THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION**

GENERAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION


Using records from the agency's archives and the proceedings of ILO conferences, Alcock chronicles the first fifty years (1919-69) of the International Labor Organization. He offers a detailed account of the origins and establishment of the ILO. His study offers a European perspective of the ILO relationship with the League of Nations and the United Nations, neutrality, and Cold War politics. Alcock discusses how the ILO has dealt with the difficult problems of forced labor, migrant workers, human rights, technical assistance to underdeveloped nations, apartheid, etc. Alcock discusses special problems presented by the Soviet Union and fascist Italy and how the ILO addressed these problems prior to U.S. membership.


This book presents a comparative analysis of decision-making processes, sources of and the exercise of influence in eight specialized agencies in the United Nations family. Cox's chapter focuses on the ILO as it existed from 1945 through 1970, a period during which, Cox explains, the ILO achieved a particular political system. He calls this system a "limited monarchy" designating a political system "in which influence is constructed around one central figure—the executive head—who though he plays a leading role does so subject to very real constraints." Cox attempts to delineate the characteristics of such a system, using the ILO as an example.


This volume, produced at the ILO on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and designed for the general reader, offers a quick overview of the specialized agency. The book is divided into three parts. The first part provides a background outline: the circumstances in which the ILO was founded; the shape of its activities; the industrial and technological revolution; and the Organization's commitment to social justice and the economic interdependence of nations. The second part describes the organs through which the Organization works, and the final section highlights major ILO programs.

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Johnston's book describes and discusses the membership of the ILO, its structure, functions, procedures, relationships and financial resources. Major problems attacked by the Organization and the solutions (worked for) are examined. Johnston also attempts to foresee future developments in the ILO's structure, functions, and programs over the next half-century. The final segment of the book provides a significant amount of reference information, including the constitution, biographical notes, a chronology, a list of ratifications, a roster of member states with membership dates, etc.


David A. Morse served as Director-General of the ILO from 1948 to 1970. This volume is the record of three lectures he delivered at Cornell University on October 15, 16, and 17, 1968. In his first address, Morse briefly traces the history of the ILO, 1919-1948. Morse's second lecture reflects on the ILO's aims and purposes, emphasizing the evolution of ILO's important technical cooperation work as well as its educational, research, and training activities. His final lecture considers the role of the ILO in the world community.


"Several changes have been made over the past decade in the procedures for supervising the implementation of ILO standards in order to enhance their effectiveness while upholding basic principles of impartiality and objectivity. Efforts have been made to streamline reporting by governments and to promote the application of standards by a more direct dialogue with member states and greater involvement of employers' and workers' organizations." Specific changes are documented.

Based on extensive research at the Hoover War Library and first-hand investigation in Geneva during 1931-32, Wilson examines the development of the ILO from the Peace Conference in 1919 to U.S. entry in 1934. Focusing on major turning points, Wilson compares and contrasts the Organization's formative years when idealism was highest to the later difficult experiences of an ILO faced with a growing number of limitations and constraints.

**U.S. Participation, Withdrawal, and Reentry**


Alford discusses the four principal reasons given by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for the United States decision to withdraw from the ILO and gives succinct treatment to the legal consequences of the action, that is, the Constitutional obligation and plausibility of U.S. reentry. He also evaluates the U.S. intent in its action and the probability of change in the ILO as a result.


This study of the relationship between the United States and the ILO thoroughly investigates major issues of conflict over time. Galenson analyzes events leading up to the U.S. resignation from the Organization in 1977. He describes ILO circumstances subsequent to U.S. withdrawal and examines the rationale behind the U.S. decision to rejoin in 1980. The focus of the study then shifts to an analysis and evaluation of the two major purposes of the ILO: the administration of technical assistance to less developed countries and the promulgation and policing of international labor standards. Galenson's conclusion contains recommendations for the proper U.S. role in ILO affairs in order to make the relationship more productive during the second phase of U.S. participation. He discusses what the U.S. might reasonably demand of the ILO as conditions for continuing its membership.


Kruglak examines the nature, structure, program, and functional spill-over of American tripartite policy formation in and toward the ILO, using as a focal point the Organization's 1970 crisis when the U.S.
Congress refused to pay its assessed dues. This study maintains that the origins of the 1970 crisis and the failure to resolve its underlying issues are directly related to aspects of American withdrawal from the Organization and subsequent reentry. The application of the ILO experience to U.S. participation in other international organizations is also examined, as is the development of transnational, transgovernmental, and domestic networks and coalitions in the ILO participatory process.


After an overview of the ILO's attitude toward the human rights issue in past years, Melanson examines the historical relationship between the Organization and the AFL-CIO, and the increased politicization of the ILO in the years prior to the U.S. withdrawal from membership. The author contends that the AFL-CIO was the key to the decision to leave the ILO, due primarily to a perceived shift by the ILO away from the principles of tripartism to universalism. He concludes that although the step does not represent a trend toward U.S. withdrawal from international organizations, a reevaluation of positions by either the ILO or the AFL-CIO would be required prior to U.S. reentry.


A concise review of the events leading up to the decision by the Franklin Roosevelt Administration in favor of U.S. application for membership in the ILO. Ostrower credits the efforts of Frances Perkins and the Department of Labor rather than the State Department for the move, suggesting that the events surrounding American entry point to a strong current of internationalist thought in a period usually described as isolationist.


This report discusses the U.S. notice of intent to withdraw from the ILO, questions the U.S. government's commitment to effective participation, analyzes the constraints to members influencing the Organization's budget, points out the need to improve evaluation of its programs, and recommends the development, coordination, and implementation of overall objectives for U.S. participation in the Organization.