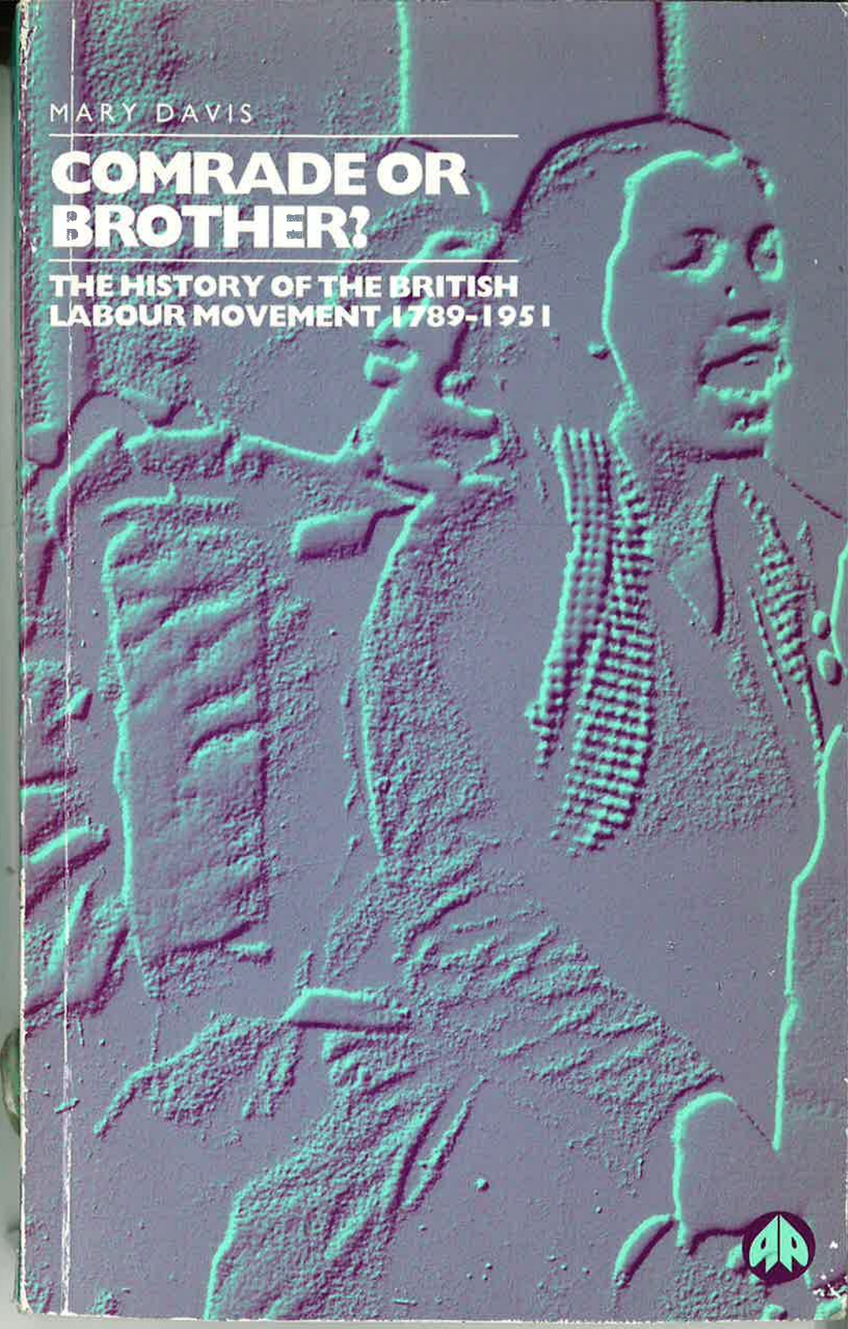
MARY DAVIS

# COMRADE OR BROTHER?

## THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT 1789-1951



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# Comrade or Brother?

A History of the British Labour Movement 1789–1951

Mary Davis

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To my mother, Celia Davis (née Yampolsky) for the past and the present and for the rich heritage bequeathed to me by the once large Yampolsky family – Jewish immigrants to Bethnal Green from Tsarist Russia.

To my children, Joseph and Esther, for the joy of the present and the hope of the future.

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MARY DAVIS

# COMRADE OR BROTHER?

## THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT 1789–1951

Recent histories of the British labour movement have been written largely by academics for academics, and the working class has been portrayed as all white and all male.

Written for those within the labour movement, as well as those seeking an accessible introduction to labour history, Comrade or Brother? redresses the balance.

A long standing labour movement activist and feminist, Mary Davis has drawn on her many years' experience of teaching trade unionists to produce a critical and iconoclastic account which rediscovers the historic breadth of the British labour movement .

The author examines the underlying ideological tensions between socialism and labourism within the labour movement. Throwing light on the movement's failure to tackle the divisive forces of racism and sexism, she reveals how this failure has obstructed the valuable contributions of women and black workers.

Comrade or Brother? will revive the spirit of debate among today's activists, and inspire a new generation of trade unionists.

Mary Davis is a lecturer in Trade Union Studies and Labour History at the Centre for Trade Union Studies, South Bank University, London. She is currently an elected member of the TUC Women's Committee.

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