
Despite the current recession, the rate of unionization continues to decline in the United States (currently down to 13.2 percent in 2002 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics latest survey). At the same time, the number of books devoted to discussing the direction of labor unions seems to proliferate. One of the more recent is Hoyt Wheeler's review of the past, present, and future of organized labor in The Future of the American Labor Movement.

The book begins with a survey of current strategies being employed by labor unions. Like a good taxonomist, Professor Wheeler begins by defining ideal categories of unionization: Pure and Simple Unionism, Militant Radical Unionism, Cooperationist Unionism, Social Democratic Unionism, and Reformist Unionism. Having identified and defined each of these categories, he then proceeds to discuss the major trends affecting workplace relations, including lean production methods, autonomous work groups, downsizing, contingent employment, employee ownership, and the rise of the service sector. Next he looks at how unions in the ideal categories described above have reacted to changing work relationships, both presently and in the past. This includes a look back at the Knights of Labor from whose...

Source Citation

Gale Document Number: GALE|A107397288
pro-labor president since the 1960s, the most pro-labor secretary of labor since [FDR’s Secretary] Frances Perkins, an economy with shrinking unemployment and rising wages — and yet we lost a quarter-million union members in the United States,” says David Rolf, president of SEIU 775, a local union representing home care workers in Washington and Montana. Of course, a union-less future might not exactly be devoid of workers’ groups vaguely devoted to something resembling solidarity. But such organizations might be like the weak Independent Drivers Guild that formed in 2016 to represent Uber workers in New York. But even as he cheered the idea of public-sector unions’ power being reined in, he painted a dark picture of an America where gig workers who lack unions essentially rely on the goodwill of rich people who want to keep things calm. “If you look at the long-term vision of the oligarchs, it’s really a society where very few people make money,” he told me. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has grown in membership to nearly 60,000, with over 1,000 delegates attending their most recent convention. Among the many topics discussed at this convention, some of the most notable involved organized labor strikes, such as the successful campaigns performed by school teachers in Los Angeles and airline flight attendants. Although there has been a resurgence in pro-union sentiment from liberal politicians, it remains unclear whether these movements will gain mainstream political influence. However, now businesses themselves look to be the most substantial hurdle in future battles for organized labor. Future of European Union will be costly. Expansion is a costly business: EU subsidies to the Eastern countries continue to be a large slice of the annual Brussels budget - unlikely to scratch the surface in future. Anyone following the decline of Germany’s economy following the years of integration had to recognise the immense investment of resources by old West Germany into the East, for little economic return. It is hard to imagine such a profound division between different States of America. Passions of large numbers of people within the EU can be easily inflamed by insensitive decrees from Brussels, or by “unfair” treatment by one country of another. Disputes over budget deficits, overspending, beef, lamb, asylum seekers, chocolate, Iraq and so on are not just superficial. These labor unions are still going strong. Futures on the Nasdaq 100 Index are 0.9% lower after Europe’s application software giant SAP SE dropped as much as 21% after cutting its revenue forecast for the full year. Notes From the Sell Side: Apollo Global Management was upgraded to outperform at Evercore ISI, which wrote that recent share-price weakness related to Leon Black’s relationship with convicted sex.