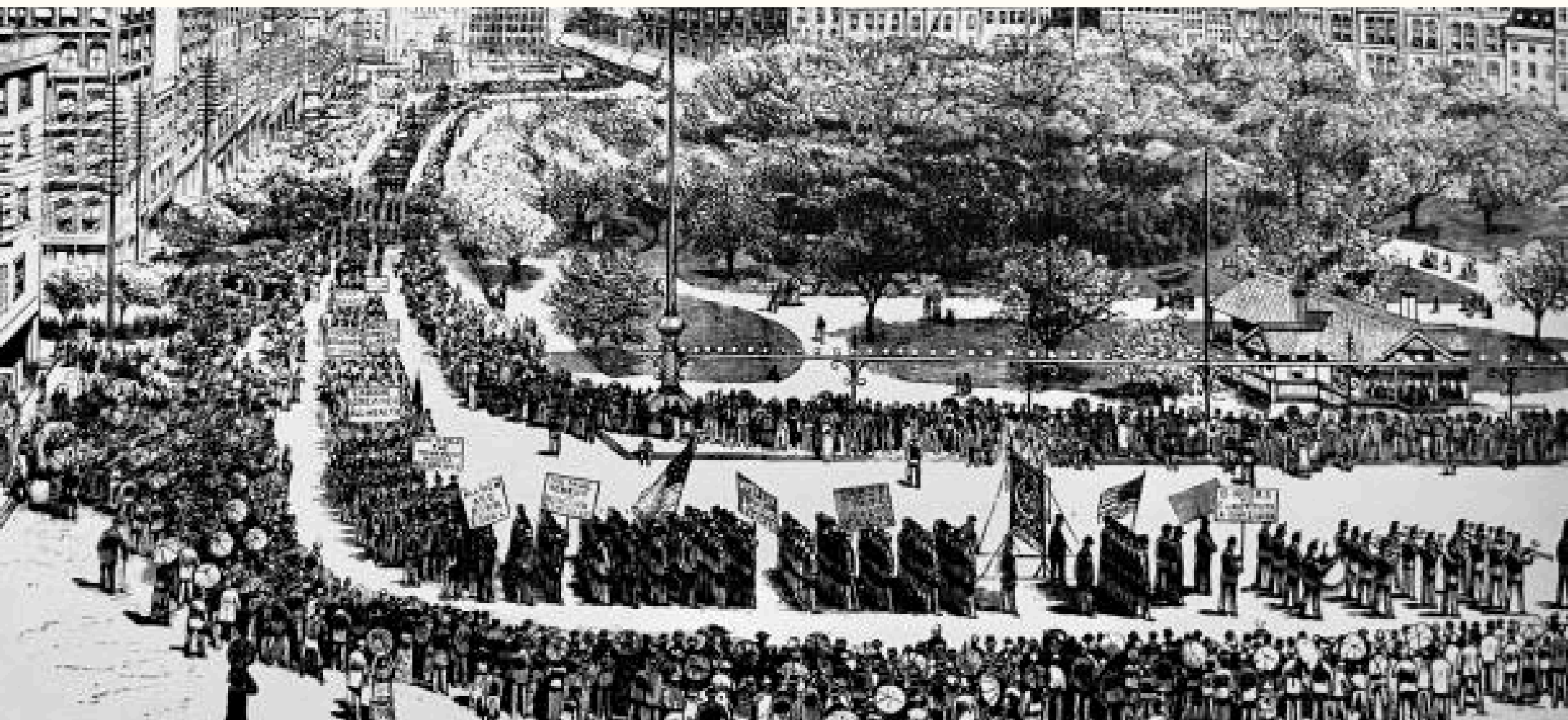


THE FIRST MAY DAY



**WAS A STRIKE
FOR THE
8-HOUR DAY**

On May 1, 1886, hundreds of thousands of US workers struck for a right many take for granted today.





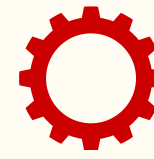
In the United States, a federal eight-hour mandate didn't pass until 1938. It took decades of organizing to make the eight-hour day a reality for the majority of workers.

May Day became the International Labor Day, representing workers' vision for a better world.



Workers organized for improved pay and working conditions, alongside wider working class issues like civil rights, peace, and the right to organize and change society.

If May Day is the worker's holiday, what is Labor Day?

-  In the U.S., Labor Day was made a national holiday in 1894.
-  President Grover Cleveland established the holiday in the midst of a left-led strike wave, including several strikes organized around May Day that culminated in police killings.
-  Cleveland sought to subvert the militancy associated with May Day in an attempt to placate workers and discourage organizing and activism.

New York City is an epicenter of labor movement victories

In recent years, the labor movement has continued the fight for workers. In 2026, NYC's minimum wage is \$17 an hour – nearly \$10 more than the national minimum. That's because organized labor in New York joined the fight for \$15 back in 2012.



And food delivery workers organized and won an \$18 minimum wage in 2023, a particularly significant victory in the unregulated gig economy.



What does all this have to do with CUNY in 2026?

CUNY is powered by the labor of faculty, staff and students. The majority of that labor is unionized with the **Professional Staff Congress - the PSC/CUNY**. We fight for our jobs, our students, CUNY, and all of New York.



A strong labor movement not only allow us to improve our workplaces, it enables us to fight for a better world – and that goes hand in hand with our work to support and prepare students.

Today, the PSC/CUNY is fighting for...



**BETTER SALARIES
AND WORKING
CONDITIONS**

**JOB SECURITY
AND PAY EQUITY**



**SAFE AND HEALTHY
WORKPLACES**





PUBLIC RENEWABLES & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PROTECTING OUR VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS



ACADEMIC FREEDOM, RESEARCH FUNDING & THE RIGHT TO LEARN



In the face of federal attacks, mobilizing this May Day is more important than ever.



As we confront rising authoritarianism, we must mobilize as workers to defend civil rights and fair elections. Just as our predecessors in the labor movement fought for both local and national issues, so too do we fight for our values in the face of the Trump administration's efforts to repress dissent.

**MAY DAY IS NOT
A DAY OF REST.**

**IT'S A DAY OF
ACTION**

ON MAY DAY 2026, ORGANIZE WITH THE PSC/CUNY

Join us for a full day of action, including a major rally and protest march beginning in **Washington Square at 4:30pm**

**MOBILIZE
WITH US:**

psc-cuny.org/MayDay

PSC
CUNY

