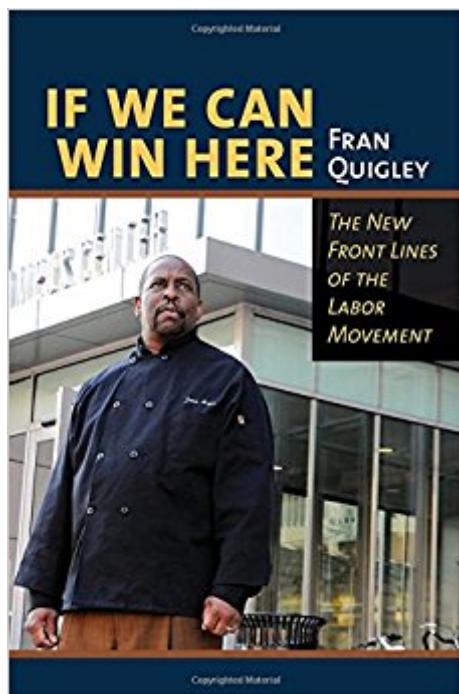


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# If We Can Win Here: The New Front Lines Of The Labor Movement



## Synopsis

Do service-sector workers represent the future of the U.S. labor movement? Mid-twentieth-century union activism transformed manufacturing jobs from backbreaking, low-wage work into careers that allowed workers to buy homes and send their kids to college. Some union activists insist that there is no reason why service-sector workers cannot follow that same path. In *If We Can Win Here*, Fran Quigley tells the stories of janitors, fry cooks, and health care aides trying to fight their way to middle-class incomes in Indianapolis. He also chronicles the struggles of the union organizers with whom the workers have made common cause. The service-sector workers of Indianapolis mirror the city's demographics: they are white, African American, and Latino. In contrast, the union organizers are mostly white and younger than the workers they help rally. Quigley chronicles these allies' setbacks, victories, bonds, and conflicts while placing their journey in the broader context of the global economy and labor history. As one Indiana-based organizer says of the struggle being waged in a state that has earned a reputation as antiunion: "If we can win here, we can win anywhere." The outcome of the battle of Indianapolis may foretell the fate of workers across the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this volume, Quigley (Indiana Univ. McKinney School of Law) presents a very accessible case study of contemporary labor organizing among low-income workers in a range of service sectors in Indianapolis, Indiana. The author focuses on recent organizing efforts—both successful and unsuccessful—among food service, hotel, and janitorial employees in a right-to-work

state. Summing Up: Highly recommended." •M.E. Pfeifer, Choice (November 2015) "If We Can Win Here is a unique work of first-rate scholarship that tells the story of union organizing efforts in Indiana. Fran Quigley captures the heartbreak, pain, and occasional moments of transcendence that the young organizers and union activists face as they struggle to create a viable union movement in Indiana. This book gives the reader a very good sense of the ferment that is slowly transforming the labor movement. It introduced to me a new and fascinating cast of characters and gave me a vivid picture of their backgrounds, personalities, and problems." •Julius Getman, Earl E. Sheffield Regents Chair Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin School of Law, author of *The Betrayal of Local 14: Paperworkers, Politics and Permanent Replacements*"If We Can Win Here is an inside view of what organizing looks like in the 'reddest' of Midwest states: Indiana. In the face of right-to-work and despite a flood of mean-spirited pro-business legislation, workers in Indiana's growing service sector want union rights. Fran Quigley's book draws inspiring profiles of workers whose courage and persistence go beyond one organizing drive. His stories examine what it will take—what worked and what did not—to build unions in the roughest of terrains. It is a sobering must-read manual for organizers." •Ruth Needleman, Professor Emerita, Indiana University, author of *Black Freedom Fighters in Steel: The Struggle for Democratic Unionism*

Fran Quigley is Clinical Professor and Director of the Health and Human Rights Clinic at Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He is the author of *If We Can Win Here*, also from Cornell, *How Human Rights Can Build Haiti*, and *Walking Together, Walking Far*. He is the cofounder of People of Faith for Access to Medicines, pfamrx.org.

Very helpful book. I will use it in my class at the Murphy Institute for Labor and Urban studies, CUNY.

Interesting, inspiring, & informative book. Tells the story of ordinary people who fight for a decent wage because they work hard but can't earn enough to survive. Reminds us of how change takes a long time and also happens very quickly. Prof. Quigley is a true champion of human rights. I also recommend *How Human Rights Can Build Haiti: The Activists, the Lawyers, and the Grassroots Movement*.

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