Twitter Thread by Cory Doctorow #BLM

Cory Doctorow #BLM
@doctorow

While many Amazon warehouse workers in Europe have unionized, its brutalized, underpaid, routinely maimed US workforce remains tragically unorganized, thanks to the US's weak labor laws that make forming a union far harder than at any time since the Gilded Age.

1/



But all that may be about to change: 6000 warehouse workers in #BHM1, the massive Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, AL, will vote next month on a push to unionize under the @RWDSU.

https://t.co/6EyBzl2Cih

2/

Amazon, like other tech giants, is absolutely reliant on building and maintaining a competitive advantage by exploiting technology to drive wages ever downward while ducking responsibility for harming workers.

3/

Big Tech is pants-wettingly afraid of unionization, and that goes double for any solidarity between high-paid tech workers and misclassified/outsourced warehouse workers and other "unskilled" laborers.

4/

Amazon has gone so far as to hire the Pinkertons, renowned as some of history's most violent anti-worker terrorists, to bust unionization drives in its shops:

https://t.co/lxzBcOHGRr

5/

But while the Pinkertons are engaging in covert surveillance, infiltration, and retaliation, Amazon is also running a soft-power op called #DoItWithoutDues, grounded in the idiotic lie that unions cost workers more than they gain:

https://t.co/4kWNLGg49b

6/

The @techworkersco has fired back with a debunking site, #DoItWithRealPower, that copies the layout from Amazon's astroturf site and rebuts it, point by point:

https://t.co/JsqzWcTvuB

7/

This would be a super-fun, gnarly copyright/fair use case (law school profs, take note), but the substance is even more fascinating: you won't pay dues until your union gets a contract, which will get you higher pay.

8/

Not just pay, but also an effective grievance procedure to address Amazon warehouses' manifestly unsafe working conditions.

https://t.co/jd07tuLGqn

9/

"On average, unionized workers earn 19% more than non-unionized workers so, if you make the average $31k a year, a union could win you an increase in YOUR PAYCHECK of $5,900 annually. That’s a whole lot more dinners, school supplies, gifts, and dignity."

10/

The site ends with a link to the @BAmazonUnion drive:

https://t.co/PP30se1ZcN

eof/

ETA: if you'd like to read this as a surveillance-free, tracking-free, ad-free blog post, here's a permalink: https://t.co/695sJGdxBz