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Plenary Session III

Looking Forward : The Future of Work

IS FORCED LABOUR THE NEW NORMAL ?

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OVERVIEW

- **what is forced labour ?**
- **fictitious commodities and real commodification**
- **violence and the making of labour markets**
- **the conquest of social rights**
- **financialisation and globalisation : post-decommodification ?**
- **the European dimension**
- **states, violence and resistance**

WHAT IS FORCED LABOUR ?

- **ILO : 'situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power'**
- **viewed as widespread, but peripheral to 'normal' capitalist relations**
- **yet what is 'free' labour ?**
- **varieties of violence : physical, structural, psychological, cultural, symbolic**
- **is labour increasingly unfree ?**

FICTITIOUS COMMODITIES AND REAL COMMODIFICATION

- **the history of capitalist wage-labour : from status to contract**
- **freedom, equality, property and Bentham...**
- **commodification : the violence of abstraction**
- **... and counter-movements**
- **the shifting (im)balance of class forces**

VIOLENCE AND THE MAKING OF LABOUR MARKETS

- **from the Highland clearances to the enclosures...**
- **the Poor Law and 'less eligibility'**
- **the violence of colonialism**
- **slavery and bonded labour**

THE CONQUEST OF SOCIAL RIGHTS ?

- the 'double movement' of decommmodification :
 - welfare states and employment protection
 - collective bargaining and workplace 'voice'
- the contingent foundations of the 'post-war compromises' : historically specific balance of class forces
- labour rights (decommmodification) achieved as *negotiated* accommodation, and /or concession to dampen protest

FINANCIALISATION AND GLOBALISATION : POST-DECOMMODIFICATION ?

- **financialisation and 'deregulation' : towards re Commodification**
- **from welfare to workfare**
- **'shock therapy' and the 'shock doctrine' (Klein)**
- **privatisation and hostile take-overs**
- **the 'platform economy' : the return of spot contracting in the labour market**
- **violence and migration**
- **global value chains and 'modern slavery'**

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION

- **'social Europe' or 'market freedoms' ?**
- **invention / imposition of 'free markets' in CEE**
- **'modernisation' of welfare regimes**
- **crisis and austerity : the violence of the Troika (and the more discreet violence of the 'new economic governance')**
- **'free movement' of labour : choice and / or compulsion ?**

STATES, VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE

- **financialisation and globalisation : ‘the free market and the strong state’ (Gamble)**
- **neoliberal globalisation and the resurgence of the far right**
 - **from economic to political violence**
- **can financialised capitalism be re-regulated ?**
- **or is forced labour the new normal ?**
- **decommodification from below : solidary economies ?**
- **hopes, utopias and political alternatives...**

**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BOX**

