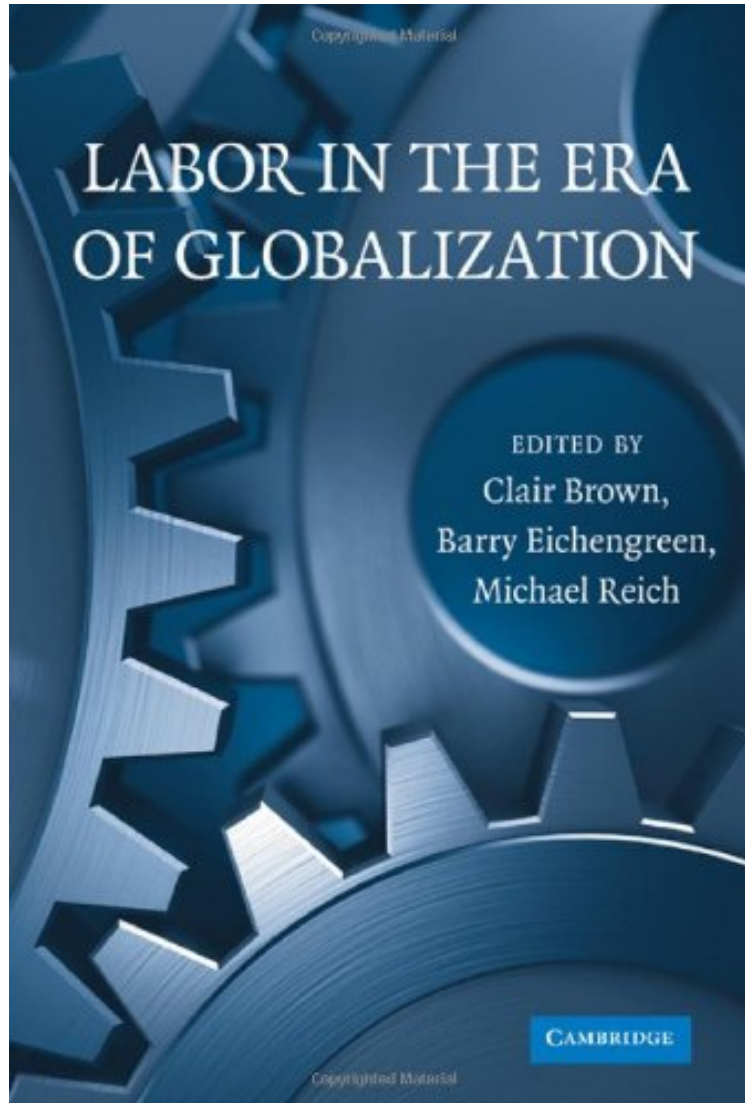


Labor in the Era of Globalization

Clair Brown, Barry J. Eichengreen, Michael Reich
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Clair Brown, Barry J. Eichengreen, Michael Reich : Labor in the Era of Globalization before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Labor in the Era of Globalization:

The third quarter of the twentieth century was a golden age for labor in the advanced industrial countries, characterized by rising incomes, relatively egalitarian wage structures, and reasonable levels of job security. The subsequent quarter-century has seen less positive performance along a number of these dimensions. This period has instead been marked by rapid globalization of economic activity that has brought increased insecurity to workers. The

contributors to this volume distinguish four explanations for this historic shift. These include 1) rapid development of new technologies; 2) global competition for both business and labor; 3) deregulation of industry with more reliance on markets; and 4) increased immigration of workers, especially unskilled workers, from developing countries. In addition to analyzing the causes of these trends, the contributors also investigate important consequences, ranging from changes in collective bargaining and employment relations to family formation decisions and incarceration policy.

"The essays in this volume drill down below the surface to provide rich explanations for three decades of stagnant wages, rising inequality, and increasing income insecurity. Without ignoring the effects of globalization, immigration, deregulation, and weakening of employment protection, the authors introduce important new analyses that incorporate variously institutions and cultural norms or examine less-studied linkages such as the impact of financial deregulation on labor markets. This is an important book with fresh insights into the causes and consequences of these developments." - Eileen Appelbaum, Rutgers University

"Bringing together a stellar set of economists and political scientists, this collection weaves economic arguments together with a nuanced analysis of institutions and political choices to explain the unraveling of labor's gains since the mid-twentieth century. For anyone trying to understand, or do something about, the losses in income and security suffered by working people over the course of the last four decades, it will be an invaluable resource." - Peter Evans, University of California, Berkeley

"Labor in the Era of Globalization is an awesome mix of political economy and institutional labor economics that shows that institutions - from unions to political structures and from financial institutions to the family and to labor laws - are important determinants of economic outcomes. The book is filled with fascinating, insightful, and occasionally irritating analyses that have more to say about the macro- and microeconomics of labor than the past two to three decades of laissez-faire theorizing. The only thing missing is a health warning on the jacket: Right-wing ideologues, true believers in perfect markets, beware: reading can cause an apoplectic fit, clenched fists, or a primal scream." - Richard Freeman, Harvard University and NBER

"The uniqueness of this volume is that its research focus goes beyond the standard labor market approach of examining comparative advantages across countries as a key source of international differences of earnings, employment, and job security. In contrast, Labor in the Era of Globalization's emphasis on institutional arrangements provides a nuanced approach that allows for greater understanding of the differing labor market challenges that workers face in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Its topical coverage coupled with a dispassionate approach toward analysis suggests that this volume will generate great interest from practitioners in business, academia, labor, and government." - James Peoples, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"This volume is a valuable contribution to the debates about the deteriorating condition of American wage earners. Highly recommended." - CHOICE, R. L. Hogler, Colorado State University

About the Author
Clair Brown is Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Work, Technology, and Society at the University of California, Berkeley and former director of the Institute of Industrial Relations. She has published research on many aspects of the labor market, including high-tech workers, labor market institutions, firm employment systems and performance, the standard of living, wage determination, and unemployment. The industries that Professor Brown has studied in the field include semiconductors, automobiles, and high-tech start-ups. She is the author of *American Standards of Living, 1918-1988* (1994) and coauthor of *Work and Pay in the United States and Japan* (1997), *Economic Turbulence* (2006), and *Chips and Change: How Crisis Reshapes the Semiconductor Industry* (2009).

Barry Eichengreen is George C. Pardee and Helen C. Pardee Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1987. He is the author of *Globalizing Capital: A History of the International Monetary System: Second Edition* (2008), *The European Economy since 1945: Coordinated Capitalism and Beyond* (expanded edition 2008), and *Global Imbalances and the Lessons of Bretton Woods* (2006). A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research, he was Senior Policy Advisor at the International Monetary Fund in 1997-98.

Michael Reich is Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California, Berkeley. He also co-chairs the Miguel Contreras Program in Labor Studies in the Office of the President of the University of California. Professor Reich has published numerous articles on labor market segmentation, racial inequality, the political economy of institutions in economic booms and crises, high-performance workplaces, living wages, and minimum wages. He is the author, coauthor, editor, or coeditor of thirteen titles in labor, industrial relations, and economic studies, including *Racial Inequality: A Political-Economic Analysis* (1981), *Segmented Work, Divided Workers: The Historical Transformation of Labor in the United States* (1982), *Work and Pay in the United States and Japan* (1997), the two-volume *Labor Market Segmentation and Labor Mobility* (2008), and the forthcoming *Contemporary Capitalism and Its Crises: Social Structure of Accumulation Theory for the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge University Press).