

Abstract

Over the past quarter century the economic and political framework in which trade unions around the globe operate has changed drastically, contributing in many countries to the deterioration of the labor movement's organizational strength. In an attempt to regain the bargaining power lost as a result of years of membership and political decline and shifting industrial structures, many trade unions have begun to establish strong transnational links. This work thus first analyzes the trends which have pushed many labor unions to increase their international efforts. Three recent international organizing campaigns are then examined as outcomes of these pressures and evaluated based on the degree and type of global union federation (GUF) involvement which that a variety of industrial, global union federation and campaign specific factors influence the strategic decisions underlying the campaign. Recent changes within the international trade union movement and global economy also indicate that GUF involvement in international organizing campaigns is likely to increase in the near future.