

aan inclusiever en er is meer aandacht voor het koloniaal verleden. Straatnamen verwijzen nog vooral naar het Nederlands koloniaal verleden en niet naar vrijheidsstrijders of oorlogshelden uit de koloniën. Het boek bespreekt de doorwerking van het koloniaal verleden aan de hand van interviews met Tilburgers met wortels in de koloniën. Die laten zien dat het incorporeren van het koloniale verleden in de herinneringscultuur van Tilburg nog een onvoltooid proces is.

De invloed van missie en zending in het koloniale verleden krijgt steeds meer aandacht. Zo maakte het Utrechtse museum Catharijneconvent de tentoonstelling Christendom en Slavernij. Rosemarijn Hoeft draagt met haar mooi geïllustreerd boek bij aan die kennis. Zij onderzocht dat koloniaal verleden vanuit verschillende invalshoeken en binnen de grenzen van de stad Tilburg. Het boek nodigt uit tot verder onderzoek. Het maakt nieuwsgierig en roept nieuwe vragen op over de Nederlandse missiegeschiedenis in de voormalige koloniën en daarbuiten.

Ellen Klinkers

Anamarija Batista, Viola Franziska Müller, and Corinna Peres (eds), *Coercion and Wage Labour: Exploring Work Relations through History and Art* (London: UCL Press, 2024). 381 pp. ISBN 9781800085398.

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This book is the second installment in a new series published by University College London Press in cooperation with the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam called “Work Around the World – Studies in Global Labour History”. The series aims for global comparisons across time, space, and scale in the historical study of work and workers around the world; doing so, it aims to share the insights, debates, and scholarly innovations made within the flourishing field of global labour history with a broader readership. The thirteen studies collected in *Coercion and Wage Labour* cover a temporal range from the ninth century to the twenty-first and a geographical scope covering three continents. They provide an excellent illustration of how the changed perspective associated with this emergent field can alter and inform our understanding of the role coercion plays in different forms of labor relations and how it is never entirely absent from any social dynamics.

These contributions thus show that the notion of 'free' labor relations is more or less a contradiction in terms. As such, the book puts forward a well-founded argument against the increasingly untenable scholarly separation of 'free' and 'coerced' labor as distinct categories of analysis. As the editors discuss in the introduction to the volume, scholarship has in recent decades steadily moved away from the teleological master narrative of a linear historical development from antiquated systems of 'bonded' or 'unfree' towards modern 'free' wage labor. Instead, more recent studies tend to favor an approach that examines how various forms of labor relations within diverse cultural settings and economic systems have in different historical eras coexisted in a complex entanglement of social, cultural, and economic power dynamics that mutually shape the interplay between them. Coercion should thus not be seen as an anachronism antithetical to modern labor relations but rather as an intrinsic part of all labor relations, albeit a part that is present in widely different forms depending on the historical context.

The broad range of coercive practices within contractual wage labor arrangements and the many different forms they take is greatly illuminated by the studies presented in this volume. From the control of mobility (for example in chapters by Arnould, Marcon, Sefer) to the methods and timing of remuneration (chapters by Özbek, Pizzolato, Hasan, Magagnoli) to the exploitation of cultural and ideological norms and traditions (chapters by Özbek, Hasan, Petrova, Öze), the coercive efforts made by employers to control their workforce and influence their productivity are manifold. A recurrent thread in most of the chapters in the volume is how coercive practices are shaped, sometimes unintentionally, by state legislation and its enforcement. An excellent example is Nico Pizzolato's analysis of debt peonage in cotton production in the post-emancipation southern United States. While the Thirteenth Amendment (1865) to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery, it also included a phrase exempting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime for which a person has been convicted. As Pizzolato shows, almost anything could, in localized contexts, carry criminal consequences and make workers subject to this clause and subsequently to years of debt peonage and immobilization. The use of state-issued documentation – such as the *Arbeitsbuch* issued in the Habsburg Monarchy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and discussed in the excellent contribution by Sigrid Wadauer – is another example. While intended, among other things, to guarantee the legal rights of wage workers, the workbooks were actively used as a coercive tool to monitor and control

labor mobility, to encourage docility, and to punish intransigent workers (not least those who sought to organize collectively).

A fascinating aspect of this book is its experiment of creating what editor Anamarija Batista in her afterword refers to as a “translation loop” between academics and artists. Three visual artists, Dariia Kuzmych, Monika Lang, and Tim Robinson, were invited to “visualise and conceptualise the lines of argument” (p. 361) developed by the academics who contributed to this book, and, in turn, the academics were encouraged to engage with the artists’ illustrations in their texts. In some instances, such as the chapters by Müge Özbek and Nico Pizzolato, this dialogue contributes significantly to the analysis and does indeed help to visualize and conceptualize the topic. Unfortunately, however, most of the authors only casually refer to the illustrations and otherwise make little use of this opportunity to further reflect on their topic or add to their analysis. It would also have added to the value of this experiment to include some written reflections from the artists themselves. Regardless of these minor criticisms, this attempt to combine artistic renditions of historical analysis and academic texts of the same is a novel and commendable idea that should be further explored.

*Coercion and Wage Labour* is an excellent and timely exploration of work relations in a global context and over a vast time period, a study that encapsulates the changes in the practice of labor history within the last few decades. These changes have transformed the field from linear master narratives of economism to a more nuanced understanding of work and work relations as an integral part of the human experience.

Vilhelm Vilhelmsson, University of Iceland

Randy M. Browne, *The Driver's Story. Labor and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024). 213 pp. ISBN 9781512825862.

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Why did early modern slavery continue for so long despite continuous acts of resistance by enslaved people? In *The Driver's Story. Labor and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery*, Browne approaches this classic question within the field of Atlantic slavery from an unconventional perspective. Central in the book are the drivers: enslaved men and