

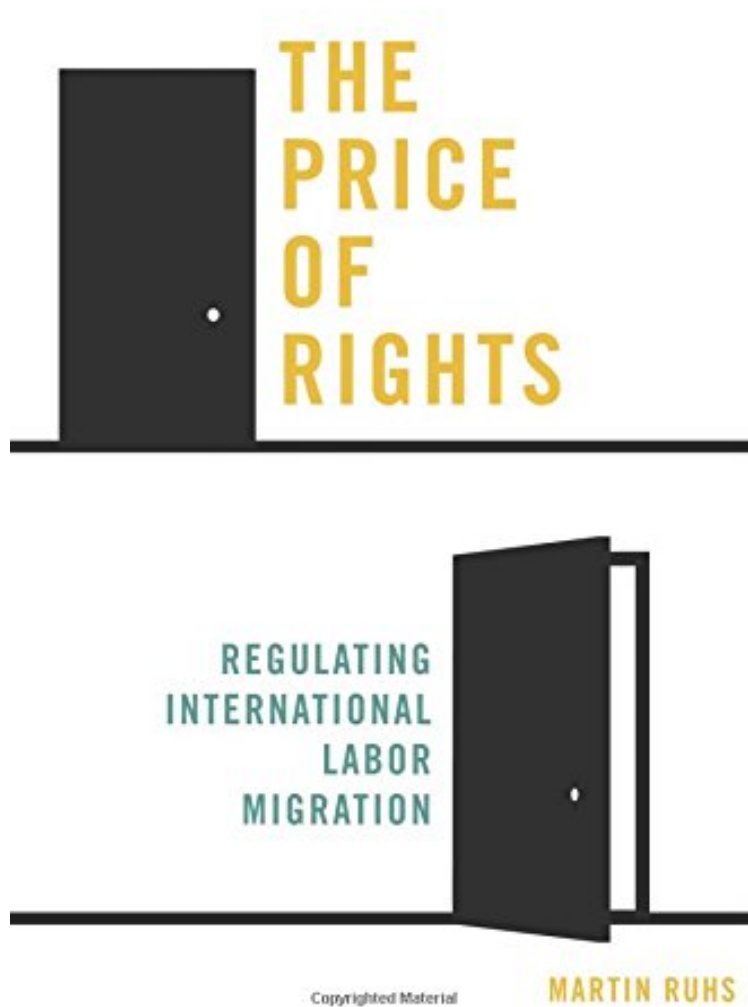
[Read download] The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labor Migration

The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labor Migration

Martin Ruhs

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#1356538 in Books Ruhs Martin 2015-02-22 2015-02-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.20 x .68 x 6.10l, .0 #File Name: 0691166005272 pagesThe Price of Rights Regulating International Labor Migration | File size: 41.Mb

Martin Ruhs : The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labor Migration before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labor Migration:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Regulating international labor migrationBy CustomerThe central argument of Ruhs' carefully researched and argued work is that there can be a tension between promoting more

international labor migration and more rights for migrant workers. This has proved a controversial issue, especially with international organizations such as ILO and the World Bank that have tended to ignore the social costs that migration can cause. He makes his case persuasively with an array of empirical studies from a range of countries. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Reality Check, Solid Argument

By Amy

Excerpt from a review on The Migrationist -Martin Ruhs, lecturer in political economy at the University of Oxford argues for the middle ground between state interests and immigrant rights. To be clear: Ruhs is not anti-immigrant, nor anti-immigrant rights. Rather, he argues "for a pragmatic approach that is both realistic and idealist" (20). He asserts "...we cannot hope to close the gap between human rights... and migrant rights in practice unless we understand as well as account for the reasons why nation-states grant and restrict certain rights" (16). Ruhs' work focuses on the space between the rights of the individual and the interests of the state; the careful balance between maintaining rights and enabling access to the economic market. Immigration policy decisions, according to Ruhs, are made with four sets of constraints in mind: i) domestic and international legal constraints ii) the capacity to control immigration iii) domestic institutional factors (such as the welfare state) and iv) labor market structures. Ruhs describes the trade-offs between these factors and immigrant rights. Importantly, his analysis "...shows that among programs in upper-high-income countries, labor immigration programs can be characterized by a trade-off between openness and some migrant rights..." in the receiving country (19). Ruhs finds that a high degree of openness to migrants in the receiving country... results in more restricted rights once in the country. Despite this, migrant workers continue to make the choice to emigrate and make this trade-off between their rights and economic opportunity. To grant more rights, Ruhs argues, would close up immigration policies, which is good for the protection of the existing migrants but bad for the interests of any "potential future migrants." Where Ruhs' work gets interesting, is how he suggests countries tackle these rights restrictions. Rather than an outright banishment of any rights restrictions, which could in turn restrict their movement and subsequent economic opportunity, Ruhs argues to allow for some rights restrictions - with caveats. "Any rights restrictions should... be limited to the right to free choice of employment, equal access to means-tested public benefits, the right to family reunion, and the right to permanent residence and citizenship. Rights restrictions need to be evidence based in the sense that there must be a clear case that they create specific costs that the receiving country wishes to avoid... to enable greater openness to admitting migrant workers... I also hold that any rights restrictions should be time limited... After this period, migrants need to be granted access to permanent residence (and thus eventual citizenship) or be required to leave (21)". All this is, as Ruhs said himself, very practical. His suggestions would make an interesting and potentially fruitful compromise between the state and individual rights - if ever actually applied to policy. What stands out as problematic is the idea that a country could ever enforce such a potentially large number of people to leave at the end of any temporary program. The United States has an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants and an estimated 40% overstayed term visas. More subtly problematic is the underlying assumption that a country would care enough about the rights of a non-citizen to make the compromise in the first place. What is the motivation of the state to compromise at all? That being said, in many ways, Ruhs' work is an excellent reality check for idealism within the immigrant advocacy community and a solid discussion on the rights of migrants and the trade-offs of policy decisions. It'd be a good addition to a graduate or higher-level undergraduate migration course reading list, or to the bookshelf of an academically minded policy maker.

Many low-income countries and development organizations are calling for greater liberalization of labor immigration policies in high-income countries. At the same time, human rights organizations and migrant rights advocates demand more equal rights for migrant workers. The Price of Rights shows why you cannot always have both. Examining labor immigration policies in over forty countries, as well as policy drivers in major migrant-receiving and migrant-sending states, Martin Ruhs finds that there are trade-offs in the policies of high-income countries between openness to admitting migrant workers and some of the rights granted to migrants after admission. Insisting on greater equality of rights for migrant workers can come at the price of more restrictive admission policies, especially for lower-skilled workers. Ruhs advocates the liberalization of international labor migration through temporary migration programs that protect a universal set of core rights and account for the interests of nation-states by restricting a few specific rights that create net costs for receiving countries. The Price of Rights analyzes how high-income countries restrict the rights of migrant workers as part of their labor immigration policies and discusses the implications for global debates about regulating labor migration and protecting migrants. It comprehensively looks at the tensions between human rights and citizenship rights, the agency and interests of migrants and states, and the determinants and ethics of labor immigration policy.

Winner of the 2014 Best Book Award, Migration and Citizenship Section of the American Political Science Association "To what extent should countries encourage immigration? What rights should be conferred on immigrants, especially temporary ones? Ruhs emphasizes the uncomfortable tradeoffs built into every answer to those questions."-- Richard Cooper, Foreign Affairs, US "Ruhs's work is an excellent reality check for idealism within the immigrant advocacy community and a solid discussion on the rights of migrants and the trade-offs of policy decisions. It'd be a

good addition to a graduate or higher-level undergraduate migration course reading list, or to the bookshelf of an academically minded policy maker."--Amy Grenier, *Migrationist*, US "We may argue with the detail of Ruhs's prescriptions for expanding labour migration schemes for low-skilled workers, but the substance of his ethical argument is not easily dismissed. To shut down labour migration--even in the name of protecting migrants' rights--is to deny opportunity to potential migrant workers, and to condemn them to living in the state of poverty they seek to overcome."--Peter Mares, *Inside Story*, Australia "This is an academic book, but very accessible, and I think it is an important one for anybody interested in the migration debate to read."--Diane Coyle, *Enlightenment Economics* "Ruhs makes many interesting observations of the regulation of labour migration and is therefore necessary reading for those interested in migration policy and law."--Jaana Palande, *Nordic Journal of Migration Research* "Supporters of the rights of migrants can and should read this book with a proper sense of gratitude that such a thoughtful piece of work which critically assesses exactly what we are trying to achieve has been written."--Don Flynn, *Migrant Rights Network*, UK "Ruhs's detailed documentation of the existence and variation in immigration policies has a crucial implication for the models that predict huge gains from unrestricted migration."--George Borjas, *Journal of Economic Literature* "In successive GFMD meetings and at the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, civil society and migrant observers have continued to insist on a frank and honest discussion of human rights--a discussion which has been repeatedly frustrated. Hopefully Ruhs' provocative book will help begin that discussion."--Susan Gzesh, *Journal on Migration and Human Security* "The Price of Rights makes a critical contribution to the literature on labour migration by showing how the differential access to rights for migrant workers according to their skills has become a global trend. The coverage of the study is impressive, including a variety of countries from higher to lower income, spanning from Europe to the Middle East, the USA and Australasia."--Gabriela Alberti, *British Journal of Industrial Relations* "This is an excellent book. Ruhs is right to place migrant rights in the discussion about migration policy so vividly. . . . Ruhs's solutions will be confrontational to some, however they are to be commended. Anyone interested in the overall flow of global migration would do well to understand how migrant rights plays a pivotal role."--Henry Sherrell, *Value for Money* "The Price of Rights makes a brave contribution to the debate on the ethics of immigration policy and the restrictions it imposes on the legal rights of migrant workers. . . . [A] core strength of this study is the separation it makes between migrant rights in practice and rights migrants should have from a moral/ethical point of view."--Wayne Palmer, *Asia Pacific Migration Journal* "This excellent book deserves to be read and considered by anyone interested in immigration policies and the human rights of migrant workers."--Martin Provencher, *CERIUM*, University of Montreal "The book provides a good overview of the analytical and policy issues in this area of research, and the rigor of reasoning and the wealth of data it mobilizes constitute a useful reference in current debates."--Antoine Pecoud, *Critique internationale* "Through a rich discussion of existing labour migration policies, *The Price of Rights* unfolds an inspiring analysis. . . . Could development and the objective of promoting more migration justify some restrictions to human rights? *The Price of Rights* goes about as far as an academic work can go in framing this important debate."--Benoit Mayer, *Human Rights Law* "In an area of policy with such a diverse range of interests and policy perspectives, Ruhs contributes an important framework for analysis that recognises the complexity of the ethical issues surrounding the employment of migrant workers within the geopolitics of economic migration and state practice. *The Price of Rights* is a valuable resource for policy-makers in choosing settings for labour migration programs and for academics grappling with the appropriate terms of analysis."--Alexander Reilly, *Adelaide Law* "The pity of Ruhs's book is that something like it wasn't available fifty or even forty years ago. Had it been, European policymakers might have managed their guestworker programs differently, or at least entered the process with their eyes wide open."--Roger Waldinger, *American Interest* "Ruhs has raised and analyzed the competing goods that lie at the heart of using low-skilled labor migration as a tool for development."--Philip Martin, *Developing Economies* "Ruhs' book offers an insightful and useful analysis for academics and policy-makers, as it attempts to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the complex international and national debates on migration, rights, and citizenship."--Karen Seegobin, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* "Scholars who can weave together moral philosophy and pragmatic policy debate are all too rare, but Ruhs is on strong footing in both camps. His ethical framework is compelling: We should prioritise citizens but actively promote the interests of sending countries, and recognise the moral weight of human rights principles without treating them as the only good."--Meghan Benton, *European Journal of Development Research* "The book [evinces] erudition . . . meticulous research and a comprehensive understanding of the subject, and [a] nearly seamless integration of empirical, policy and normative elements. . . . The author's command of knowledge and research skills demonstrates the best practices of scholarship . . . appreciate the care he took to address the sensitivities in the controversies of key policy debates, the marshaling of both the positivist and the normative arguments, and the moral courage to take a stand in the advancement of migrant rights despite the known tradeoffs and opposition."--Comments by Best Book Award Committee 2013 (Martin Heisler, Pei-te Lien, and Daniel Tichenor), *Migration and Citizenship Section*, American Political Science Association "[T]he book is an important call to compromise in a policy area that is plagued by factions. Its central plea--to take migrants' interests seriously, by acknowledging that sometimes they require a temporary suspension of certain rights--is an important one for both academia and policy."--Meghan Benton, *European*

Journal of Development Research"Could development and the objective of promoting more migration justify some restrictions to human rights? These, as Ruhs clearly shows, are value-loaded questions that economists or experts cannot answer. Such questions must be the object of political debates through which societies define their values. The Price of Rights goes about as far as an academic work can go in framing this important debate."--Benoit Mayer, Human Rights Law "The Price of Rights is enlightening and provoking. Its breadth is deep."--Oxford Journals"Martin Ruhs has produced a volume destined to become a key reference for anyone interested in the regulation of labor migration."--Hania Zlotnik, International Migration From the AuthorThe website and blog for this book can be found at priceofrights.comFrom the Back Cover"This book lays down some challenging ideas on how we should think about the rights of migrants and needs to be read by everyone concerned with these issues."--Don Flynn, director of the Migrants' Rights Network"This is a carefully researched book that starkly shows the trade-offs involved between extending more rights to migrants, versus extending more opportunities to enable people to take advantage of the large gains in income possible through international migration. A first-rate contribution to current policy and academic debates."--David McKenzie, lead economist in the Development Research Group at the World Bank"In this excellent book, Martin Ruhs presents a fresh analysis of the reasons why many countries, whether they be high or low income, restrict the rights of migrant workers. His carefully researched volume will be of great interest to policymakers and migration experts across the globe."--Frank Laczko, International Organization for Migration"This may be the most important book on migration in the last decade. Focusing on the trade-offs between openness to more migration and limitations on migrants' rights, Martin Ruhs tackles one of the fundamental challenges of the twenty-first century: how to resolve the tensions between national security and human rights."--Khalid Koser, Geneva Centre for Security Policy"In analyzing the trade-off between liberalizing international labor migration and extending social and economic rights for migrants, this book moves the debate about migrant rights from ideals to realities. It is a must-read for those working in the fields of human rights, development, globalization, and international governance, as well as for specialists and organizations dealing with migration-related issues."--Philip Martin, University of California, Davis"While it is not easy to write a forcefully argued book about the rights of migrant workers, Ruhs succeeds because he opts for a strong, pragmatic approach. He clearly commands a broad and diverse literature, and he makes his case with extensive knowledge and an array of empirical studies about a range of countries."--Saskia Sassen, Columbia University and author of *Territory, Authority, Rights*"This compelling and cogently argued book addresses an important matter, namely the conditions affecting the rights of labor migrants. Where much of the research on rights and citizenship focuses on the developed world, Ruhs rightly expands the scope to include the Persian Gulf states, as well as developing societies such as Malaysia and Indonesia."--Roger Waldinger, University of California, Los Angeles