Trade unions and democracy

Strategies and perspectives

MARK HARCOURT GEOFFREY WOOD



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Trade Unions And Democracy Strategies And Perspectives Perspectives On Democratization

Gashawbeza Bekele, Adebayo Oyebade

Trade Unions And Democracy Strategies And Perspectives Perspectives On Democratization:

Trade Unions And Democracy Mark Harcourt, Geoffrey Wood, Trade Unions and Democracy explores the role of trade unions as products of and agents for democracy As civil society agents unions may promote democracy within the wider society especially in the case of authoritarian regimes or other rigid political systems by acting as watchdogs and protecting hard won democratic gains Established democratic institutions in many advanced societies are facing new challenges The problem with using trade unions for this purpose is that they remain locked in a cycle of political marginalization and decline Beyond this there are ironically serious questions about whether unions themselves internally function as democracies Certainly there are tensions between rank and file membership and an authoritarian leadership with this infighting having possible effects on strategic deals or alliances and member accountability and actions On the other hand trade unions continue to represent a significant component of society within most industrialized countries and in many case they have a demonstrated capacity for working with other elements of civil society Looking forward trade unions may be able to play a vital role in channeling and focusing spontaneous popular upsurges In the process they may revitalize themselves through use of greater internal democracy and become geared toward more diverse constituencies. The question is will they fulfill this promise or continue to suffer from internal breakups and external breakdowns Can trade unions save themselves and democracy or will both deteriorate in time Trade Unions and Democracy brings together a distinguished panel of leading and emerging scholars in the field and provides a critical assessment of the current role of trade unions in society It explores their capacity to affect political policies to ensure greater accountability and fairness It also explores the nature of and extent to which internal representative democracy actually operates within trade unions themselves Mark Harcourt is a professor in the Department of Strategic Management and Leadership at Waikato University in New Zealand Trade Unions and Democracy Mark Harcourt, Geoffrey Wood, 2006 Trade Unions and Democracy explores the role of trade unions as products of and agents for democracy As civil society agents unions may promote democracy within the wider society especially in the case of authoritarian regimes or other rigid political systems by acting as watchdogs and protecting hard won democratic gains Established democratic institutions in many advanced societies are facing new challenges. The problem with using trade unions for this purpose is that they remain locked in a cycle of political marginalization and decline Beyond this there are ironically serious questions about whether unions themselves internally function as democracies Certainly there are tensions between rank and file membership and an authoritarian leadership with this infighting having possible effects on strategic deals or alliances and member accountability and actions On the other hand trade unions continue to represent a significant component of society within most industrialized countries and in many case they have a demonstrated capacity for working with other elements of civil society Looking forward trade unions may be able to play a vital role in channeling and focusing spontaneous popular upsurges In the process they may revitalize themselves through use of greater internal

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enjoyed for much of Israel's history Despite the weakening of trade unions and the Histadrut however he shows the ways in which the fragmentation of labor representation has created opportunities for those previously excluded from the labor movement regime Organized labor is now trying to renegotiate its place in contemporary Israel a society that no longer accepts labor s longstanding claim to be the representative of the people As such Preminger concludes that organized labor in Israel is in a transitional and unsettled phase in which new marginal initiatives new organizations and new alliances that have blurred the boundaries of the sphere of labor have not yet consolidated into clear structures of representation or accepted patterns of political interaction Africa in the Twenty-First Century Gashawbeza Bekele, Adebayo Ovebade, 2018-12-04 This book interrogates contemporary debates controversies achievements challenges and future prospects of African development and democratization from varied theoretical perspectives The diverse issues and sub themes addressed in this volume include tenets of democracy such as democratization democratic institutions good governance term limits minority rights and women s political participation and dynamics of development such as economic growth liberalization development strategies and models Millennium Development Goals uneven regional development sustainable development challenges transport development and management and health and development Featuring established and emerging scholars this book is a vital resource for scholars policy makers and students interested in African politics and development Unions, Equity, and the Path to Renewal Janice R. Foley, Patricia L. Baker, 2010-07-01 Trade unions in Canada are losing their traditional support base and membership numbers could sink to US levels unless unions recapture their power Unions Equity and the Path to Renewal demonstrates that equity within unions is not simply one possible solution it is the path to union renewal A distinguished group of union activists and equity scholars explore how traditional union cultures practices and structures have eroded solidarity and activism and created an equity deficit in Canadian unions Informed by a feminist vision of unions as instruments of social justice the authors discuss the types of changes needed to reposition organized labour as a central institution in workers lives This volume highlights the central role that equity issues should play in debates on union renewal It is mandatory reading for anyone interested in the future of labour and unions in Canada and abroad The British National Bibliography Arthur James Wells, 2006 **Usability** Paul S. Adler, Terry A. Winograd, 1992-09-24 As more and more equipment incorporates advanced technologies usability the ability of equipment to take advantage of users skills and thereby to function effectively in the broad range of real work situations is becoming an essential component of equipment design Usability Turning Technologies into Tools collects six essays that herald a fundamental shift in the way industry and researchers think about usability In this new broader definition usability no longer means safeguarding against human error but rather enabling human beings to learn to use and to adapt the equipment to satisfy better the demands and contingencies of their work Following an introduction that develops some core concepts of usability the subsequent chapters describe the role of usability in guiding one of Xerox s largest

strategic initiatives analyze a Monsanto chemical plant where a study of worker's conversational patterns contributed to the design of a more effective system of controls present an empirical study of equipment design practices in U S industry which contrasts technology centered and skill based design approaches summarize recent Scandinavian experiences with user participation in design with specific reference to the DEMOS and UTOPIA projects analyze European experiences that suggest five key criteria for effective human centered design of advanced manufacturing technology offer an insightful discussion of the powerful often hidden human and organizational resources that conventional design processes overlook Today three quarters of all advanced technology implementations in manufacturing fail to achieve their performance goals because of inadequate usability By viewing the human being as a mechanistic system component and not a particularly reliable one the traditional human factors model of usability virtually ensures that the uniquely human qualities experience adaptation innovation will be neglected and therefore that new technologies will realize little of their true potential Usability Turning Technologies into Tools answers the need for better usability criteria and more effective design and usability assurance processes In so doing it leads the way to making a new broader concept of usability central to design Its chapters will be of interest to managers and professionals in computer systems manufacturing engineering industrial design and human factors as well as researchers in disciplines such as computer science engineering design studies sociology organizational behavior and human resource management industrial relations education and business strategy

Perspectives on Japan and Korea Henrik Hjort Sorensen,1991

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