



**THE**  
AMERICAN  
SOCIALIST  
MOVEMENT  
1897–1912

*"This is the epic story of the struggle to build a mass socialist movement in ragtime America. Kipnis was a brilliant historian and this is his enduring gift to activists."*

—Mike Davis, author of  
*Late Victorian Holocausts*

The American Socialist Party, at the height of its power, had over a hundred and fifty thousand members, published hundreds of newspapers, won almost a million votes for its presidential candidate, elected more than one thousand of its members to political office, secured passage of a considerable body of legislation, won the support of one-third of the American Federation of Labor, and was instrumental in organizing the Industrial Workers of the World. It counted in its ranks some of the most talented organizers, able thinkers, and colorful personalities of their generation, conducted an immense propaganda effort, and, for a time, multiplied its support and influence at an astounding pace. Thus, the rise and decline of the Socialist Party constitutes a most important and instructive chapter in American history, and few books have more to offer to the student of the movement than this one.

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