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International Labor Standards; Introduction; Categories of Labor Standards; The Sources of Agitation for Improved Labor Standards; Morals and Economics: Long-standing Arguments; Control and Enforcement; Patterns of Labor Standards Evolution; Early Examples of Legislation; The Types of Legislation; The Impact of Labor Standards Early International AgreementsThe International Labor Organization; Final Remarks; Appendix 1: Labor Standards in the Scandinavian Nations; Commentary 1.1 The Parallels Between the Past and the Present; The Parallels Between the Past and the Present; The Macroeconomics of Child Labor; The Microeconomics of Child Labor; Labor Standards and Social Policy Conclusion; Conclusion; Appendix: Nussbaum's List; Commentary 1.2 Legislation Versus Bargaining Power: The Evolution of Scandinavian Labor Standards; Part III: The Theory of International Labor Standards

Chapter 2. The Impact of International Labor Standards: A Survey of Economic TheoryIntroduction; Delineating Labor Standards; Labor Markets and Labor Standards; Labor Standards in the Global Economy; Who Decides and How?; What Happens to the Poor?; Conclusion; Appendix 1: Basic Competitive Model; Appendix 2; Appendix 3: Monopsony; Commentary 2.1 Old Wine in New Bottles?; Commentary 2.2 Governing Labor Relations; Incomplete Contracts and Workers' Rights; Working Conditions; Conclusion; Part IV: The Issue of Child Labor; Chapter 3. Child Labor: Theory, Evidence, and Policy; Introduction

Theories of Child Labor: Models of Household DecisionsEmpirical Evidence on the Determinants of Child Labor; Traditional Policies Targeting Child Labor and Education; Recent Policy Initiatives Addressing Child Labor; Child Labor Standards Initiatives in the International Arena; Conclusions; Commentary 3.1 The Political Economy of Child Labor; Conclusion; Commentary 3.2 Social Norms, Coordination, and Policy Issues in the Fight Against Child Labor; The Role of Social Norms; A Comment on Policy; Concluding Remarks; Part V: The International Organization and Enforcement of Labor Standards

Chapter 4. A Role for the WTOIntroduction; Identifying the Problems; The Institutional Features of the WTO and the ILO; The Assignment of Problems to Institutions; The Role of the WTO in Preventing Race-to-the-bottom/Regulatory-chill Problems; The Role of the WTO in Enforcing ILO Agreements; Evaluating the Options; Summary and Conclusion; Commentary 4.1 Trade and Labor Standards: To Link or Not to Link?; Commentary 4.2 The Need to Micro-Manage Regulatory Diversity; The Argument in Staiger's Study; The Argument in this Commentary; The Function of the WTO Contract in a Nutshell The Limits of the Current WTO Contract

Sommario/riassunto

This book addresses the controversial call for international labor standards, seeking to productively further this debate by considering the economic implications and history of these standards. A result of an initiative by Professor Kaushik Basu in his capacity as member of the Expert Group of Development Issues (EGDI) sponsored by the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the contributions are based on discussions at a seminar held in Stockholm in August 2001. Compiling the best research in the field, this book provides a solid basis for policy decisions, while also serving as a challenging text for stu
