Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America

By Joseph A. McCartin

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin

In August 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) called an illegal strike. The new president, Ronald Reagan, fired the strikers, establishing a reputation for both decisiveness and hostility to organized labor. As Joseph A. McCartin writes, the strike was the culmination of two decades of escalating conflict between controllers and the government that stemmed from the high-pressure nature of the job and the controllers' inability to negotiate with their employer over vital issues. PATCO's fall not only ushered in a long period of labor decline; it also served as a harbinger of the campaign against public sector unions that now roils American politics.

Now available in paperback, *Collision Course* sets the strike within a vivid panorama of the rise of the world's busiest air-traffic control system. It begins with an arresting account of the 1960 midair collision over New York that cost 134 lives and exposed the weaknesses of an overburdened system. Through the stories of controllers like Mike Rock and Jack Maher, who were galvanized into action by that disaster and went on to found PATCO, it describes the efforts of those who sought to make the airways safer and fought to win a secure place in the American middle class. It climaxes with the story of Reagan and the controllers, who surprisingly endorsed the Republican on the promise that he would address their grievances. That brief, fateful alliance triggered devastating miscalculations that changed America, forging patterns that still govern the nation's labor politics.

Written with an eye for detail and a grasp of the vast consequences of the PATCO conflict for both air travel and America's working class, *Collision Course* is a stunning achievement.

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America

By Joseph A. McCartin

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America
By Joseph A. McCartin

In August 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) called an illegal strike. The new president, Ronald Reagan, fired the strikers, establishing a reputation for both decisiveness and hostility to organized labor. As Joseph A. McCartin writes, the strike was the culmination of two decades of escalating conflict between controllers and the government that stemmed from the high-pressure nature of the job and the controllers' inability to negotiate with their employer over vital issues. PATCO's fall not only ushered in a long period of labor decline; it also served as a harbinger of the campaign against public sector unions that now roils American politics.

Now available in paperback, *Collision Course* sets the strike within a vivid panorama of the rise of the world's busiest air-traffic control system. It begins with an arresting account of the 1960 midair collision over New York that cost 134 lives and exposed the weaknesses of an overburdened system. Through the stories of controllers like Mike Rock and Jack Maher, who were galvanized into action by that disaster and went on to found PATCO, it describes the efforts of those who sought to make the airways safer and fought to win a secure place in the American middle class. It climaxes with the story of Reagan and the controllers, who surprisingly endorsed the Republican on the promise that he would address their grievances. That brief, fateful alliance triggered devastating miscalculations that changed America, forging patterns that still govern the nation's labor politics.

Written with an eye for detail and a grasp of the vast consequences of the PATCO conflict for both air travel and America's working class, *Collision Course* is a stunning achievement.

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #454831 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-10-06
- Released on: 2011-10-06
- Format: Kindle eBook

⬇ **Download** Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic C ...pdf

▤ **Read Online** Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin

Editorial Review

Review
"Simply one of the best-written labor histories I have ever read." -*Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society*

"Mr. McCartin deals with policy but also with personalities, and the book is better for it. For anyone at all interested in labor or business history, I recommend it. " --*The New York Times*

"[C]onvincing...draws a vivid picture of a culture and how, as much as the realities an organization faces, that culture can determine the group's behavior." --*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"[McCartin] patiently lays out the full background and aftermath of the PATCO tragedy in *Collision Course*, an absorbing, detailed and shrewdly observed chronicle of the strike and PATCO's unlikely rise and fall." --*The Nation*

"The definitive account of the PATCO strike...*Collision Course's* treatment of worker and political power should help inform trade unions' strategies today, and perhaps prompt discussion of how to revitalize the greatest source of worker power: the strike." --*In These Times*

"The air traffic controllers' strike in August 1981 was a defining moment for the Reagan presidency and the American labor movement. By firing the air traffic controllers, and successfully replacing them, Reagan heralded the end of a political era when labor unions - and the workers they represented - were an integral part of the American social contract. Joseph McCartin tells the story in gripping detail. It's must reading for anyone interested in the recent history of American politics and labor relations." --John B. Judis, author of *The Folly of Empire*

"The signal event in the evisceration of the American middle class was Ronald Reagan's breaking the air traffic controllers' strike in 1981. In *Collision Course*, Joe McCartin brilliantly and compellingly tells this tragic tale, and situates it in the broader narrative of middle-class America's long and sickening decline." --Harold Meyerson, Editor-at-Large of *The American Prospect* and op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*

"In an age of obscurantist academic historical writing, *Collision Course* stands out as a model of accessible and relevant scholarship." --*National Review*

"The Air Traffic Controllers strike of 1981 was one of the most important struggles in American history, and by breaking the union, Ronald Reagan dealt a blow to organized labor from which it has still not recovered. If you care about the labor movement, you need to read *Collision Course* and even if you don't, you'll be transfixed by the drama of McCartin's story-telling." --E.J. Dionne, syndicated columnist and author of *Why Americans Hate Politics*

"[a] wonderfully good book... In this admirable account of President Ronald Reagan's destruction of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) in 1981-1982, McCartin shows not merely where that destruction fits into a long narrative of the decline of organized labor in the United States but also how tensions between controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) might have been resolved differently." --*Journal of American History*

"McCartin tells the story of PATCO before its inception to years after the conclusion of the strike, a fascinating story with many twists and turns." --*Contemporary Sociology*

About the Author

Joseph A. McCartin is Professor of History at Georgetown University and Director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rhonda Robitaille:

The book Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make studying a book Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open up and read a book Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Brenda Fairfax:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based

on what kind of reserve you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one having theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The particular Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America is kind of book which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Jose Pina:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the headline Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America suitable to you? The book was written by well-known writer in this era. Often the book untitled Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed Americais the main of several books that will everyone read now. This book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to understand the core of this e-book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Sylvia Grable:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The e-book lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, limited story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not trying Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world considerably better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be explained constantly that reading habit only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for all you who want to start examining as your good habit, you could pick Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America become your own personal starter.

Download and Read Online Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin #AEJXO1920W8

Read Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin for online ebook

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin books to read online.

Online Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin ebook PDF download

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin Doc

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin Mobipocket

Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers, and the Strike that Changed America By Joseph A. McCartin EPub