This chapter details how the rise of the international human rights movement as a significant force in world affairs cannot be separated from the Cold War context in which it took place. The Cold War magnified the importance of citizen efforts to promote rights and, though many of those involved in the movement during the Cold War era took significant risks and suffered severe consequences, it was the circumstances of the East-West conflict that attracted many of them to the cause in the first place. Rights activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain became aware that calling attention to abuses of rights by their own governments carried extra weight in an era when a global competition was underway for people's hearts and minds.

Media coverage of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict does not necessarily enhance one’s knowledge or understanding of the Palestinians; on the contrary, they are often reduced to either victims or perpetrators. Similarly, while many academic studies devote considerable effort to analyzing the political situation in the occupied territories, there have been few sophisticated case studies of Palestinian refugees living under Israeli rule. An ethnographic study of Palestinian refugees in Dheisheh refugee camp, Occupied Lives looks closely at the attempts of the camp inhabitants to survive and bounce back from the profound effects of political violence and Israeli military occupation. Based on
the author’s extensive fieldwork conducted inside the camp, this study examines the daily efforts of camp inhabitants to secure survival and meaning during the period of the al-Aqsa Intifada. It argues that the political developments and experiences of extensive violence at the time, which left most refugees outside of direct activism, caused many camp inhabitants to disengage from traditional forms of politics. Instead, they became involved in alternative practices aimed at maintaining their sense of social worth and integrity by focusing on processes to establish a ‘normal’ order, social continuity, and morality. Coming from Social Anthropology, Nina Gren explores these processes and the ambiguities and dilemmas that necessarily arose from them and the ways in which the political and the existential are often intertwined in Dheisheh.

The Chicken Trail
Kathleen C. Schwartzman

This book examines the impact of globalization—and of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in particular—on the North American poultry industry, focusing on the displacement of African American workers in the southeast United States and workers in Mexico. The book documents how the transformation of U.S. poultry production in the 1980s increased its export capacity and changed the nature and consequences of labor conflict. It documents how globalization, and especially NAFTA, forced Mexico to open its commodity and capital markets, and eliminate state support of corporations and rural smallholders. As a consequence, many Mexicans were forced to abandon their no-longer-sustainable small farms, with some seeking work in industrialized poultry factories north of the border. By following this trail, the book breaks through the deadlocked immigration debate, highlighting the broader economic and political contexts of immigration flows. The narrative that undocumented workers take jobs that Americans don't want to do is too simplistic. The book argues instead that illegal immigration is better understood as a labor story in which the hiring of undocumented workers is part of a management response to the crises of profit making and labor-management conflict. The book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the implications of globalization for labor and how the externalities of free trade and neoliberalism become the social problems of nations and the tragedies of individuals.
Taylorism Invades the Hen House
Kathleen C. Schwartzman

in The Chicken Trail: Following Workers, Migrants, and Corporations across the Americas

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: August 2016
Item type: chapter

This chapter challenges the notions that ethnic succession was driven by “vacancy” and “shortage” and explains why both explanations are incomplete. It argues that such explanations do not address those nonmarket agents and elements that also led to perceived job vacancies or labor shortages. The chapter begins with an overview of the restructuring of the meat and poultry industries and the onset of mass production and goes on to discuss government support for the industry, including tax exemptions. It then examines Taylorism involving the reorganization of both production and labor in poultry factories, along with the emergence of a new labor-management conflict in the 1980s and early 1990s due in part to the rise of labor activity in the South. This conflict, it asserts, was the main reason for the ethnic succession in the poultry industry. It also considers the rise of new unions and social movements in the poultry industry.

Solving Industry Crises: Pollos Y Polleros
Kathleen C. Schwartzman

in The Chicken Trail: Following Workers, Migrants, and Corporations across the Americas

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: August 2016
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the labor and profit crises that hounded the poultry industry in the mid-1990s. It begins with an overview of the framework used to conceptualize and analyze the labor-management regime before discussing changes in that regime using published reports and National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) data. It then considers the profit crisis that concerned industry leaders and goes on to evaluate possible solutions, arguing that both the labor and profit crises were resolved by immigrant hiring. It shows how the hiring of illegal immigrants, or ethnic displacement, lowered labor and
substituted a docile labor force, thus addressing the labor conflict without compromising the surplus value extracted from the production process.

Ethnic Professional Associations and the Minority Culture of Mobility

in Barrios to Burbs: The Making of the Mexican American Middle Class

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Mexican Americans from middle-class backgrounds often follow the traditional linear route of assimilation into the middle class, where they eventually cross boundaries with whites. Socially mobile Mexican Americans face unique challenges that reinforce a class-based minority identity and give rise to a minority culture of mobility. A classic example of the minority culture of mobility is the establishment of, and participation in, ethnic professional associations that revolve around a minority middle-class identity and whose goal is to advance the mobility of coethnics. Focusing on a Latina professional organization, the Association of Latinas in Business (ALB), this chapter examines how a minority culture of mobility arises when social mobility and a larger social context of discrimination intersects with civic and ethnic resources in the ethnic community. It first discusses civic participation and the class context of Mexican American communities before analyzing how the ALB battles immigrant and gender stereotypes. The chapter also looks at intraclass conflict and social distancing within the ALB, and the limitations of the minority culture of mobility.