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On the Irish Waterfront: The Crusader, the Movie, and the Soul of the Port of New York (Hardback)

By James T. Fisher

Cornell University Press, United States, 2009. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Site of the world s busiest and most lucrative harbor throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the Port of New York was also the historic preserve of Irish American gangsters, politicians, longshoremen s union leaders, and powerful Roman Catholic pastors. This is the demimonde depicted to stunning effect in Elia Kazan s On the Waterfront (1954) and into which James T. Fisher takes readers in this remarkable and engaging historical account of the classic film s backstory.Fisher introduces readers to the real Father Pete Barry featured in On the Waterfront, John M. Pete Corridan, a crusading priest committed to winning union democracy and social justice for the port s dockworkers and their families. A Jesuit labor school instructor, not a parish priest, Corridan was on but not of Manhattan s West Side Irish waterfront. His ferocious advocacy was resisted by the very men he sought to rescue from the violence and criminality that rendered the port a jungle, an outlaw frontier, in the words of investigative reporter Malcolm Johnson.Driven off the waterfront, Corridan forged creative and spiritual alliances...



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Reviews

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