

## WHY SOLIDARITY DID NOT TRANSFORM INTO POWER — EXPLAINING THE FAILURE OF THE STRIKE AT EASTERN AIRLINES IN 1989

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### Abstract

After deregulation, the airline market became extremely competitive in the United States. Wage concessions were common practices in most major carriers. Being unsatisfied with the tough management and the proposed wage cuts, the machinists of Eastern Airlines went on strike, with the support of pilots and flight attendants, in 1989. The strike failed about two years later. The American unions have long lost the support of the working class because of their individualistic ideology. The Eastern strike showed a rare labor solidarity but did not transform into the workers' power.

**Keywords:** deregulation, strike, labor solidarity, decline of unionization, Eastern Airlines, Republican Administration, pro-business.

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