

# International Trade and Labor Standards: A Proposal for Linkage

*Christian Barry, Sanjay Reddy*

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## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE & LABOR STANDARDS**

*A Proposal for Linkage*

**CHRISTIAN BARRY & SANJAY G. REDDY**



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**Christian Barry, Sanjay Reddy : International Trade and Labor Standards: A Proposal for Linkage** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised International Trade and Labor Standards: A Proposal for Linkage:

Progressive governments in poor countries fear that if they undertake measures to enhance real wages and working

conditions, rising labor costs would cause wealthier countries to import from and invest elsewhere. Yet if the world trading system were designed to facilitate or even reward measures to promote labor standards, poor countries could undertake them without fear. In this book, Christian Barry and Sanjay G. Reddy propose ways in which the international trading system can support poor countries in promoting the well-being of their peoples. Reforms to the trading system can lessen the collective-action problem among poor countries, increasing their freedom to pursue policy that better serves the interests of their people. Incorporating the right kind of linkage between trading opportunities and the promotion of labor standards could empower countries, allowing them greater effective sovereignty and enabling them to improve the circumstances of the less advantaged. Barry and Reddy demonstrate how linkage can be made acceptable to all players, and they carefully defend these ideas against those who might initially disagree. Their volume is accessible to general readers but draws on sophisticated economic and philosophical arguments and includes responses from leading labor activists, economists, and philosophers, including Kyle Bagwell, Robert Goodin, Rohini Hensman, and Roberto Mangabeira Unger.

An impeccably reasoned and convincing argument in favor of labor standards as part of trade agreements... Highly recommended. (Choice) a thoughtful, interesting, and generally well written account of a contentious subject. (Amitrajeet A. Batabyal Development Policy ) required reading as one of the most important books of recent years (Michael Pollak Left Business Observer) Barry and Reddy also make innovative moral arguments that subvert standard economic assumptions. (Lisa Fuller Ethics International Affairs) the book is a refreshingly controversial contribution. (Miriam Ronzoni Global Justice) About the Author Christian Barry teaches philosophy in the School of Humanities and is a senior research fellow at the Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the Australian National University. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University, and his research interests include international ethics, global justice, and the philosophy of action. Sanjay G. Reddy is an assistant professor of economics at Barnard College and at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University, and his research interests include development economics, international economics, and economics and philosophy.