

Erik Loomis, History

The United States Commission on Industrial Relations and the Creation of Modern American Labor, 1910-1920

The United States Commission on Industrial Relations and the Creation of Modern American Labor, 1910-1920 is a project dedicated to telling the story of the American labor movement at a time of rapid transformation in the history of both American work and the American government. It will be the first book dedicated to the story of how the American government began to explore the causes of workplace violence. With rising labor violence, including the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, the government began to investigate what had happened to create such political violence in the nation. This led to the first time in American history that corporate leaders were forced to testify about their labor practices.

This book will demonstrate to readers the origins of government intervention into the labor market during the Progressive Era of the early twentieth century. It will make connections between past and present to explore the historical strengths and weaknesses of the American labor movement. Most importantly, it will show the intersections of race, gender, and class in early twentieth century American history in a way that provides a dramatic narrative for contemporary readers.

Award: \$10,000