

Publication ILO Histories

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De lezingen van het colloquium The International Labour Organization: Past and Present op 5 en 6 oktober 2007 in Brussel, zijn gebundeld in het boek ILO Histories. Daarbij is ook een bijdrage van Â Geert Van Goethem, directeur van Amsab-ISG.

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In 2009, the International Labour Organization (ILO) celebrated its ninetieth anniversary. The First World War and the revolutionary wave it provoked in Russia and elsewhere were powerful inspirations for the founding of the ILO. There was a growing understanding that social justice, in particular by improving labour conditions, was an essential precondition for universal peace. Since then, the ILO has seen successes and set-backs; it has been ridiculed and praised. Much has been written about the ILO; there are semi-official histories and some critical studies on the organization's history have recently been published. Yet, further source-based critical and comprehensive analyses of the organization's origins and development are still lacking. The present collection of eighteen essays is an attempt to change this unsatisfactory situation by complementing those histories that already exist, exploring new topics, and offering new perspectives. It is guided by the observation that the ILO's history is not primarily about 'elaborating beautiful texts and collecting impressive instruments for ratification' but about effecting 'real change and more happiness in peoples' lives'.Â

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