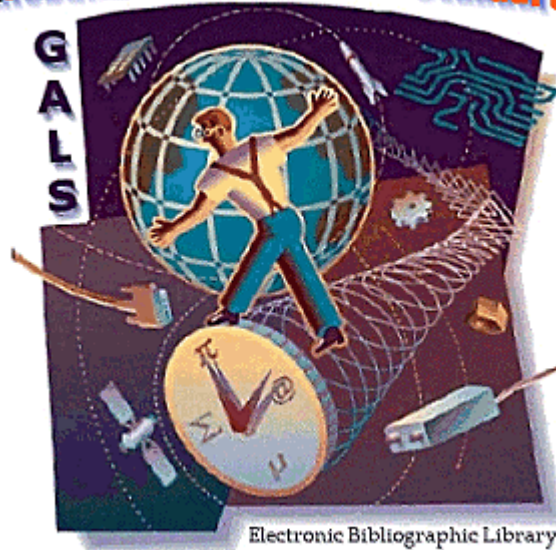


Globalization and Labor Standards



GALS Newsletter

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Country-Specific Case Studies

Turner, John, "Individual Pension Accounts: The Innovative Swedish Reform", *Ohio State Law Journal* Vol. 65 (2004) p. 27-44

Abstract:

This article explores the mandatory individual account pension system in Sweden, proposing that it may be a possible model for Social Security reform in the United States. The article starts with an overview of Sweden's retirement income system within which the individual account system operates. The retirement income system consists of a hybrid plan called a national defined contribution plan. It is financed both on a pay-as-you-go basis and takes the form of mandatory individual accounts. Workers are given a broad range of mutual funds – over 625 by 2002 – to place their retirement accounts. Because of the broad range of funds, there is no problem of monopoly, and because of the lack of political limitations on the choices offered, there is no concern of government manipulation. The article then examines the different issues that workers face when choosing mutual funds, including fees, rates of return, investment choice decision, information dissemination, and annuities. The author concludes with a list of eleven policy lessons the United States could take away from the Swedish experience, making sure to note certain qualifications because of the differences between the countries (e.g. their size and poverty rates; the U.S. is larger in both regards).

Subjects: [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Pensions](#)

Full-text links: || [WESTLAW](#) || [LEXIS-NEXIS](#) ||

European Union

Fuchs, Maximilian, "The Bottom Line of European Labour Law (Part I)", *International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations* Vol. 20 Issue 2 (Summer 2004) p. 155-176

Abstract:

The author examines the development of European Labor Law, a field that has been characterized by the tension between economic and social interests. Part I gives a historic account of how the role of labor law in the EU has expanded from a limited role under the pure economic model of the original European Economic Community Treaty (EEC Treaty), to a major role within the current context of European integration. The author describes the development of a social policy approach in the 1970s, the crucial role played by social partners, the passing of the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the far-reaching role of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in integrating social concerns into European labor law. He also discusses collective labor law, emphasizing the area of employee participation in management decision-making. The author addresses the concern that the new European employment policy will adversely affect European labor law by arguing that the tension between the two is nothing more than the fundamental conflict in social and economic coordination that has been addressed in the Community's policies of flexibility and security.

Subjects: [European Union](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#)

Forced Labor

Diamond, Stephen F., "The PetroChina Syndrome: Regulating Capital Markets in the Anti-Globalization Era", *Iowa Journal of Corporate Law* Vol. 29 Issue 41 (2003) p. 39-102

Abstract:

This piece begins by recounting the attempt by investment banks and the Chinese government to list an initial public offering of the giant Chinese oil company, PetroChina on the U.S. stock exchange, and the campaign by labor union activists and NGOs to block the listing on the basis of the company's use of forced labor in its operations in the Sudan and China's human rights violations. The campaign culminated in the controversial "Unger letter" that requires foreign companies seeking to list on U.S. exchanges to disclose to potential investors their activities in countries that are involved in human rights violations. Professor Diamond describes the dramatic campaign that led to the "bombshell" letter and then asks the important question: does the injection of human and labor rights considerations into capital markets impede the functioning of those markets? In answering that question, the author presents the objections that were raised to the Unger letter and demonstrates how the different types of objections fall into the different post-Cold War political camps of neo-liberalism, neo-mercantilism, national interest grouping, and new internationalism. The author then looks at the issue of injecting human rights concerns into capital markets from a different perspective. He says that we are witnessing the demise of the Keynesian industrial relations system in which wage increases and productivity increases go hand-in-hand; a system that has brought rising standards of living to the industrial working class and labor peace and stability to employers. Diamond claims that this industrial relations system and the macro-economic structures that supported it collapsed in the 1970s, so that subsequent reforms in currency regulations and capital markets permitted new levels of capital mobility that have undermined labor unions and working class living standards in the developed world. The demise of the industrial relations model also created a crisis in legitimacy. Without the wage-productivity bargain and a strong labor movement, many citizens in both the advanced and developing world no longer see the international global economic system as one that embodies what Clark Kerr calls "a sense of fair play." The growing sense of unfairness and the lack of consensus have fueled the anti-globalization movement all around the world.

Subjects: [Company-Specific Case Studies](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Forced Labor](#)

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Links to Related Projects

NEW LINK! Asian Law Center:

<http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alc/bibliography/browse.asp?s=45>

The Asian Law Centre, an initiative of the University of Melbourne Law School, devoted to the development of understanding of Asian law, offers an extensive bibliography of Asian labor law articles and reports.

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies:

<http://www.csmb.unimo.it>

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, functions as policy resource center on comparative labor issues. Besides publishing books and law journals, the Center provides a clearinghouse of international law journals, including the International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations (<http://www.csmb.unimo.it/journal.html>). Currently only in Italian, the Center's website will soon offer an English version.

ETUI Labourline: <http://www.labourline.org/Etui>

ETUI Labourline is a database of European labor information resources covering European, international and comparative aspects of industrial relations and health and safety issues, developed by the Documentation Centres of the European Trade Union Institute and the European Trade Union Institute for Health and Safety (Brussels). The consolidated bibliographic database contains more than 20,000 references to documents focusing on industrial relations, and more than 15,000 references to documents on health and safety issues.

LabourWeb: <http://www.lex.unict.it/eurolabor/en/>

The Labour Web is a comprehensive documentation center for information about European labor law, social law, industrial relations and the welfare state. It contains up-to-date versions of European Union law, directives, pending directives, EU news, press releases, economic statistics and decisions of the European Court of Justice. It also contains a Working Papers series and subject matter reports (dossiers) on issues concerning European integration. The site also provides links to other websites that contain working papers, statistical reports, and other information about social, economic and industrial relations affairs in the European context. It is run by the Massimo D'Antona Centre for the Study of European Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Catania.

Labor and Global Change Database: <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lagn/>

The Labor and Global Change Database provides bibliographies, citation information and (where available) web links to the full text of research exploring connections between labor and globalization. The database aims to provide researchers with an easy means to make the results

of their work widely available to other scholars and the interested public. The database is run by and continually updated by the Labor and Global Change Program of the University of Michigan.

Trade Unions and Labor Relations Database: <http://www.polwiss.fu-berlin.de/tu/english/>

The database, produced by the Institute of Labor Relations of the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie University of Berlin, contains almost 7,000 citations of books, articles, working papers, brochures, proceedings etc. The bulk of the citations address aspects of labor relations in Germany, but there is a substantial body of literature in the database covering the EU and Eastern Europe.

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