OUTSTANDING BOOKS IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND LABOR ECONOMICS,
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The industrial relations scene in Japan has been of growing fascination for economists, sociologists, legal experts and a host of others. Up until now research findings on the subject available in the English language have been provided mainly by Western authors. This work aims to offer an "analytical balance to a subject which in the recent past has been considerably distorted and stereotyped in the treatments given it" by both popular and scholarly literature written outside of Japan. It assembles fifteen essays by Japan's leading industrial relations experts who offer overviews of such topics as: a survey of the English-language literature, the quality of working life in Japanese factories, trade union finance and administration, labor relations in public enterprises, and Japanese labor unions and politics.


"This book," the authors explain, "is about trade union power and efforts to restrain its use in general economic interest." The body of the book consists of an examination of the experience with and effectiveness of incomes policy programs adopted in nine Western European countries. More specifically, the authors review the reasons why the first generation of incomes policies established after the Second World War failed and how a new generation of incomes policies in the 1970's emerged in response to the changed economic circumstances in Europe. The book is arranged broadly into three parts: 1) an introductory chapter that discusses the factual and theoretical developments which influenced the systems of labor relations and the processes of wage determination, 2) nine chapters arranged by country and 3) a chapter of concluding statements assessing the prospects for incomes policies in the years ahead.

* Items from this list should be ordered directly from the publisher. Addresses are given in connection with each reference.

This broad ranging book provides an economic perspective on major areas of American life such as family, work, health and education. The author examines "choices" made by individuals and also by policymakers and analyzes the implication of these choices for both the individual and the American economy as a whole. Several social and economic themes are identified, discussed, and supported by data collected by the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other agencies. Among the issues and current trends this book discusses are: the growth of women in the work force, the relationship between changes in the labor market and in the family, weaknesses in the social security system, the fading role of the conjugal family, and the question of income distribution and income inequality. In his concluding chapter, Fuchs summarizes his major themes evident in American life and recommends specific public policy modifications which would "provide the greatest improvement with the least disruption."


Since its inception in 1881, the Brotherhood of Carpenters has grown to become the largest union in the building and construction industry and has been at the center of the American labor movement. As such, the history of the Carpenters serves to reveal the "trial and error process through which America's national unions have evolved." Using archival materials such as union records, diaries, minutes of local and affiliate unions and AFL-CIO primary sources, Professor Galenson documents a comprehensive analysis of this significant union and discusses some of the most important personalities of the labor movement. According to Galenson, the success of the Carpenter's survival is due to the fact that it was run as a conservative, business-like union whose ideology and organizational structure were flexible enough to meet the demands of the changing political and economic environment. The book is arranged in a chronological fashion beginning with the predecessors of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and concludes with a look ahead to the problems the union will face in its second century.


This collection of non-technical essays dealing with industrial relations in Great Britain provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of developments and trends over the past thirty years. The seventeen essays are divided into five major categories. Part One examines trade union growth and structure and also the rise of shop stewards. Part Two looks at employer strategies and practices and the functions of employers' organizations. Part Three reviews the patterns of industrial relations in both the private and public sector. Part Four analyzes the operation of the labor markets. The last section examines the role of the state and its agencies.

In this book, Killingsworth presents a comprehensive review of the growing economic literature on individual choice between working time and other activities. As the author points out, the concept of labor supply is at the center of recent policy discussions on tax and welfare reform. After summarizing traditional economic analysis of labor supply, and drawing together more recent contributions to this analysis, the author tabulates, compares and criticizes a vast array of empirical studies of the theory. This book will be of obvious interest to practicing labor economists.


This book presents the findings from the National Longitudinal Study (NLS) of the High School Class of 1972, which is a unique data set of nearly 23,000 seniors from more than 1,300 high schools who were tracked over several years. In addition to analyzing the complex behavioral and economic processes by which high school students and colleges select each other, the authors present findings concerning the early work experiences of high school graduates. Because the experiences of post secondary education contribute significantly to better social and economic outcomes in American society, many of the findings can have implications for educational policy. The authors conclude by suggesting five empirical studies worth pursuing for future research.


The papers and invited comments in this volume were first presented at a Conference on the Measurement of Labor Cost held in Virginia in December of 1981. The fourteen technical papers are grouped into four broad categories dealing with: 1) an overview of the concepts, methodology, and data; 2) measures of aggregate labor cost in the United States; 3) pensions and benefits as labor cost components; and 4) labor cost measures and economic policy analysis. In the introductory essay, the editor, Jack Triplett, comments that much of the measurement work in labor economics has reflected a supply side orientation. On the other hand, conceptual research and data development for the demand side of the labor market have been sparse. The contributing authors in this volume seek to present new insights into employer behavior in labor markets and on measurement of labor cost.


Henry Phelps Brown presents a clear and thorough historical review of the key factors and events in British trade union development. The author discusses those aspects of the British peoples' character and of Great Britain
itself that advanced trade unionism. The areas discussed include: experiences with union militancy and confrontation with government policy; the nature and implications of the strong bond between the unions and the British Labour Party; the effect of war on class distinction and union acceptance; union restraint by employer organizations; and modern stresses that led to the establishment of the Industrial Relations Act of 1971, subsequently repealed. In order to place Britain’s labor union movement in perspective, Brown offers comparative studies of trade unionism in Canada, Australia, and the United States.


The author seeks to demonstrate the importance of analyzing the structural determinants of unemployment as one way of understanding the complexities of the segmented American economy. Drawing on research derived from labor economics, industrial relations, neo-Marxism and current research on the sociology of labor markets, the author examines the perennial question of whether the economic fate of individuals resides in their own hands or is a function of the structure of the economy. In this book Schervish argues that structural determinants outweigh personal characteristics in influencing both the national and individual pattern of unemployment. Three sets of structural variables are discussed in a theoretical model developed by the author. They are: the socio-economic class of the individual, the economic sector or the product market characteristic of the firm in which the job is located, and the period of the business cycle. Later chapters of the book present a detailed statistical analysis of unemployment in terms of these individual variables.


This collection of six essays uses data from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Labor Market Experience in its examination of the work experience and attitudes of American youth. Chapter 1 examines who, in fact, constitute the youth population by age, race, sex and economic status. Variation in labor force participation and non-participation is thus related to these demographic variables. The job characteristics of working youth, nearly half of whom are part-time employees, are studied in Chapter 2 along with determinants of youth wage rates. Special attention is given to youth attitudes toward their jobs, reasons for leaving jobs, and employment patterns in general. Chapter 3 examines job search strategies of the employed and unemployed, wage expectations, reasons for seeking jobs, and experience with employment discrimination. Chapter 4 focuses on the role of education attainment, training programs, and similar determinants of success in the work force.