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PRAISE FOR Labor in the Era of Globalization

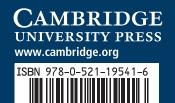
"The essays in this volume drill down below the surface to provide rich explanations for three decades of stagnant wages, rising inequality, and increasing income insecurity. Without ignoring the effects of globalization, immigration, deregulation, and weakening of employment protection, the authors introduce important new analyses that incorporate variously institutions and cultural norms or examine less-studied linkages such as the impact of financial deregulation on labor markets. This is an important book with fresh insights into the causes and consequences of these developments." – Eileen Appelbaum, Rutgers University

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"Labor in the Era of Globalization is an awesome mix of political economy and institutional labor economics that shows that institutions – from unions to political structures and from financial institutions to the family and to labor laws – are important determinants of economic outcomes. The book is filled with fascinating, insightful, and occasionally irritating analyses that have more to say about the macro- and microeconomics of labor than the past two to three decades of laissez-faire theorizing. The only thing missing is a health warning on the jacket: Right-wing ideologues, true believers in perfect markets, beware: reading can cause an apoplectic fit, clenched fists, or a primal scream." – Richard Freeman, Harvard University and NBER

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LABOR IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

EDITED BY Clair Brown, Barry Eichengreen, Michael Reich

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century was a golden age for labor in the advanced industrial countries, characterized by rising incomes, relatively egalitarian wage structures, and reasonable levels of job security. The subsequent quartercentury has seen less positive performance along a number of these dimensions. This period instead has been marked by rapid globalization of economic activity that has brought increased insecurity to workers. The contributors to this volume - prominent scholars from the United States. Europe, and Japan – distinguish four explanations for this historic shift: (I) global competition for both business and labor; (2) deregulation of industry with more reliance on markets; (3) weakening of legislation to protect workers and provide income security; and (4) increased migration of workers, especially unskilled workers, from developing to developed countries. In addition to analyzing the causes of these trends, the contributors investigate important consequences ranging from changes in collective bargaining and employment relations to family-formation decisions and incarceration policy.

The third quarter of the twentieth