration Unions loss political influence

-During the early 1900's Unions aligned themselves with third parties, mostly socialist, communist and progressive parties

-This led to their eventual decline in political power

-Roosevelt legalized collective bargaining in the 1930's giving unions their political influence back

# 1930's and beyond

- Throughout the 1930's unions began to increase their influence and increased wages and working conditions
- AFL-CIO formed after WWII and supported Democratic Party Candidates

# Taft-Harley

- A Republican Congress passed the Taft-Harley Act in 1947
- Banned Union contributions to Candidates
- Ousted Communist Union leaders

# Works Cited

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