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**Review of *The Social Question in the Twenty-First Century: A Global View*. by Jan Breman, Kevan Harris, Ching Kwan Lee, and Marcel van der Linden**

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Jan Breman, Kevan Harris, Ching Kwan Lee, and Marcel van der Linden, *The Social Question in the Twenty-First Century: A Global View*. University of California Press (2019). 266 pages, \$34.95 (paperback).

In this time of global connection, it is essential to consider widely the challenges of indigence and destitution associated with poverty, inequality, and social injustice that stem from wage labor in the context of industrialization, globalization, and neoliberalism. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates how interconnected our world is with respect to political, economic, and social ties among nation-states and global regions. While there are rich literary resources that explore neoliberalism, globalization, labor markets, poverty, and migration independently, there is space for the integration of these topics into a comprehensive book that emphasizes commonalities while also honoring regional, national, and traditional trends. This book fills that space, providing the academic community with a complex overview and an in-depth examination of the social question over the past two centuries with an eye toward labor, policy, politics, and social welfare.

To contextualize this historical overview of the social question, authors delve into the development of wage labor through the Global South, the Global North, and the eastern communist-socialist block in the 20th century. Significant trends that have accompanied the social question throughout time and place center on the profit decline in former capitalist countries, the transformation of socialist countries, the rise in neoliberalism, and the surge in ultraconservative and nationalistic politics. These authors weave together a fascinating sweep of historical events, emigration, national policy, and the interplay of economics to illustrate the power and consequences of global hegemony.

The book represents the work of a diverse and expansive academic community with regional expertise in such disciplines as sociology, anthropology, human geography, and African and Asian studies. Through this comparative exploration of globalization in the Global North and the Global South, readers are challenged to examine existing knowledge through multiple

lenses that expand beyond the local region to understand global dynamics. Breaking free of the Global North orientation prevalent in much of the literature, this book integrates perspectives from the Global South, and there is intriguing evidence for the divergent development of the social question for the Global North and the Global South. In the process of uncovering the powerful influence of Global North hegemony, this book questions why the global standard for comparison of the social question is based on Europe and the West.

In addition to exploring the worldwide importance of informal labor in neoliberalism, the reader is exposed to the causes, implications, and effects of informal work scenarios in various countries and communities, in context of the complexities of politics, migration, and economics. Readers are introduced to unique regional situations and global trends, while resisting generalizations, as the social question differs even within each nation-state. The editors succeed in emphasizing commonalities shared, while also identifying the differences. There is an innovative expansion of the labor discussion to include women's contributions to the informal and formal markets. The book does not shy from identifying the connection of the social question with democracy, religious and tribal communities, and racial inequality ties with colonization histories.

This book is a gem among academic resources for the understanding of how the social question stands at the intersection of poverty, neoliberalism, globalization, politics, economics, labor, and migration. The writing is descriptive, reflecting a systemic approach with astonishing insight into the social question. Some chapters are easier to integrate critically than others; however, the chapters weave together a global interpretation of the development of the social question with compelling evidence to support the assertions.

This book outlines valuable implications for the social work profession, as well as the global and local communities served, since the social question is, after all, at the heart of social work. The strength of this book rests in the collection of historical overviews to provide insight as to the social question in the Global South and the Global North. The content spurs questions regarding what would be uncovered if there were a more intensified examination of specific cultural communities, such as Native populations, in this push toward globalization and neoliberalism. This is a

must-read for academically minded readers pursuing knowledge about our world in a time of increasing awareness of regional interdependence and influence.

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Kristin Kobes Du Mez, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. Liveright/Norton (2020), 356 pages, \$28.95 (hardcover).

Kobes Du Mez grew up in a strong Evangelical church and is now a professor of history at Calvin College in Michigan. Clearly she knows her subject from the inside. Like many of us, she is simply astonished to see that the very group of people most vociferous about bringing religious values and Christian piety into politics and the public square have ended up becoming the most consistent supporters and at times leaning toward cult followers of the current President—a thrice-married man, an open adulterer, a man who gained a large portion of his wealth through gambling operations and shady real estate deals, a man who daily displays his narcissism and foul language for all to see. How could this be?

The quick and easy answer, of course, is that Evangelicals (and Republicans in general) have wittingly made a devil's bargain, holding their collective noses and turning their collective eyes away from the excesses and shenanigans of this man in exchange for filling the pipeline with Federalist-Society-vetted conservative judicial appointments, who will rule against abortion, against organized labor, against "creeping secularism," and in favor of traditional family issues and "religious freedom" in areas such as taxation and education. Without question there is this, a strong element of pure transactional rationalizing in Evangelical and Republican justifications for their support of this President, especially in the later days of the 2016 campaign, when leaders who had voiced support for other candidates scrambled post haste to get onboard the Trump-Train. But as Kobes Du Mez recognized, this did not at all account for the depth of Evangelical support for this man. It was not just