

At the Margins of the Global Market

Contemporary scholars debate the factors driving despotic labor conditions across the world economy. Some emphasize the dominance of global market imperatives; others highlight the market's reliance on extra-economic coercion and state violence. *At the Margins of the Global Market* engages in this debate through a comparative and world-historical analysis of the labor regimes of three global commodity-producing sub-regions of rural Colombia: the coffee region of Viejo Caldas, the banana region of Urabá, and the coca/cocaine region of the Caguán. Drawing on insights from labor regimes, global commodity chains, and world historical sociology, this book offers a novel understanding of the broad range of factors – local, national, global, and interregional – that shape labor conditions on the ground in Colombia. In doing so, it offers a critical new framework for analyzing labor and development dynamics that exist at the margins of the global market.

Phillip A. Hough is a Colombian-American sociologist who specializes in political economy, labor and agrarian movements, global commodity studies, comparative and world historical sociology, and Latin American development. His current research focuses on labor/agrarian struggles, state and paramilitary violence, class and state formations, forced displacement, and surplus populations.

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At the Margins of the Global Market

Making Commodities, Workers,
and Crisis in Rural Colombia

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