# Nov/Dec 2021 AC v1

#### I Affirm the resolution resolved a just gov ought to recognize an unconditional right of workers to strike.

## Definitions

Unconditional: as defined by oxford, not subject to any conditions

## FW

#### V: Morality

**The word ought in the resolution insinuates a moral obligation.**

#### Criterion: Maximizing Excepted Well Being

### Justifications

#### FIRST, Maximizing expected well being is a lexical pre-req to any other framework. Threats to life and bodily security come first before anything else.

#### SECOND, ASPEC every policy benefits some and harms others so governments must aggregate in every policy situation

#### THIRD, No intent-foresight distinction the consequence of an action is part of the deliberation, thus said consequence is intended

# Moving on to Case Proper

## Contention 1: Wages

**Workers in the US are currently being paid low wages**

#### Lanham 19 David Lanham, Director of Communications at the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program. Has BA in public policy from College of William and Mary, “Meet the Low-Wage Workforce”, Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, November 7, 2019, <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/201911_brookings-metro_pressrelease_lowwageworkforce.pdf//SD>

Washington, D.C. — A new report from the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings shows that53 million Americans—44% of all workers aged 18-64—have low-wage jobs. This significant portion of the nation’s labor force is earning median hourly wages of $10.22 and median annual earnings of $17,950. The report, titled Meet the low-wage workforce, demonstrates that these workers are not monolithic, segmenting the nation’s low-wage workers into nine groups based on age, educational attainment, and school enrollment. The authors find that low-wage workers are a racially diverse group, and disproportionately female. Fifty-two percent are white, 25% are Latino or Hispanic, 15% are Black, and 5% are Asian American. Both Latino or Hispanic and Black workers are over-represented relative to their share of the total workforce. Women account for 54% of low-wage workers, higher than their total share of the workforce (48%). Forty-nine percent of female workers earn low wages, compared to 39% of male workers. Sixty-three percent of Latino or Hispanic workers and 54% of Black workers earn low wages, compared to 37% of white workers and 40% of Asian American workers. Black and Latino or Hispanic workers earn less than white workers with equivalent educational levels and experience, so these factors—education and experience—do not fully account for the racial differences in wages. Nearly two-thirds of low-wage workers are in their prime working years of ages 25-54, and much of this group (40%) is raising children. Another 13% of low-wage workers are ages 55-64. While young people account for a disproportionately large share of low-wage workers (24%), the vast majority of low-wage workers are adults. Additionally, the report finds that 30% of low-wage workers live in families earning below 150% of the poverty line. These 16 million low-wage workers get by on very low incomes—about $30,000 for a family of three and $36,000 for a family of four. Twenty-six percent of low-wage workers (14 million) are the only earners in their families, with median family earnings of $20,400, and another 25% (13 million) live in families in which all workers earn low wages.

**Raising wages stimulates the US economy**

#### Roberts and Olinsky 21 Lily Roberts is the managing director for Economic Policy at American Progress. Her work includes a focus on raising wages; combating economic inequality linked to race, gender, and geography; and building wealth and stability for American families.Prior to joining American Progress, Roberts worked at Mathematica Policy Research, where she researched federal strategies to support low- and middle-income families. While at Mathematica, she provided technical assistance to Department of Labor programs to pair child care and early childhood education with training and employment. She conducted research on two-generation anti-poverty strategies and public health policy in home visiting, substance use, and psychiatric emergency care. Roberts received a master’s degree in social work, focusing on community development, from Case Western Reserve University. During graduate school, she interned with the Economic Opportunity and Financial Inclusion team at the National League of Cities. Her undergraduate degree in military history and English is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Roberts has served as a case manager at a Washington, D.C., social services nonprofit and is a former advisory neighborhood commissioner in Shaw, Ben Olinsky is the senior vice president of Structural Reform and Government at American Progress. He rejoined American Progress after serving as the special assistant to the president for labor and workforce policy under former President Barack Obama. At the White House, Olinsky helped craft the president’s agenda for labor and employment issues, including raising wages, expanding worker voice, protecting worker safety and health, advancing equal pay, combating discrimination, promoting paid leave, and creating pathways to jobs and opportunity. He coordinated federal efforts to update overtime protections and led the development and implementation of executive actions to raise wages, expand paid leave, and improve labor standards for federal contractors and employees. Olinsky was previously a senior fellow at American Progress, where he led the Middle-Out Economics project, researching and publishing policies to strengthen the middle class and reduce income inequality. Before his time at the White House and American Progress, Olinsky served as the legislative director for former Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and as the senior economic adviser for the late Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA).“Raising the Minimum Wage Would Boost an Economic Recovery—and Reduce Taxpayer Subsidization of Low-Wage Work”, Center for American Progress, January 27, 2021, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2021/01/27/495163/raising-minimum-wage-boost-economic-recovery-reduce-taxpayer-subsidization-low-wage-work///SD>

As Congress works on coronavirus rescue legislation and a subsequent package to rebuild the economy, the minimum wage should not be dismissed. Raising the wages of low-income workers will stimulate the economy; substantially lower the amount the country spends on social safety net programs such as SNAP; and reduce economic inequality, thereby unleashing additional economic growth in a period of recovery. Stimulate the economy by putting more money in workers’ wallets Phasing in a minimum wage increase between 2021 and 2025 would boost consumer spending and economic growth as the country recovers from the public health and economic crises. Different methodological approaches predict varying aggregate effects of minimum wage increases. However, calculations uniformly point toward wage increases begetting stimulus, especially wage increases for low-wage workers: The [Federal Reserve of Chicago determined](http://www.chicagofed.org/digital_assets/publications/working_papers/2007/wp2007_23.pdf) that low-wage worker households spent an additional $2,800 in the year after a $1-per-hour increase to the minimum wage. The [most recent analysis](https://www.epi.org/publication/why-america-needs-a-15-minimum-wage/) from the Economic Policy Institute found that increasing the minimum wage to $15 by 2025 would generate $107 billion in higher wages. Their [earlier analysis indicates](https://www.epi.org/publication/ib341-raising-federal-minimum-wage/) that an increase from $7.25 to $9.80 per hour between 2012 and 2014 would have generated “approximately 100,000 new jobs.” The [Institute for Policy Studies calculates](https://ips-dc.org/wall_street_bonuses_and_the_minimum_wage/) that for every extra dollar going into the wallet of a low-wage worker, about $1.21 is added to the overall economy. Broad consensus in the academic research over the past 30 years has debunked the idea that raising the minimum wage causes employers to employ fewer people. Economists found that a $15 minimum wage would not reduce employment even [in areas that currently have the lowest wages](https://irle.berkeley.edu/minimum-wage-effects-in-low-wage-areas/). Dozens of careful studies have explored how minimum wage laws affect earnings and employment, influenced by the [seminal 1994 work of David Card and Alan Krueger](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2118030?seq=1). In spring 2019, prominent economists in the US and the UK published [an analysis of 138 state-level minimum wage changes since 1979](https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjz014), finding that the overall number of low-wage jobs remained unchanged after the increase and that low-wage workers who were already earning above the minimum also saw modest wage increases. In fact, in 2014, the 13 states that raised their minimum wages [added jobs at a faster rate](https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2014/07/19/332879409/states-that-raised-minimum-wage-see-faster-job-growth-report-says) than the states that did not, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

**US economy going up brings global economy up**

#### Kose et al 17 M. Ayhan Kose is director of the World Bank Group’s Prospects Group. In this capacity, he leads the World Bank Group’s work on global macroeconomic outlook and forecasts as well as financial flows and commodity markets. Under his management, the Prospects Group produces the Bank’s flagship report, "Global Economic Prospects," in addition to other monitoring publications. Kose’s latest book, "Collapse and Revival: Understanding Global Recessions and Recoveries" (co-authored; IMF Publications, October 2015)*,* tracks the global business cycle through the destruction of a global recession to the renewal of recovery, drawing on four major episodes in the past half century. His previous book, "Financial Crises: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses" (co-edited; IMF Publications, February 2014), provides a comprehensive overview of recent research on financial crises. His first book, "Emerging Markets: Resilience and Growth Amid Global Turmoil" (co-authored; Brookings Institution Press, December 2010), examines the performance of emerging market economies during the global financial crisis. Kose is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a research fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research. Prior to joining the World Bank in June 2014, he was assistant to the director of the Research Department and deputy chief of the Multilateral Surveillance Division in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In various capacities at the IMF, he served as co-chair of the Interdepartmental Taskforce for the 2014 Spillover Report and mission chief of the Ex-Post Assessment for the Nicaragua’s 2007-2011 IMF Program, and as an economist in multiple divisions of the Research Department, and the United States and Canada desks of the Western Hemisphere Department. “The global role of the U.S. economy: Linkages, policies and spillovers”, KOÇ UNIVERSITY-TÜSİAD ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM, March 2017, <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/166746/1/884608719.pdf//SD>

The objective of this paper is to fill a gap in the literature by providing a comprehensive overview of the role of the United States in the global economy and quantifying the extent of the global spillovers from changes in U.S. growth, monetary and fiscal policies, and uncertainty in its financial markets and economic policies. Specifically, the paper addresses the following questions: What are the major channels of transmission of developments in the U.S. economy to other countries? The United States is the world’s single largest economy: it accounts for roughly one-quarter of global output and about one-tenth of total trade flows. It is also the single largest international creditor and debtor. Given its massive size and the strength of its ties with the global economy, shocks to the U.S. economy are transmitted globally through a variety of channels, including trade, finance, and commodity market linkages. How strong are business cycle linkages between the United States and other economies? U.S. business cycles are highly synchronized with global business cycles. Growth is often higher in the rest of the world during periods of U.S. expansions than it is during U.S. recessions. The four global recessions since 1960 all coincided with severe recessions in the United States. How large are global spillovers from shocks originating in the United States? Shocks to U.S. growth, changes in U.S. fiscal and monetary policies, or uncertainty in U.S. financial markets or policies have significant global spillovers. For example, a surge in U.S. growth can be expected to accelerate activity in the rest of the world. Our estimates suggest that a 1 percentage point increase in U.S. growth could boost growth in other advanced economies by 0.8 percentage point, and in EMDEs by 0.6 percentage point, after one year. Investment could respond even more strongly. In contrast, lingering uncertainty about the direction of U.S. policy could dampen activity and investment abroad. A sustained 10 percent increase in U.S. economic policy uncertainty could, after one year, reduce U.S. output growth by about 0.15 percentage point and EMDE output growth by 0.2 percentage point. How important is the global economy for the United States? Because of its size and reach, the United States is at the center of global trade and financial networks. U.S. multinational corporations and their affiliates abroad are deeply integrated into global supply chains. Financial linkages between the U.S. and the rest of the world, including emerging market economies, have grown rapidly, widening the potential for spillovers in either direction. These two-way channels imply that, important as the U.S. economy is for the global economy, the U.S. economy is in turn affected by developments in the rest of the world. In a highly integrated global economy, cross-border linkages translate into significant cyclical spillovers. These spillovers have material implications for all countries, irrespective of their size. Understanding these linkages and associated spillovers remains a fertile area of future research.

**Global economy going up good There are numerous advantages of economic growth**

#### Pettinger 19 (Tejvan Pettinger, He lives in Oxford where he works as an Economics teacher (A-Level students) at Greenes College and formerly with Cherwell College, Oxford. Tejvan Pettinger studied PPE at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University, gaining a 2:1. He contributes articles to the Economic Review and writes regularly on economics. Between 2001 and 2006 he worked as an examiner and Team Leader for Edexcel examinations. December 14, 2019, Economics Help, <https://www.economicshelp.org/macroeconomics/economic-growth/benefits-growth/>)//SD

Economic growth means an increase in real GDP – an increase in the value of national output, income and expenditure. Essentially the benefit of economic growth is higher living standards – higher real incomes and the ability to devote more resources to areas like health care and education. **Higher average incomes**. Economic growth enables consumers to consume more goods and services and enjoy better standards of living. Economic growth during the Twentieth Century was a major factor in reducing absolute levels of poverty and enabling a rise in life expectancy. **Lower unemployment.** With higher output and positive economic growth, firms tend to employ more workers creating more employment. **Lower government borrowing.** Economic growth creates higher tax revenues, and there is less need to spend money on benefits such as unemployment benefit. Therefore economic growth helps to reduce government borrowing. Economic growth also plays a role in reducing debt to GDP ratios. **Improved public services**. Higher economic growth leads to higher tax revenues and this enables the government can spend more on public services, such as health care and education e.t.c. This can enable higher living standards, such as increased life expectancy, higher rates of literacy and a greater understanding of civic and political issues. Money can be spent on protecting the environment. With higher economic growth a society can devote more resources to promoting recycling and the use of renewable resources **Investment.** Economic growth encourages firms to invest, in order to meet future demand. Higher investment increases the scope for future economic growth – creating a virtuous cycle of economic growth/investment. **Increased research and development.** High economic growth leads to increased profitability for firms, enabling more spending on research and development. Also, sustained economic growth increases confidence and encourages firms to take risks and innovate. **Economic development**. The biggest factor for promoting economic development is sustained economic growth. Economic growth in south-east Asia over the past few decades has played a major role in reducing absolute levels of poverty – increasing life expectancy. **More choice.** In less developed economies, a large proportion of the population work in agriculture/subsistence farming, economic growth enables a more diverse economy with people able to work in service sector, manufacturing and having a greater choice of lifestyles. **Evaluation of economic growth** For developing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, economic growth enables countries to escape the worst levels of poverty. Even a small level of economic growth can facilitate higher living standards and an improvement in life expectancy. In the developed world, economic growth is less essential. It depends on the nature of economic growth. For example, if economic growth leads to more pollution and congestion, then living standards may not seem to hit. It also depends on the distribution of economic growth – who benefits from economic growth. If growth benefits primarily the richest in society, growth may do little to overcome poverty.

**Strikes bring wages up, thus allowing for the global economy to expand.**

#### Jett 21 Tyler Jett, Jobs and Economy Reporter, October 31, 2021, Des Moines Register <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2021/10/31/john-deere-boosts-pay-retirement-benefits-new-offer-striking-uaw-labor-union-united-auto-workers/6225314001///SD>

In its latest offer, Deere & Co. executives doubled wage increases and boosted future retirement payments for United Auto Workers members. An outline of [a new contract](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2021/10/30/john-deere-uaw-reach-second-tentative-contract-agreement-strike-continues/6212429001/) between the company and the union released Sunday afternoon shows that 10,100 striking UAW members will receive 10% wage increases, compared to what they made earlier this year. That's up from a 5% or 6% increase that Deere offered in an earlier proposal, which [nine out of 10 union members rejected](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2021/10/10/uaw-united-auto-workers-members-overwhelmingly-reject-john-deere-contract-sunday/6020190001/) Oct. 10. The company will also continue its pension program for new hires, which Deere was going to cut under the prior agreement. And, compared to that agreement, the new proposal pays a higher rate for future retired workers. A 25-year employee would see an extra $150 a month. The company also added lump sum payments that can reach six figures for future retired employees. Chris Laursen, a 19-year painter at Deere's Ottumwa plant and the former UAW Local 74 president, said he expects to vote in favor of the contract after rejecting the Oct. 10 proposal. "It's a hell of a lot better than what (the union) got us the first time," he said. "After two weeks-plus of strikes, we definitely made some gains on this."

**The impact is that the US economy goes up and in turn the global economy goes up. This maximizes expected well being and outweighs on magnitude due to how big the impact is.**

## Contention 2: Worker Exploitation

**Workers around the world are being exploited, there are poor working conditions globally**

#### Burrow 17 Sharon Burrow is the General Secretary of the [International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)](https://www.ituc-csi.org/). “Top 10 worst countries for workers’ rights”. Ethical Trading Initiative. June 15, 2017. <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/blog/top-10-worst-countries-workers-rights>//SD

The latest ranking of workers’ rights includes the global top ten, of which no country in 2017 should want to be a part. **The Middle East and North Africa are worst** Once again, the Middle East and North Africa was the worst region for treatment of workers, with the [Kafala system](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/132/PB2.pdf) in the Gulf still enslaving millions of people: The absolute denial of basic workers’ rights remained in place in Saudi Arabia. In countries such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, conflict and breakdown of the rule of law means workers have no guarantee of labour rights. In conflict-torn Yemen, 650,000 public sector workers have not been paid for more than 8 months, while some 4 million private sector jobs have been destroyed, including in the operations of multinationals Total, G4S and DNO, leaving their families destitute. The continued occupation of Palestine also means that workers there are denied their rights and the chance to find decent jobs. Conditions in Africa have deteriorated, with Benin, Nigeria and Zimbabwe being the worst performing countries - including many cases of workers suspended or dismissed for taking legitimate strike action. The report ranks the ten worst countries for workers’ rights in 2017 as Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The Philippines, South Korea and Kazakhstan have joined the ten-worst ranking for the first time this year. **Sombre reading** The 2016 annual ranking makes for sombre reading. Violence and repression of workers are on the increase. In just one year, the number of countries experiencing physical violence has risen by 10 percent. Attacks on trade union members have been documented in fifty-nine countries, fuelling growing anxiety about jobs and wages. Corporate interests are being put ahead of the interests of working people in the global economy, with 60% of countries excluding whole categories of workers from labour law, undermining fundamental democratic rights. Denying workers protection under labour laws creates a hidden workforce, where governments and companies refuse to take responsibility, especially for migrant workers, domestic workers and those on short-term contracts. **Key findings** This year’s key findings include: 84 countries exclude groups of workers from labour law. Over three-quarters of countries deny some or all workers their right to strike. Over three-quarters of countries deny some or all workers collective bargaining. Out of 139 countries surveyed, 50 deny or constrain free speech and freedom of assembly. The number of countries in which workers are exposed to physical violence and threats increased by 10 per cent (from 52 to 59) and include Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia and Ukraine. Unionists were murdered in 11 countries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mauritania, Mexico, Peru, The Philippines and Venezuela. In South Korea, Han Sang-gyun, President of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, has been imprisoned since 2015 for organising public demonstrations during the candlelight revolution, to prevent the now deposed Park government from passing anti-worker labour laws. Trade union leaders in Kazakhstan were arrested merely because they called for strike action. In the Philippines, the climate of violence and impunity, which has proliferated under President Duterte, had a profound impact on workers’ rights. Working conditions also worsened in other countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Myanmar. Argentina has seen a spike in violence and repression by the state and private security forces – in one case, 80 workers were injured during a stoppage for better pay and conditions.The build-up of the 2016 Olympic games in Brazil saw a significant increase in labour exploitation, and the dismantling of labour legislation by the new Brazilian government last year caused a sharp decline of labour standards. In Ecuador, union leaders were forbidden from speaking out and their offices were ransacked and occupied by the government. Problems in the garment sector in Myanmar persist, with long working hours, low pay and poor working conditions being exacerbated by serious flaws in the labour legislation that make it extremely difficult for unions to register. **Company action** Companies operating in countries where governments laws and business practices have deteriorated must be aware of the risk to their business and workers. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provides the international benchmark for how companies should operate. The ITUC Global Rights Index 2017 ranks 139 countries against 97 internationally recognised indicators to assess where workers’ rights are best protected in law and in practice, with an overall score placing countries in one to five rankings. **Irregular violations of rights:** 12 countries including Germany & Uruguay **Repeated violations of rights:** 21 countries including Japan and South Africa **Regular violations of rights:** 26 countries including Chile and Poland **Systematic violations of rights:** 34 countries including Paraguay and Zambia **No guarantee of rights:** 35 countries including Egypt, the Philippines and Qatar *And*, 5+. **No guarantee of rights due to a breakdown of the rule of law:** 11 countries including Burundi, Palestine and Syria.

**Strikes are an effective way to improve working conditions historical precedent proves**

#### Frohlich and Harrington 20 “Thomas Frohlich is the executive editor for 24/7 Wall St. For five years, he has analyzed data to produce hundreds of lists and short articles on such topics as drought, segregation, homelessness, education, economic inequality, immigration, and poverty in America. Thomas's work has been cited or mentioned in many major online and print publications, including MSN, USA Today, The New York Times, The Guardian, Washington Post, Forbes, Time Magazine, Business Insider, HuffPost, AccuWeather, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, and Chicago Tribune. Thomas has a degree in philosophy from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and a Master's in cultural studies from Dartmouth College. John Harrington is a journalist with an extensive background in business and financial news. John graduated from Rutgers University in Newark cum laude with a degree in history and a minor in English. His first full-time job in journalism was with the Daily Advance in Dover, New Jersey, as a sportswriter. “Mine, steel, auto workers were involved in some of the biggest strikes in American history” USA Today. April 8, 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/04/08/31-largest-worker-strikes-in-american-history/111460504///SD>

7. Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 • Duration: May 12, 1902 to Oct. 23, 1902 • No. of strikers: 147,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 15,141,000 The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 pitted coal miners in Pennsylvania who wanted higher pay and shorter work hours against coal mine companies that claimed their operations were not that profitable. The strike led to the formation of a commission that arbitrated an agreement that included pay increases and reduced work hours. It marked the first time the federal government intervened as a neutral party and not on the side of employers. The job action also boosted the labor movement. 6. American Association of Advertising Agencies Strike • Duration: May 1, 2000 to Oct. 30, 2000 • No. of strikers: 135,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 17,280,000 Actors belonging to the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists ended their strike in October of 2000. The union defeated an attempt by the American Association of Advertising Agencies and the Association of National Advertisers to discontinue residuals paid to actors for television commercials. 5. United Auto Workers Strike of 1945 • Duration: Nov. 21, 1945 to March 13, 1946 • No. of strikers: 225,500 • Cumulative days off the job: 17,363,500 After abiding by a no-strike vow during WWII and deferring wage increase demands, organized labor asked for higher pay once the war ended, and the automobile sector was no exception. The United Auto Workers requested a 30% wage hike in November of 1945. GM countered with a 10% increase. Negotiations reached an impasse, and the laborer began work stoppage. The job action ended when GM said it would give workers a 17.5% pay hike, paid vacation, and overtime pay. 4. The Railroad Shop Workers Strike • Duration: July 1, 1922 to Sept. 1, 1922 • No. of strikers: 400,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 18,000,000 In response to a 12% wage cut, about 400,000 railroad workers went on strike on July 1, 1922. While nearly the largest strike in U.S. history, the workers were ruthlessly broken by various violent measures, including the hiring of 16,000 gunmen, National Guard deployment, and targeted hits by private detectives. The unrest demonstrated in the Railroad Shop Strike led to the passage of the Railway Labor Act, which provided the right for workers to organize and join unions. 3. The Steel Strike of 1919 • Duration: Sept. 22, 1919 to Jan. 8, 1920 • No. of strikers: 350,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 26,600,000 Disagreements between labor and management in the steel industry had been mediated by the War Labor Board during World War I. After the war ended, however, workers claimed companies refused to recognize unions. Postwar inflation was also eroding incomes. Steel workers went on strike in September 1919, but the job action was hampered by bad organization as well as ethnic and racial tensions within the steel union. Also, management exploited the public's fears of Bolshevism. Strikers crossed picket lines, and the strike ended unsuccessfully for the unionized steel workers. 2. The Steel Strike of 1959 • Duration: July 15, 1959 to Nov. 1, 1959 • No. of strikers: 500,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 38,000,000 In mid-July 1959, around 500,000 steel workers walked off the job in defiance of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's pleas to continue bargaining. The strikers' goal was to amend a clause in their union contract to give management more control over the number of workers assigned to a task, as well as the power to introduce new work rules or machinery that would affect how many employees or hours were needed. The union ended up victorious, although the strike is considered to have led to increases in foreign steel imports – a trade pattern that would ultimately hurt American steel workers. 1. United Mine Workers of America Strike of 1946 • Duration: April 1, 1946 to Dec. 7, 1946 • No. of strikers: 400,000 • Cumulative days off the job: 70,400,000 The United Mine Workers of America, under the leadership of legendary union boss John L. Lewis, went on strike in April 1946, seeking a health plan for workers and retirees. As the strike dragged on, President Harry Truman stepped in and placed the mines under the control of the federal government. Eventually, the government forged an agreement with the union that returned control of the mines to companies and provided for raises in pay and improvements in mine safety, as well as establishing a framework for creating a retirement fund.

**Improved working conditions for individuals helps eradicate poverty**

#### United Nations 07 Department of Economic and Social Affairs- Poverty, Report of the Secretary General: The centrality of employment to poverty eradication, Report of the Secretary General: The centrality of employment to poverty eradication, 2007, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/employment-and-decent-work.html//SD>

Unemployment and underemployment lies at the core of poverty. For the poor, labour is often the only asset they can use to improve their well-being. Hence the creation of productive employment opportunities is essential for achieving poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development. It is crucial to provide decent jobs that both secure income and empowerment for the poor, especially women and younger people. Rapid economic growth can potentially bring a high rate of expansion of productive and remunerative employment, which can lead to a reduction in poverty. Nevertheless, the contribution of the growth process to poverty reduction does not depend only on the rate of economic growth, but also on the ability of the poor to respond to the increasing demand for labour in the more productive categories of employment. Given the importance of employment for poverty reduction, job-creation should occupy a central place in national poverty reduction strategies. Many employment strategies are often related to agricultural and rural development and include using labour-intensive agricultural technologies; developing small and medium-size enterprises, and promoting micro projects in rural areas. Many strategies promote self-employment, non-farm employment in rural areas, targeted employment interventions, microfinance and credit as means of employment generation, skill formation and training. Such strategies, however, often address the quantity of employment while the qualitative dimensions, such as equity, security, dignity and freedom are often absent or minimal. In general, national poverty reduction strategies including Poverty Reduction Strategies do not comment on employment programmes, social protection or rights at work. Neither do they offer in-depth analysis of the effects of policies on poverty reduction. A social perspective on development emphasizes the view that the best route to socio-economic development, poverty eradication and personal wellbeing is through decent work. Productive employment opportunities will contribute substantially to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, especially the Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015. There should be a focus on creating better and more productive jobs, particularly those that can absorb the high concentrations of working poor. Among the necessary elements for creating such jobs are investing in labour-intensive industries, especially agriculture, encouraging a shift in the structure of employment to higher productivity occupations and sectors, and upgrading job quality in the informal economy. In addition, there should also be a focus on providing poor people with the necessary skills and assets that will enable them to take full advantage of any expansion in employment potential.

**The impact is that Poor working conditions are an infringement on human rights and don’t maximize expected well being. By implementing an unconditional right to strike not only do we protect the right to strike, but also allow for strikes to improve other poor working conditions. I outweigh on scope due to how broad the impact is and on cyclicality because poverty is a generational impact.**