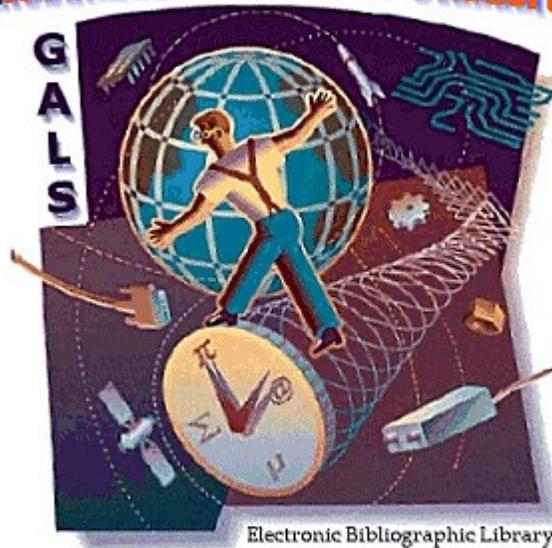


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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## Book Review

**Diamond, Stephen F.** *From 'Che' to China: Labor and Authoritarianism in the New Global Economy* (Vandeplas Publishing, 2009)

### Abstract:

From 'Che' to China: Labor and Authoritarianism in the New Global Economy argues that globalization is not a progressive force that is giving rise to a new democratic capitalism. In fact, authoritarianism, in part influenced by neo-stalinist regimes and their intellectual architects such as 'Che' Guevara, remains an

important political force and the new global capitalism itself is contributing to its persistence. In particular, the labor organization is now seen by authoritarian regimes as a source of power and control over the general population. To realize the democratic potential in the globalization process, a new autonomous labor movement responsible to its rank and file members must emerge. This requires an intellectual break with the consensus view that capitalism can safely accommodate healthy trade unions in a stable world order.

**Subjects:** [Labor Rights in General](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#), [Collective Bargaining](#), [Globalization](#)

**Full-text links:** || [Link](#) ||

## Labor Rights as Human Rights

**Risse, Mathias, "A Right to Work? A Right to Leisure? Labor Rights as Human Rights", *Law & Ethics of Human Rights* v. 3 no1 (2009) p. 1-39**

### **Abstract:**

This article discusses whether or not specific labor rights, such as the right to work and right to leisure, can be viewed as enforceable human rights. The author discusses some criticisms of framing these as affirmative rights, including the concern that doing so would dilute more urgent human rights. The author considers various conceptions of human rights in order to discern which conceptions are most compatible with labor rights as human rights. First, the author argues that a human rights framework based on membership in the global political and economic order could strengthen some labor rights, because individuals' economic lives are influenced by global forces over which they may have little control. Second, the author considers a conception of labor rights based on equal ownership of Earth's resources, which would lead to inherent labor rights for all humans. The author concludes that even under these favorable conceptions, labor rights can protect the right to pursue work free from discrimination and the right to some limitations on working hours, but not provide the basis for an affirmative right to work or leisure.

**Subjects:** [Labor Rights as Human Rights](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#)

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## Links to Related Projects

**The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Informal Economy Resource Database:**

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/infoecon/iebrowse.home>

The Informal Economy Resource Database contains a myriad of ILO activities, research or tools directly or indirectly related to the informal economy and decent work. This source is a "living" and dynamic inventory of information on labour issues relating to the informal economy, such as access to finance, data and statistics, employment, gender equality, policy, rights, social protection and working conditions. It is a valuable tool for anyone undertaking research or working on labour issues and the informal economy.

**International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conditions of Work and Employment Laws**

<http://www.ilo.org/travdatabase>

The Program maintains a Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws, which provides information on laws from around the world. The database covers measures on minimum wages, working hours and holidays, and maternity protection and provides information on around 130 countries from all regions.

**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.

**Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law:** <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/celrl/>

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law is a research and teaching center devoted to the development of an understanding of labor law at the University of Melbourne. The Center's website describes the activities of the Center and contains links to several databases that are of interest to labor law scholars and practitioners. For example, the Center's Work Relations Law Project contains extensive information about Australian labor law that can be accessed directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/industrial/>.

**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.

**Globalization Bulletin:** <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dbensman/bulletin.html>

The Globalization Bulletin is a weekly e-newsletter providing linked access to the latest articles, research, and web resources on a range of global labor issues—ranging from union organizing and labor markets to immigrations and trade agreements. The Bulletin is produced by the Globalization Task Force of the New Jersey Division of the United Nations Association-USA and the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. To subscribe, email David Bensman at [dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu).

**International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal:**

<http://www.business.curtin.edu.au/business/research/journals/international-journal-of-social-security-and-workers-compensation>

The International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal is an on-line journal that focuses on international scholarship in the areas of social security, workers compensation, and occupational health, and disability support. It is published by the School of Business Law, Curtin Institute of Technology in Perth Australia. The IJSSWC contains inter-disciplinary articles in fields such as law, occupational medicine, health economics, and disability studies.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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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*Project Director:*

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