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A long quavering chant : peonage labor camps in the rural-industrial South, 1905-1965



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REYNOLDS-DISSERTATION-2013.pdf (921.5Kb)

Date

2013-05

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Abstract

This dissertation is a study of social and environmental conditions inside rural industrial labor camps throughout the U.S. South between 1905 and 1965. The use of peonage labor, i.e., the coercion of labor against ones' will through indebtedness or violence impacted nearly a fourth of rural workers in the postbellum south, particularly in isolated railroad construction sites, lumber operations, turpentine camps, and commercial vegetable farms. Though employers' various peonage labor regimes changed within the context of the camps' physical environment and evolved over time, they continually took advantage of marginalized social groups, immigrants, African-Americans, and the poor. The relative inability of workers, their families, and reformers to prosecute employers and foremen for labor abuses stemmed from the collusion of local law enforcement and the indifference of federal government officials. Ultimately, broader market forces of globalization and technology changed peonage labor regimes, not the enforcement of federal statues outlawing the practice.

Department

History

Subject

Peonage
Labor
U.S. South
Environment
History
Violence
United States
Southern United States

URI

<http://hdl.handle.net/2152/41771>

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The labor injunction and peonage—how changes in labor laws increased inequality during the Gilded Age. *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics*, Vol. 42, Issue. 1, p. 114. Structural conditions, including a racially divided rural population, obstructed southern unionization. The South's distinctive political system also blocked unionization. A strict racial code compelling whites to support the Democratic Party and the disfranchisement of southern blacks and many working-class whites combined to create a one-party political system that allowed southern politicians to ignore labor's demands. *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy Since the Civil War*. New York: Basic Books, 1986. Zieger, Robert H. *Organized Labor in the Twentieth-Century South*. More than a century after 48 000 people died in concentration camps in what's known as the South African War between 1899 and 1902 – or the Anglo-Boer War – the events of that period are back in the headlines. The camps were established by the British as part of their military campaign against two small Afrikaner republics: the ZAR (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State. The scandalous campaign is back in the news following controversial comments by British Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg on a BBC television programme. Rees-Mogg's statements have caused consternation because they were riddled with The Underground Labor Camp (地下王国) is a mine owned by the Teiai Corporation. They send people who are in debt with them here and pay them in perica for their hard work. In turn, debtors who seek freedom must earn enough perica to pay their debt back. It is alluded that the labor camp is under Yoshihiro Kurosaki's management as he is depicted watching the events via camera feed during the Tobaku Hakairoku Kaiji arc. Not every concentration camp is a death camp—in fact, their primary purpose is rarely extermination, and never in the beginning. Often, much of the death and suffering is a result of insufficient resources, overcrowding, and deteriorating conditions. So far, 24 people have died in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Trump administration, while six children have died in the care of other agencies since September. "I mean, all four of the early instances—Americans in the Philippines, Spanish in Cuba, and British in South Africa, and Germans in Southwest Africa—they're all essentially overriding any sense of rights of the civilian population. And the idea is that you're able to suspend normal law because it's a war situation."