

Kathy Deacon: Me, My Parents and Red Scares Long Gone

Although my father was active for many years in the UAW (including the period of the sometimes violent fights between the UAW and CIO), like the author of the article linked here, he never spoke much about the larger political issues involved, so I grew up knowing remarkably little about the inter-union conflicts and union conflicts with the various socialist and communist parties in the 30s and 40s, and even less about the widespread involvement of the CP and other leftist grassroots efforts in arts (especially legitimate theatre) and education.

My self-education (still very spotty) in this fascinating part of our recent history really didn't begin until the Cold War 60s, with the renewed HUAC persecution of Pete Seeger and other new-populist heroes, which woke up me and many of my generation to the incredibly powerful far-right ideology and operatives embedded so much of our government and society.

Talking to red-diaper babies over the years has helped fill in some of these gaps for me, and this informative memoir-like article by red-diaper baby Kathy Deacon fills in some more. Particularly interesting in our present era of resurgent reaction.

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/03/16/me-my-parents-and-red-scares-long-gone/>