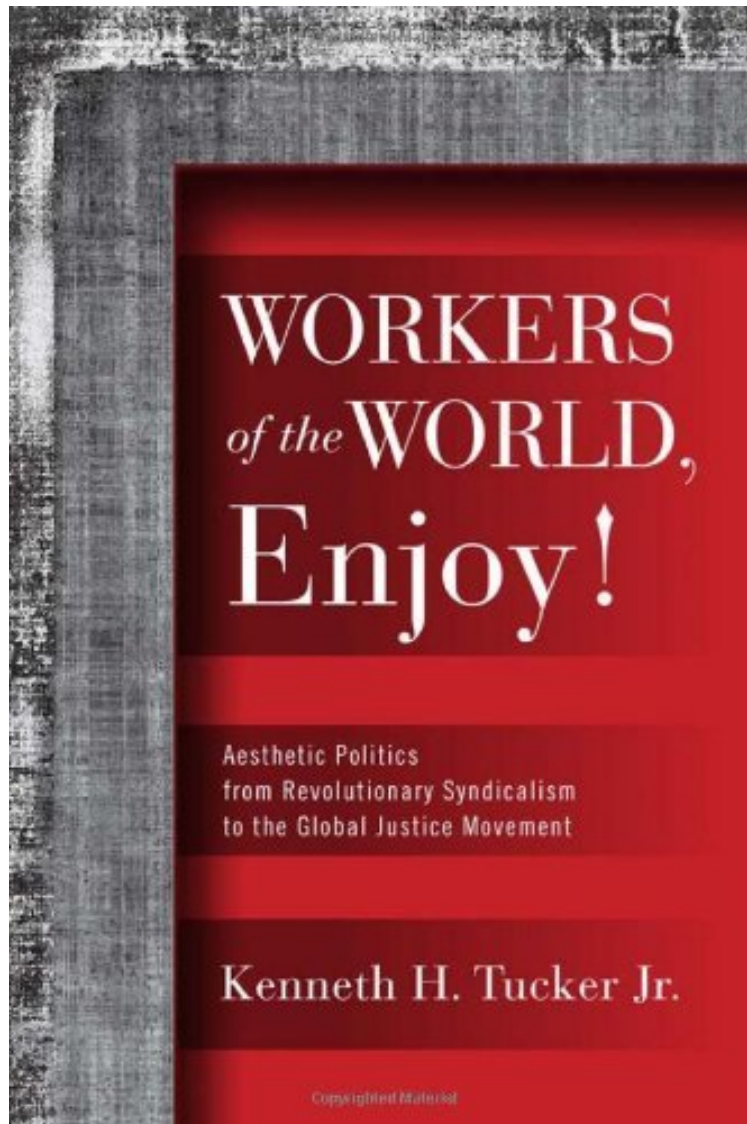


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## **Workers of the World, Enjoy!: Aesthetic Politics from Revolutionary Syndicalism to the Global Justice Movement (Politics History Social Chan)**

*Kenneth H. Tucker*

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**Kenneth H. Tucker : Workers of the World, Enjoy!: Aesthetic Politics from Revolutionary Syndicalism to the Global Justice Movement (Politics History Social Chan)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Workers of the World, Enjoy!: Aesthetic Politics from Revolutionary

## Syndicalism to the Global Justice Movement (Politics History Social Chan):

The aesthetic politics of social movements turn public life into a public stage, where mutual displays of performance often trump rational debate, and urban streets become sites of festivals and carnival. In his penetrating new book, *Workers of the World, Enjoy!*, Kenneth Tucker provides a new model for understanding social change in our image-saturated and aesthetically charged world. As emotional and artistic images inform our perceptions and evaluation of politics, art and performance often provide new and creative ways of understanding self and society. Spanning the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, *Workers of the World, Enjoy!* uses examples from major social movements that have dramatically changed the dominant capitalist society—often in the name of labor. Tucker investigates how class and culture develop as he raises questions about what it means for public life and social movements when politics and drama come together. Tucker catalogues how aesthetic politics influences social movements—from French Revolutionary syndicalism and fascism to the selling of the President and the street theater of the contemporary global justice movement. He also discusses the work of political theorists including Jürgen Habermas, Jeffrey Alexander, and Nancy Fraser to critique the ways public sphere has been studied.

“Tucker reconsiders the sociology of the public sphere by viewing it through the lens of performativity. Such a perspective highlights the ways that public spheres ‘aestheticize’ daily life and make possible new forms of subjectivity and collective life. What is especially impressive about this book is that Tucker develops his ideas at both an analytical and empirical level. The notions of the public sphere and civil society are today integral to debates about democracy and social change in both the academe and among activists. Tucker offers an original statement that is both compelling and important.” --Steven Seidman, SUNY Albany

About the Author: Kenneth H. Tucker, Jr. is Professor of Sociology at Mount Holyoke College, and author of *Classical Social Theory: A Contemporary Approach*, *Anthony Giddens and Modern Social Theory*, *French Revolutionary Syndicalism and the Public Sphere*, and (with Barbara Tucker) *Industrializing Antebellum America*.