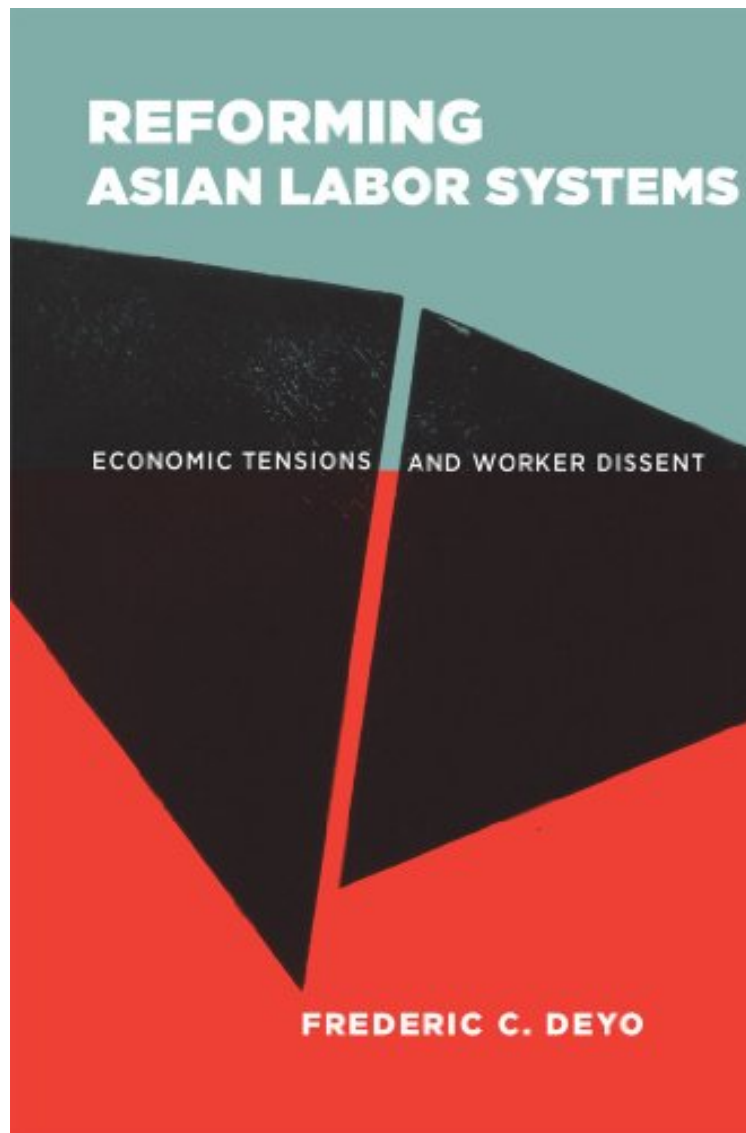


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# Reforming Asian Labor Systems: Economic Tensions and Worker Dissent

*Frederic C. Deyo*

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In Reforming Asian Labor Systems, Frederic C. Deyo examines the implications of post-1980s market-oriented

economic reform for labor systems in China, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. Adopting a critical institutionalist perspective, he explores the impact of elite economic interests and strategies, labor politics, institutional path dependencies, and changing economic circumstances on regimes of labor and social regulation in these four countries. Of particular importance are reform-driven socioeconomic and political tensions that, especially following the regional financial crisis of the late 1990s, have encouraged increased efforts to integrate social and developmental agendas with those of market reform. Through his analysis of the social economy of East and Southeast Asia, Deyo suggests that several Asian countries may now be positioned to repeat what they achieved in earlier decades: a prominent role in defining new international models of development and market reform that adapt to the pressures and constraints of the evolving world economy.

"The conclusion of this book that 'Asian labour (is) playing a somewhat more forceful role in national policymaking than is usually acknowledged' (p. 233) is a useful contribution to the public record. It is a good counterweight to some of the crude argument that Asian industrialisation is just 'sweated labor' where coercion and low wages undercut the supposed fair wages and democracy of North American and Oceanic manufacturing."? Howard Guille, Asian Studies (March 2015)