

In 2002, the ILO published a report on economically active children. The ILO counted cases of “child labor” that were:

Under the Minimum Age

As defined by national legislation, in accordance with accepted international standards

Hazardous to children

Threatened physical, mental, or emotional well-being

“Worst forms of child labor”

Slavery, debt-bondage, forced labor, illicit activities

The ILO Study Found:

246 million child laborers

Between the ages of 5-17



Harvesting Rice, Bali, Indonesia, 1999

Photo courtesy of International Labor Organization



Preparing Tobacco Leaves, Laos, 2000

Photo courtesy of International Labor Organization



Fishing Platform Worker, Indonesia, 1995

Photo courtesy of David Parker



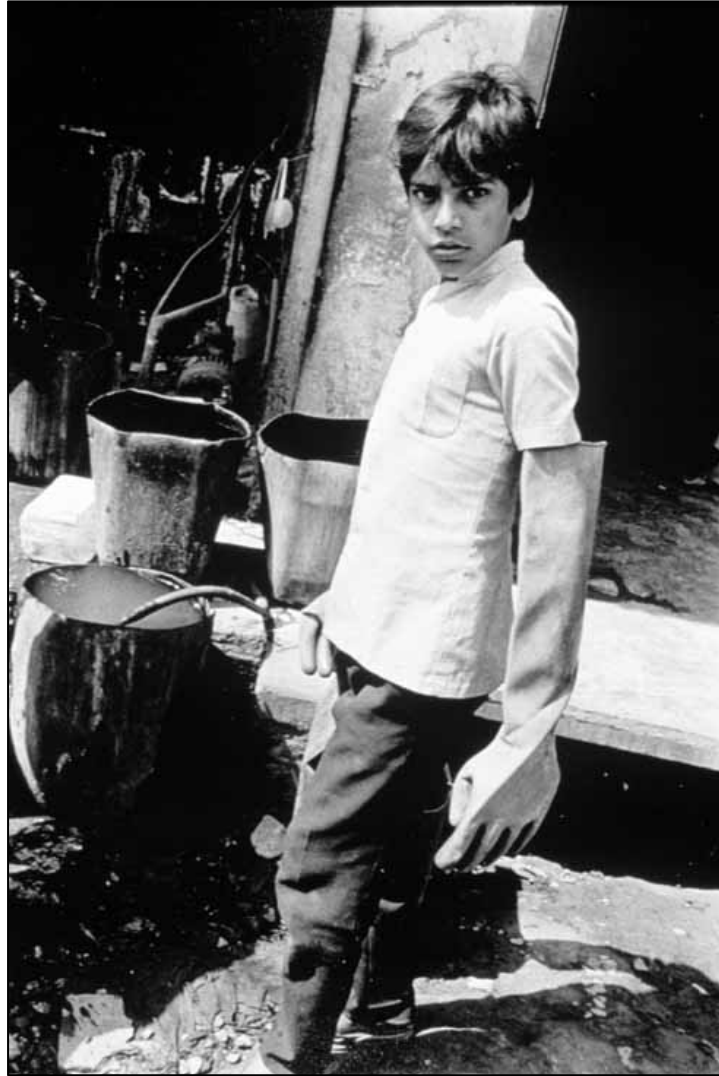
Carpet Weaver, Nepal, 1993

Photo by David Parker



Metal Worker, India, 1995

Photo courtesy of David Parker.



Electroplate Worker, India, 1993

Photo courtesy of David Parker.



Match Factory Worker, India

Photo courtesy of David Parker.



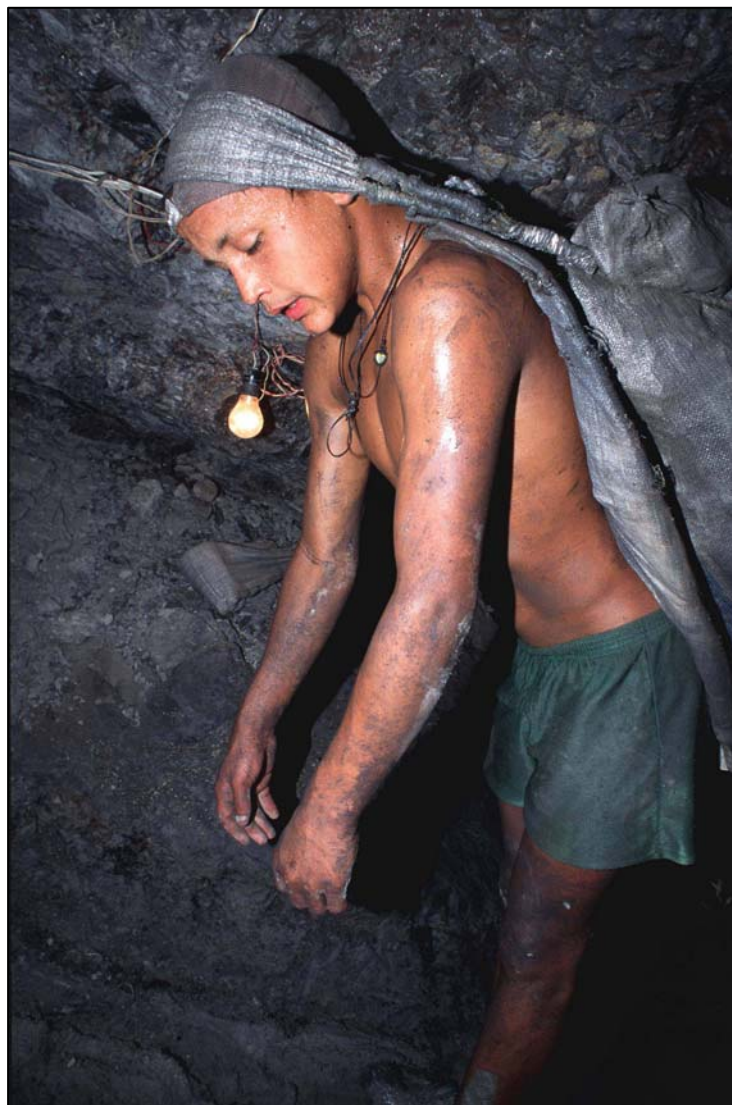
Stitching Soccer Balls, Pakistan, 1998

Photo courtesy of the International Labour Organization.



Packaging Nestlé Products, India, 2002

Photo courtesy of the International Labour Organization



Mine Worker, Colombia, 1996

Photo courtesy of International Labor Organization



Bonded Laborer in a Brick Factory, India, 1998

Photo courtesy of International Labor Organization



Domestic Servant, Senegal, 1996

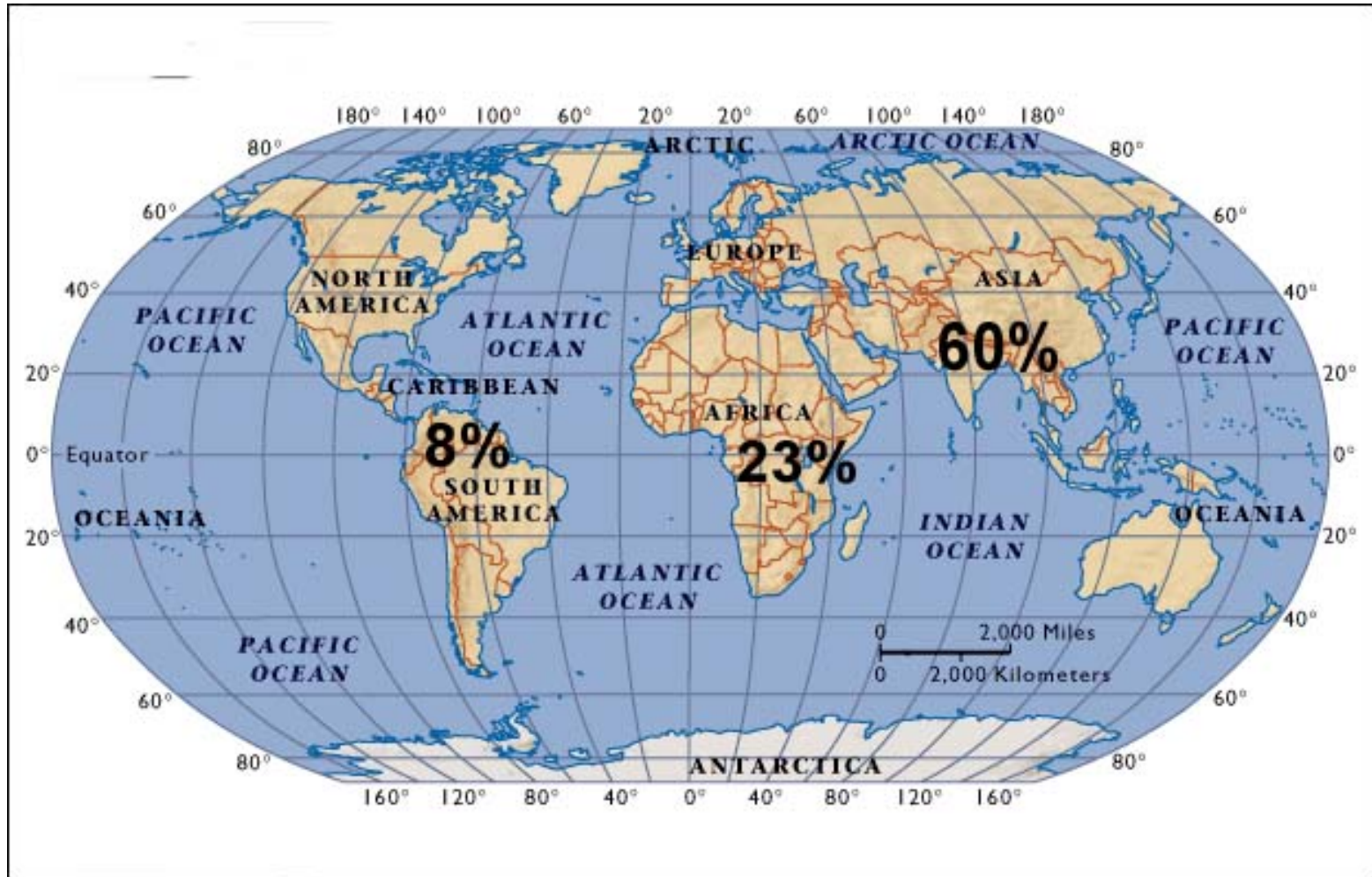
Photo courtesy of the International Labour Organization.

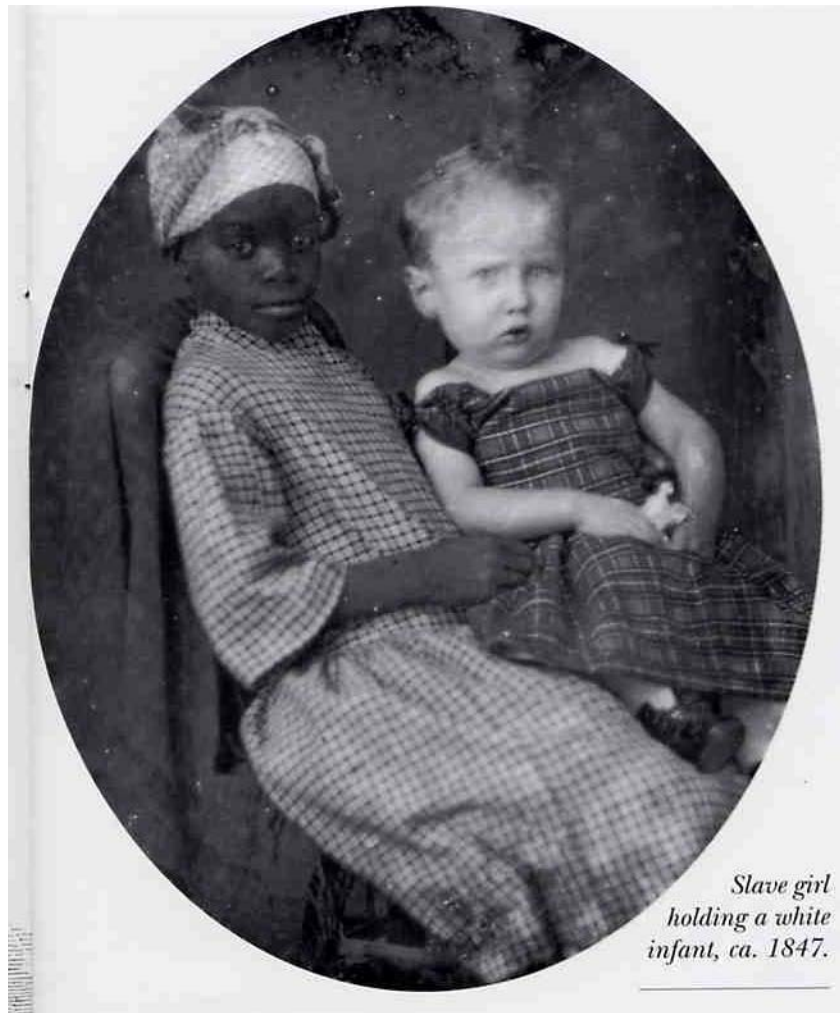


Market Vendor, Mexico, 1992

Photo courtesy of David Parker

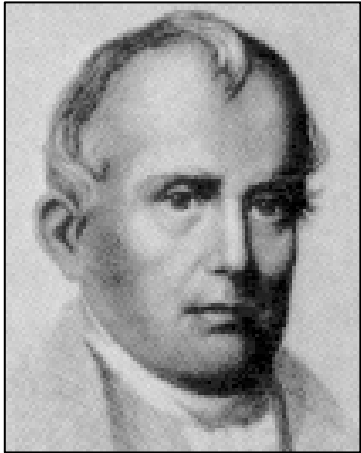
Where does most child labor occur?



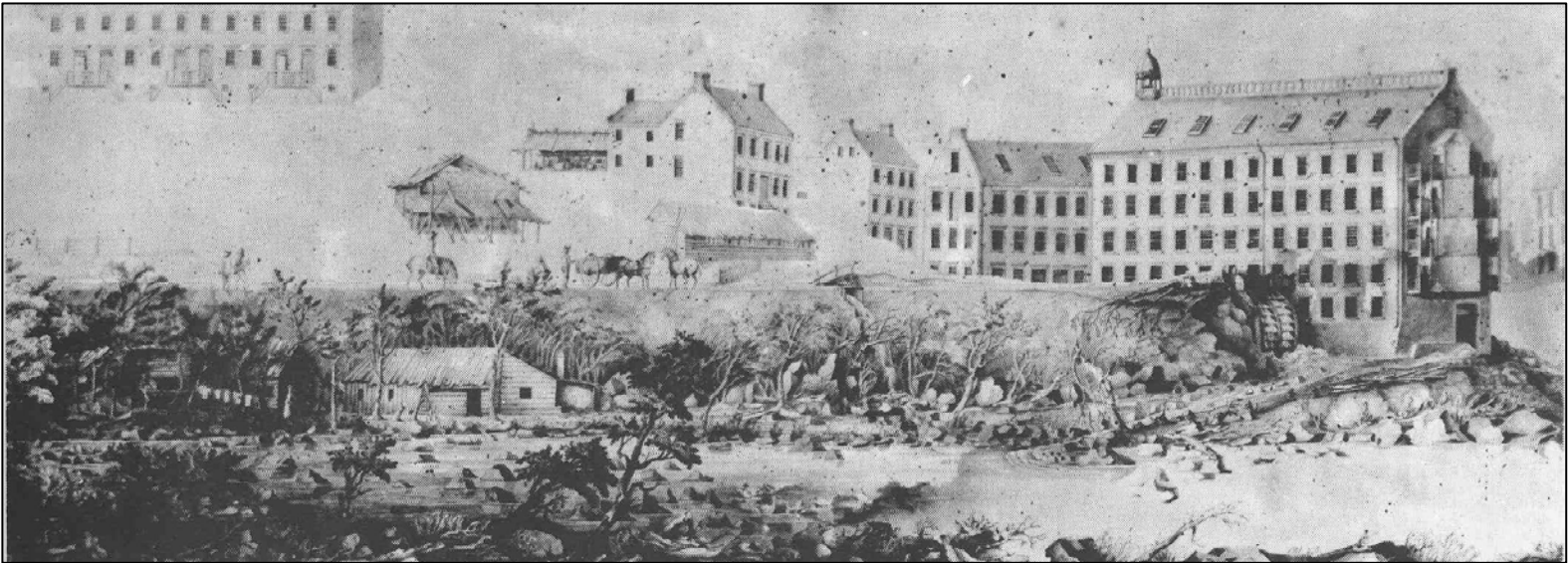


Slave Girl, around 1847

Samuel Slater's "Old Slater Mill" (1793)



Union Manufactories, Patapsco Falls, Maryland, 1822



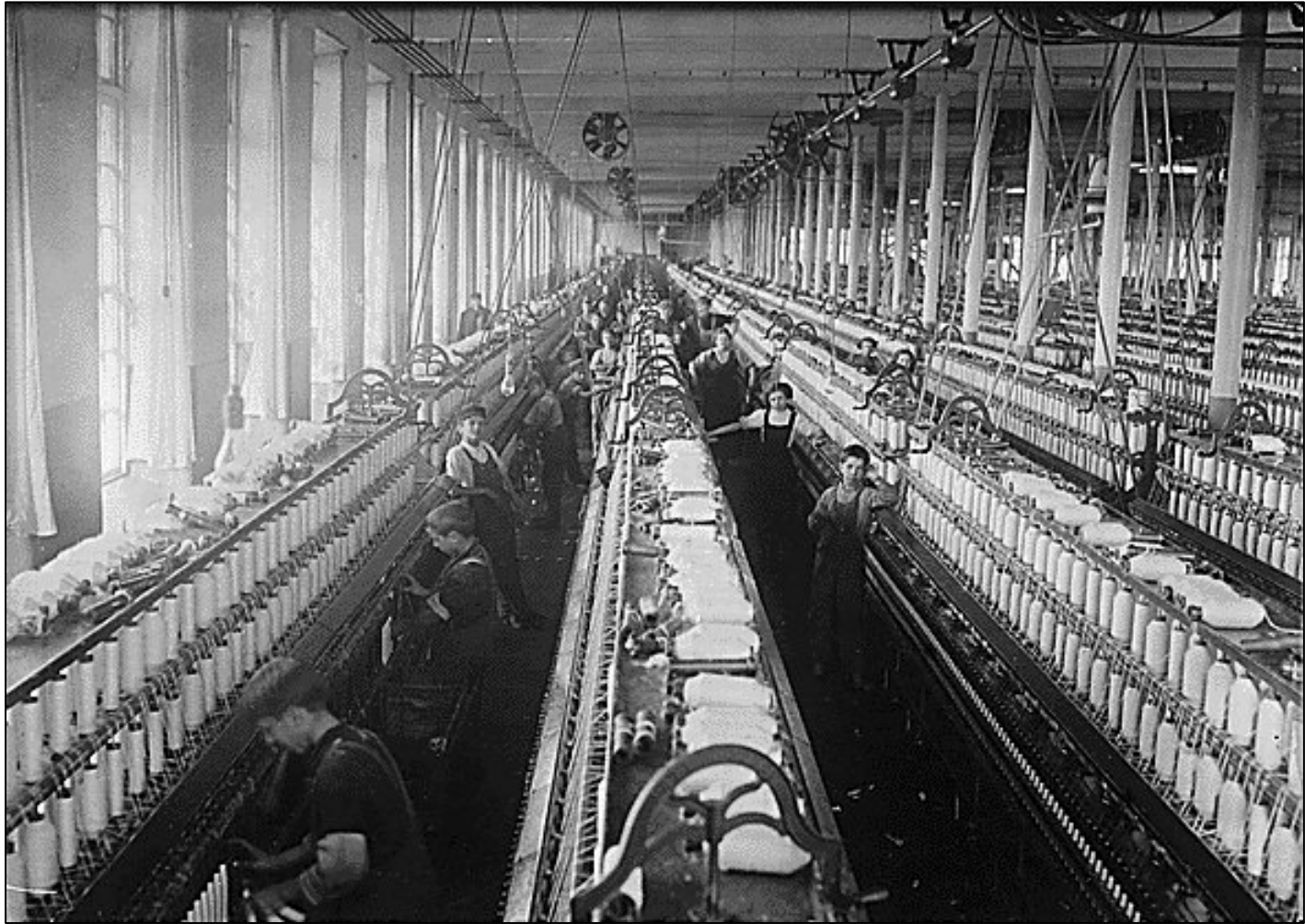
184 Employees

6 men 58 boys 120 girls

State Laws in 1904

Out of 45 states:

- **17** set a minimum age of 14 for factory work
- **5** prohibited children from night factory work
- **2** limited child factory workers to 8-hour days



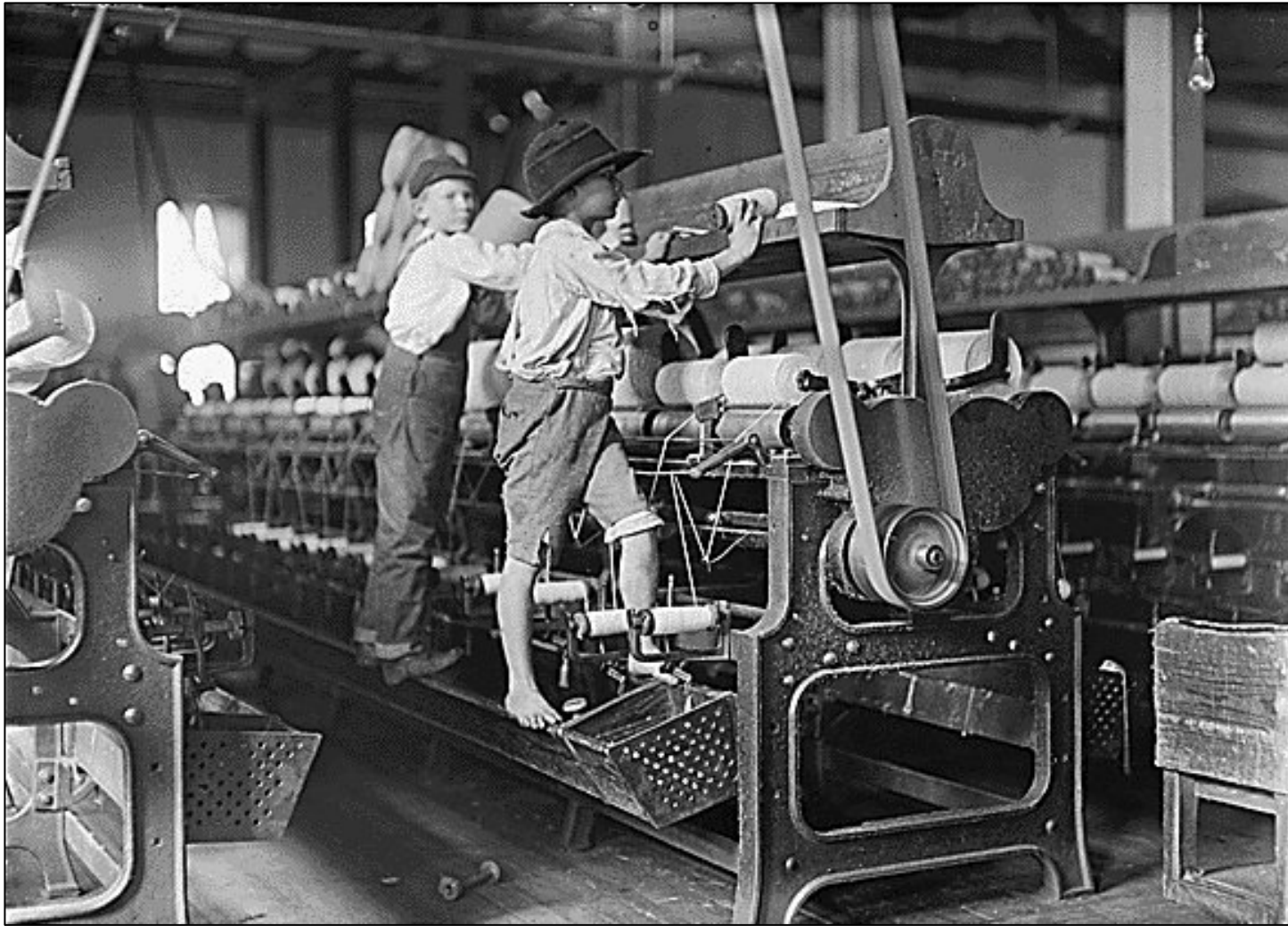
Spinning room, Cornell Mill. Fall River, Mass

Photo by Lewis Hine.



**11 years old. Been working over a year.
Rhodes Mfg. Co. Lincolnton, N.C**

Photo by Lewis Hine.



Bibb Mill No. 1. Macon, Ga.

Photo by Lewis Hine.



**Breaker boys, Hughestown Borough Pa. Coal
Co. Pittston, Pa.**

Photo by Lewis Hine.



**Camille Carmo, age 7, and Justine, age 9.
Cranberry bogs, Rochester, Mass.**

Photo by Lewis Hine.



**Shrimp and Oyster Worker, Biloxi, Miss.
Feb. 1911**

Photo by Lewis Hine.



Tobacco Workers, Virginia

Opponents of child labor regulation argued that child labor was:

- **Unavoidable stage of development**
- **Necessary for survival**
- **Essential for regional competition**

In Defense of Child Labor

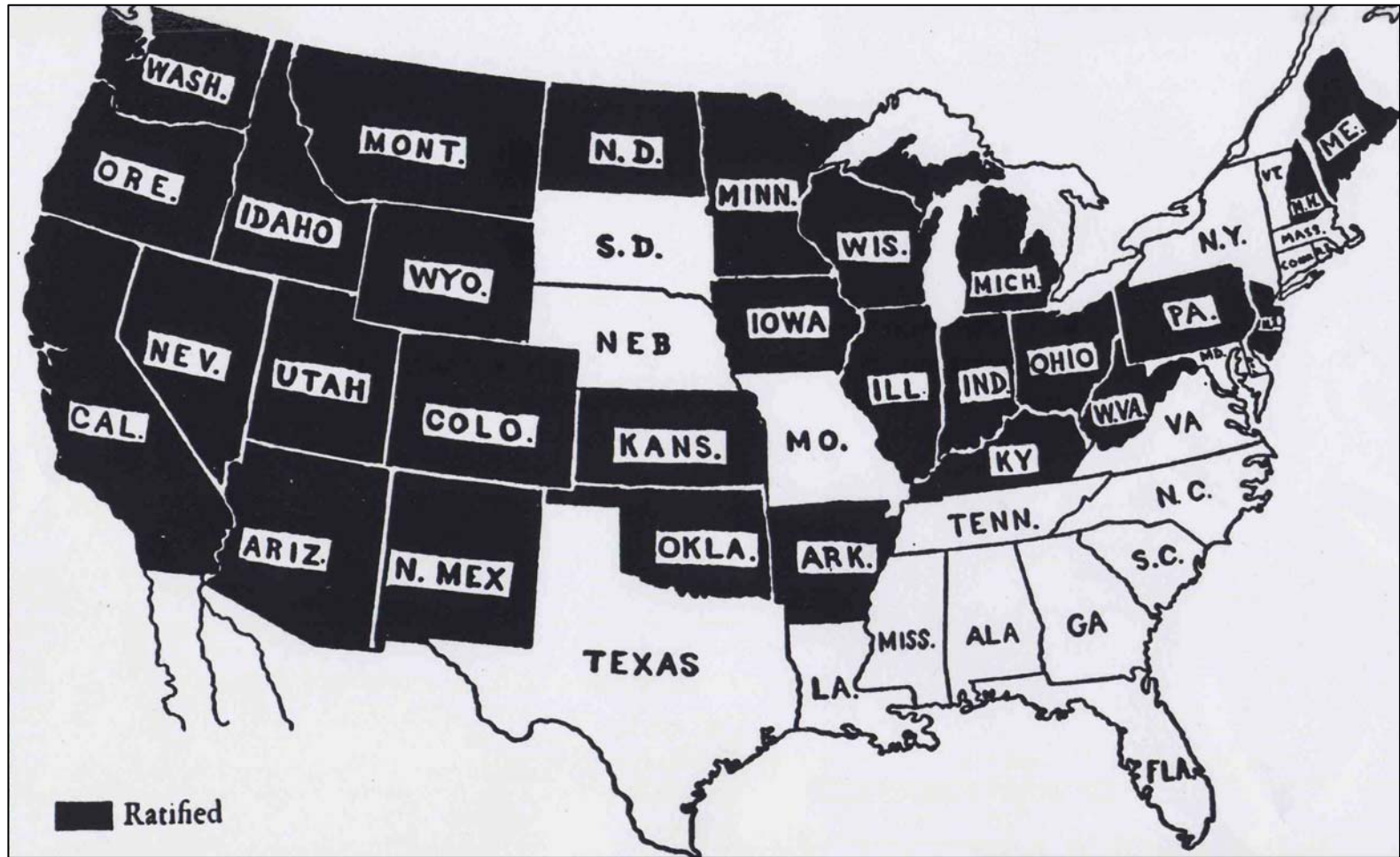


“I believe there are just about as many children spoiled by indulgence as there are by overwork.”

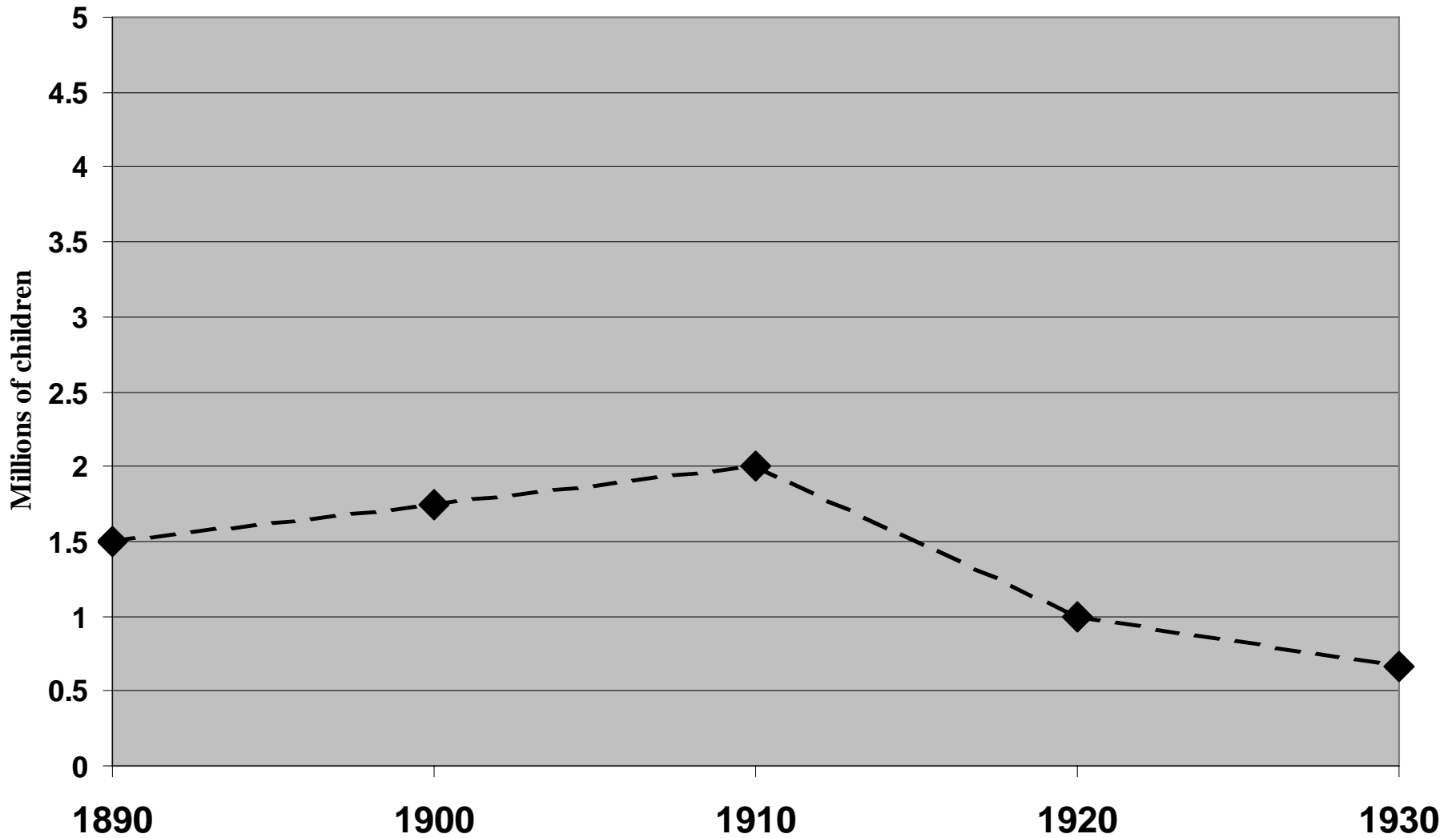
**-Daniel A. Tompkins
Carolina mill owner**

“There is such a thing as too much education for working people sometimes.” **-Charles Harding
Merchants Woolen Co.**

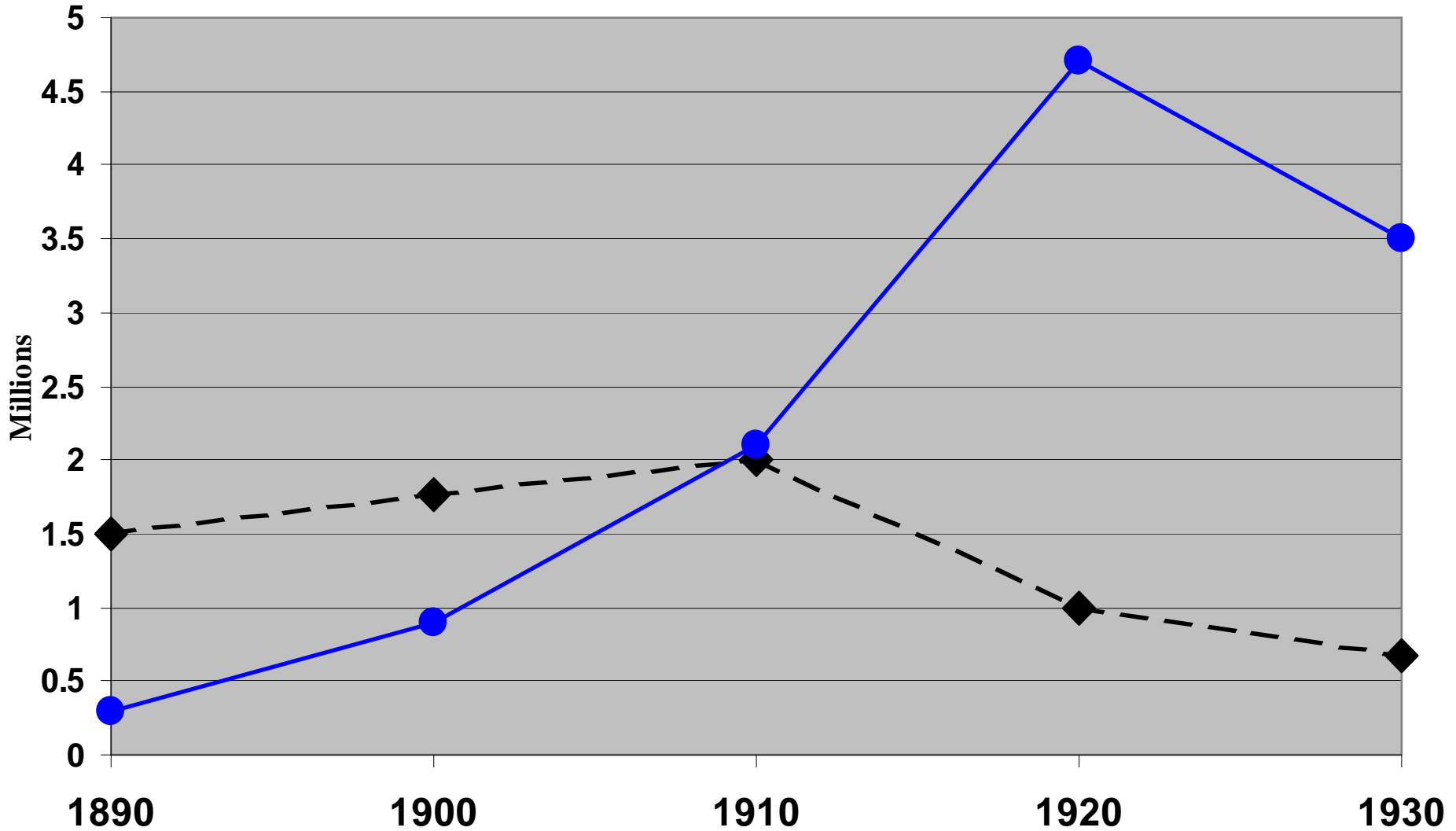
States Ratifying Child Labor Amendment, 1937



In 1910, Child Labor Begins to Decline



Union Membership Rises In Early 1900's



Early Trade Union Resolutions

1829 New York Workingmen's Party

Public education should “unite under the same roof the children of the poor man and the rich”

1832 New England Assoc. of Workingmen

“Children should not be allowed to labor in the factories from morning till night ...”

1881 American Federation of Labor

State laws should ban children under 14 from gainful employment

Seattle Newsboys Union, 1903



Women's Organizations and Child Labor Reform

**Florence
Kelley**



**Leonora
Barry**



**Consumers'
Leagues**

**Working
Women's
Societies**

**Knights of
Labor Women's
Department**

**Women's
Trade Union
League**

Women's Trade Union League of New York



National Consumers' League

Standard of a Fair House

WAGES

A Fair House is one in which equal pay is given for work of equal value, irrespective of sex. In the departments where women only are employed, in which the minimum wages are Six dollars per week for experienced adult workers, and fall in few instances below Eight dollars.

In which wages are paid by the week.

In which fines, if imposed, are paid into a fund for the benefit of the employees.

In which the minimum wages of Cash Girls are Two dollars per week, with the same conditions regarding weekly payments and fines.

HOURS

A Fair House is one in which the hours from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. (with three-quarters of an hour for lunch) constitute the working day, and a general half-holiday is given on one day of each week during at least two summer months.

In which a vacation of not less than one week is given with pay during the summer season.

In which all overtime is compensated for.

In which wages are paid and the premises closed for the five principal legal holidays, *viz.*: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, and the Fourth of July.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

A Fair House is one in which work, lunch, and retiring rooms are apart from each other, and conform in all respects to the present Sanitary Laws.

In which the present law regarding the providing of seats for saleswomen is observed, and the use of seats permitted.

OTHER CONDITIONS

A Fair House is one in which humane and considerate behavior toward employees is the rule.

In which fidelity and length of service meet with the consideration which is their due.

In which no children under fourteen years of age are employed.

“White Label” Standards 1899



National Child Labor Committee



Free, Compulsory Education

“The public school should . . . be the leader of the forces . . . engaged in the efforts to abolish child labor.”

Samuel McCune Lindsay, Secretary NCLC 1907

- 1852** Massachusetts enacts the first compulsory education law
- 1865** By the end of the Civil War, most state constitutions guarantee public support for public education
- 1918** All states have compulsory education laws, through elementary school

State, then Federal Legislation

1836:

Massachusetts passes first child labor law

1911-1914:

Thirty-nine states pass child labor laws

1938:

Fair Labor Standards Act creates federal child labor standards

Successful strategies in the campaign against child labor:

- Union and Community Coalitions**
- Free Education for All Children**
- Campaigns to Change Public Opinion**
- Universal Minimum Standards**

U.S. Child Labor Law:

Minimum Age:	14 years 18 for hazardous work
Maximum Hours:	18/week during school 40/week during vacation
Reasonable Hours:	7am-7pm during school 7am-9pm during vacation

International Children's Rights:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Protection from economic exploitation

Protection from hazardous work

Access to health care

Right to education

ILO Convention 138:

**Minimum employment age of 15 years old
(allows 14 in some cases)**

ILO Convention 182:

Prohibition of “worst forms” of child labor

Global Core Labor Standards

- **Right to a free choice to join a union and collective bargaining**
- **Right to reject all forms of forced or compulsory labor**
- **Right to work free from discrimination**
- **Right to reject child labor**

**-ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles
and Rights at Work, adopted June, 1998**

Globalization Offers New Promise and Opportunities

I wanted this job because I saw the WTO as a way of lifting living standards for working people everywhere. . . Prosperity and peace – that to me is what the multilateral trading system can bring about.”

**Mike Moore
Director-General WTO 1999**

National Laws Often Include Exemptions

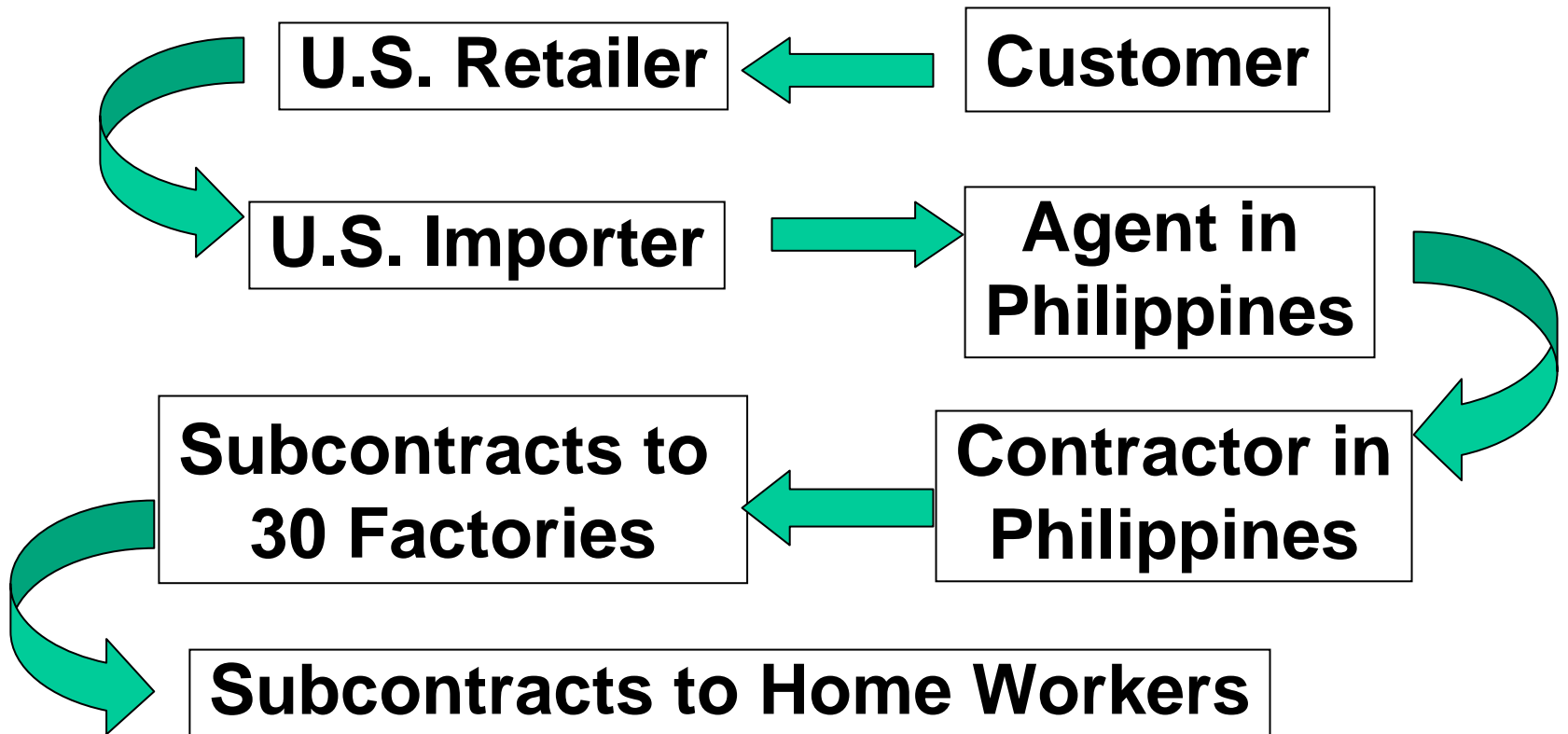
Nepal minimum age of 14 for most work. . .
plantations and brick kilns are exempt.

Kenya prohibits children under 16 from
industrial work. . .
but excludes agriculture.

Bangladesh
specifies a minimum age for work. . .
*but sets no regulations on domestic work
or agricultural work.*

Subcontracting: Hidden Labor Conditions

Production chain for one line of infant clothing sold at JCPenney in 1996



Source: *The Apparel Industry and Codes of Conduct: A Solution to the International Child Labor Problem?* (Dept. of Labor, 1996).

Violations of Existing Laws

WAL-MART FINED \$205,650 IN CHILD LABOR CASE

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Byline: JOSHUA L. WEINSTEIN Staff Writer

A warning didn't work, so the state has fined Wal-Mart \$205,650 for breaking child labor laws in every one of its stores in Maine. It is the largest such fine the state has imposed.

"When the dust settled, we had found over 2,000 violations," Alan Hinsey, the director of the Bureau of Labor Standards, said Wednesday. Inspectors deemed some of the violations minor, and dropped them. Ultimately, the state charged the Arkansas-based retail chain with 1,436 violations of Maine's child labor laws. All the violations involved the state's restrictions on hours that can be worked by employees under 18. . .

Poverty and Unemployment

Since 2000, the number of unemployed worldwide grew by 20 million.

Of an estimated 6 billion people in the world, 1.2 billion live in absolute poverty.

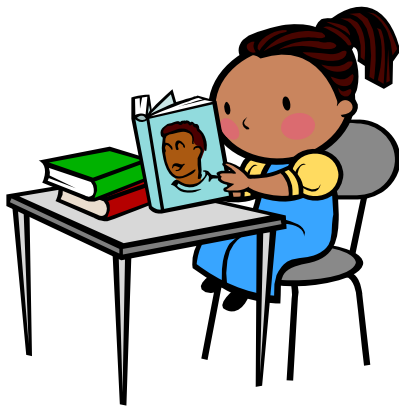
“In an apparently increasingly prosperous world, more and more people are becoming poorer.”

Limited Educational Opportunities

Throughout the world,
125 million children do not attend school

Did you know?

Free, quality, basic education
for all children would cost \$10
billion per year. . .



the same as 4 days of
global military spending.

Core Labor Standards Under Attack

In 2001 alone:

**223 unionists were murdered or “disappeared”
over 4,000 were arrested
1,000 were injured
and 10,000 were fired as a result of union activity**

“When adults’ trade union rights are repressed, child labour is prevalent.”

-Tim Noonan, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Trade and Globalization: Contradictory Effects on Child Labor

GLOBAL COMPETITION

FREE TRADE RULES

WORLD BANK AND IMF

Debt and Child Welfare

The example of Sub-Saharan Africa

While Debt Payments Soar,

Sub-Saharan Africa pays \$40 million in debt each day.

Educational Opportunities are Few...

40% of Sub-Saharan African children receive no education

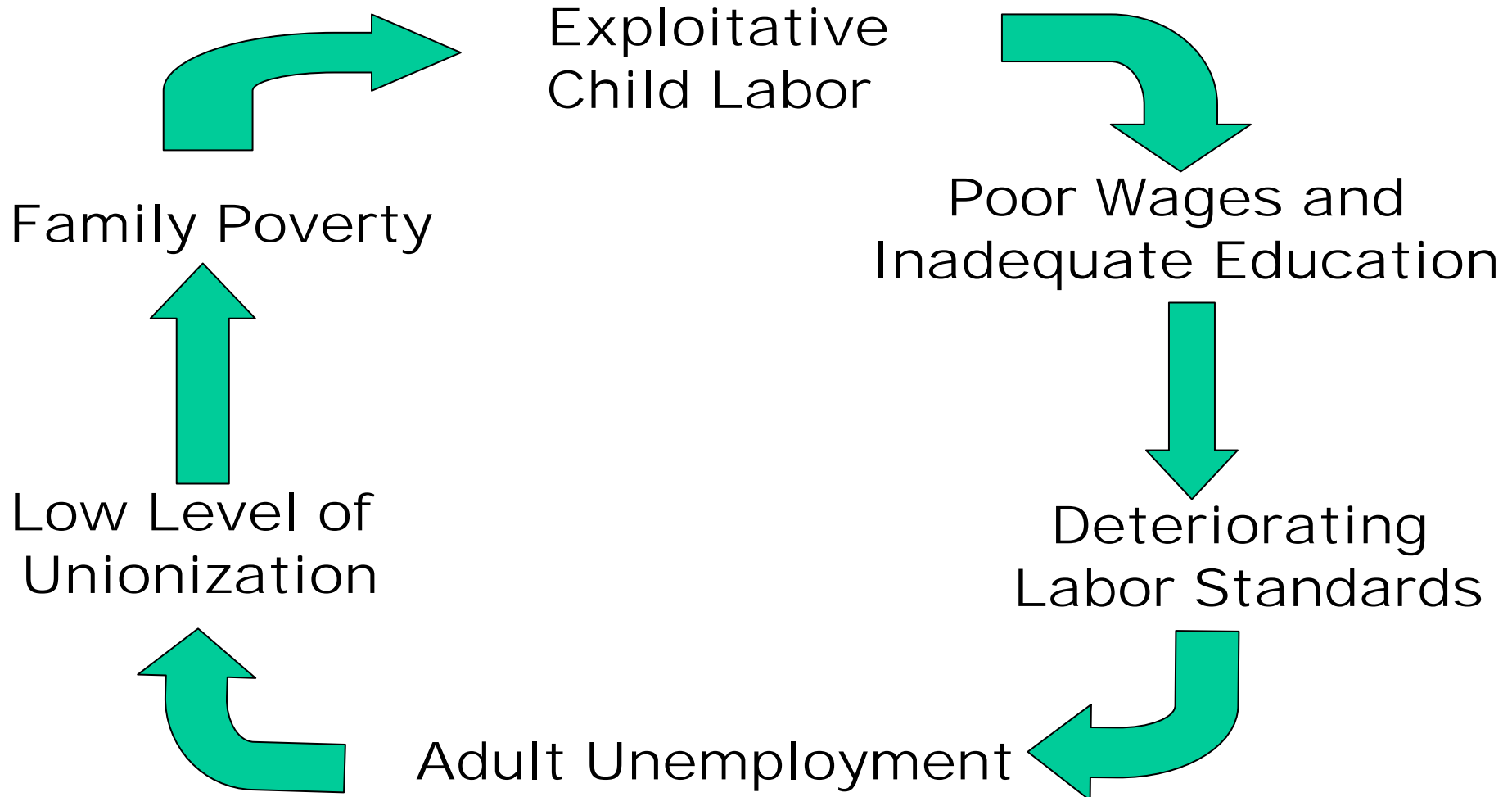
And Getting Fewer.

In the 1990's, the number of children entering primary schools fell in 17 African countries.

Some Opponents of Child Labor Regulation Are Using Familiar Arguments:

- **Unavoidable stage of development**
- **Necessary for survival**
- **Essential for regional competition**

Exploitative Child Labor: Economic Development or *Underdevelopment*?





Hauling bananas from the fields to the packing plant, Ecuador

Photo courtesy of David Parker.

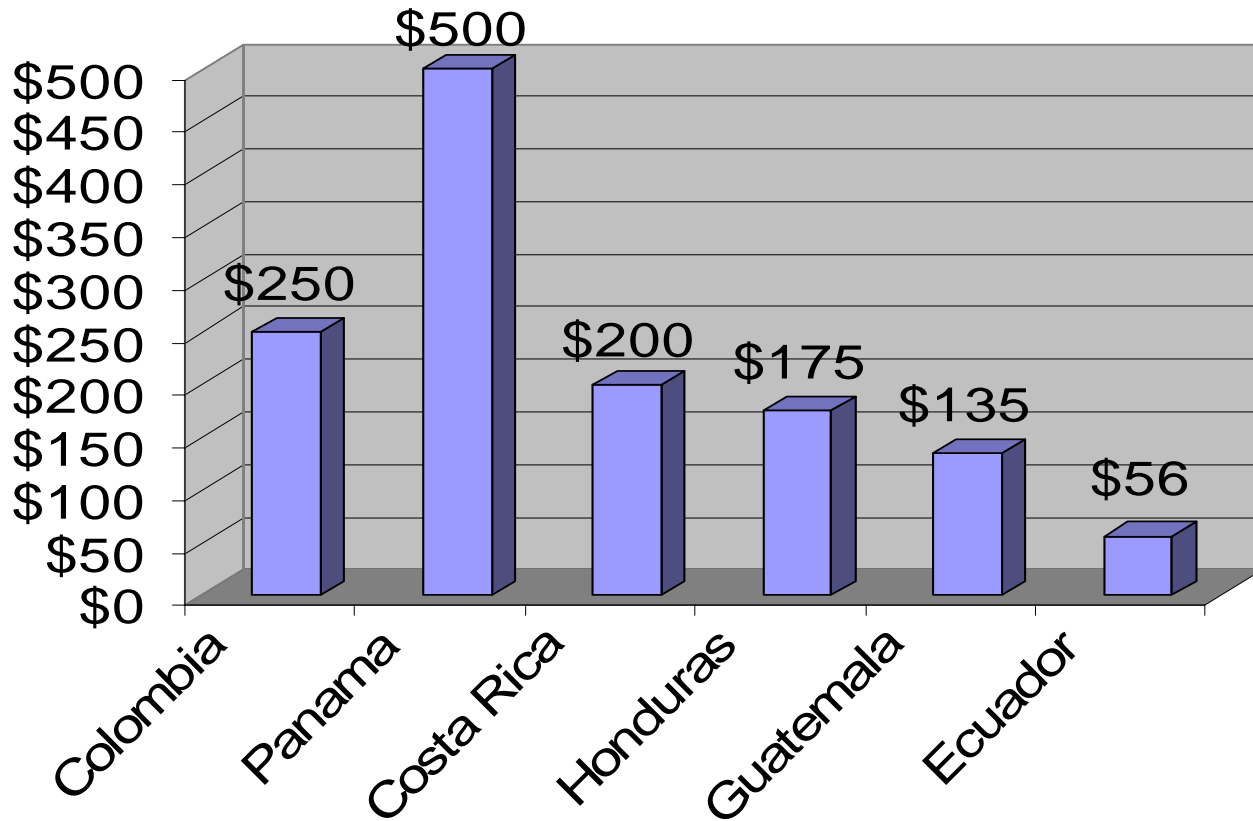


Harvesting Bananas, Ecuador

Photo courtesy of David Parker.

Low Wages Contribute to Poverty for Ecuador's Banana Workers

Average Monthly Pay in Banana Exporting Nations



During 20 Years of Structural Adjustment,

As Wages Fell, State Health and Education Spending Declined

Household average income

1980: \$200

1993: \$ 80

Health and education spending

1980: 38% of the national budget

2000: 11% of the national budget

Laws Lack Adequate Enforcement

Ecuador's Law Establishes:

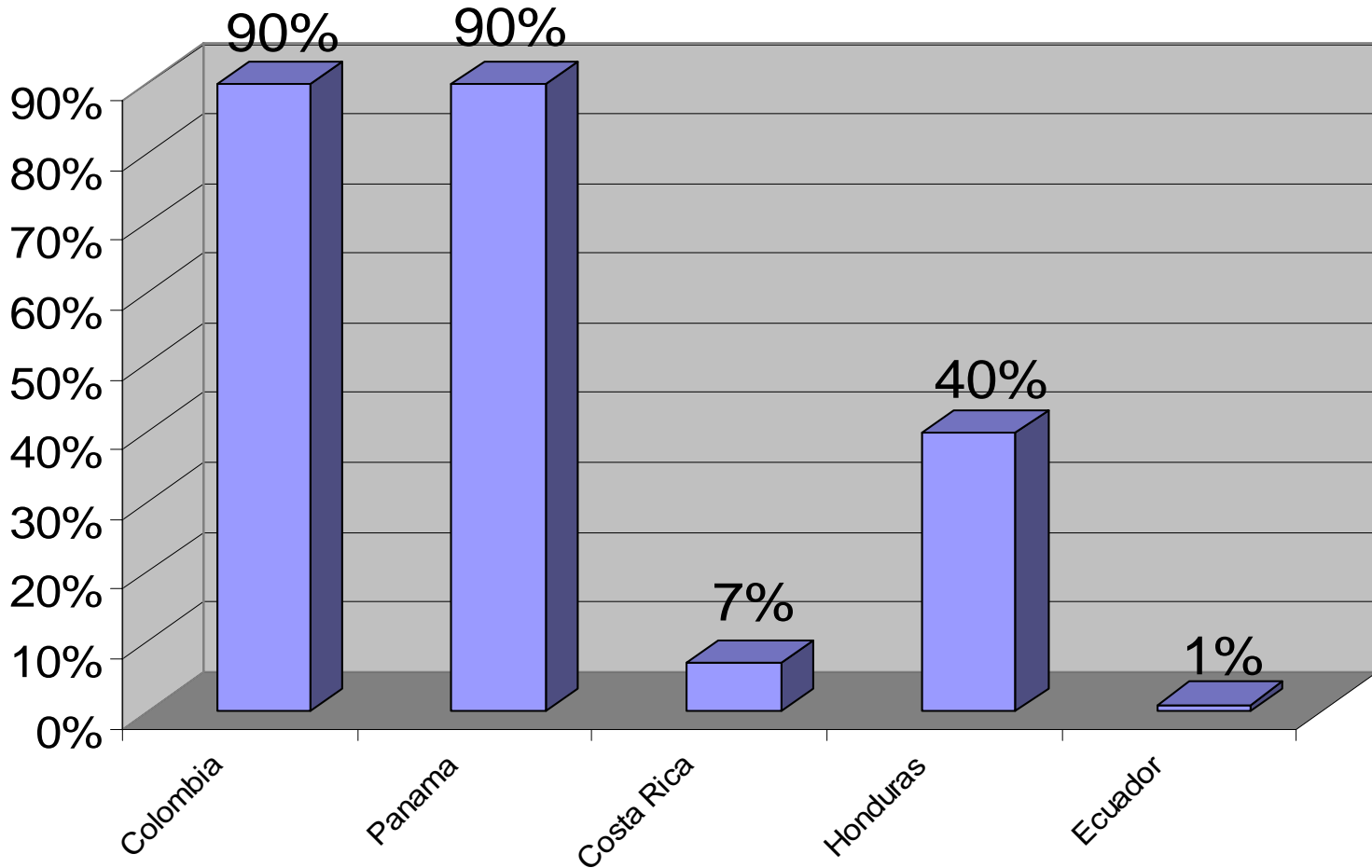
- **Minimum working age of 15**
- **No hazardous work for children under 18**

But according to a U.S. State Department Report on Ecuador, in 2002:

“The Ministry of Labor and the Minors’ Tribunals fail to enforce child labor laws, and child labor is prevalent.”

Ecuador's Banana Workers Lack Union Protections

Unionization Levels in Banana Exporting Countries



International Support for Organizing Efforts by Ecuador's Banana Workers

Research

Which stores sell Bonita?

Letter-Writing Campaign

Over 4,000 Letters to Noboa

1000 Letters to Costco

Congressional Delegation

Speaking Tour

Bonita workers visit U.S. Cities

Protest

Thousands Protest FTAA Meeting in Ecuador



Child Laborers



Velucia Leao, 14
Plantation Worker - Brazil



Govind Prasad Khanal, 15
Former Child Laborer - Nepal



Mudenda Gwen Bridget, 10
Former Street Child - Zambia

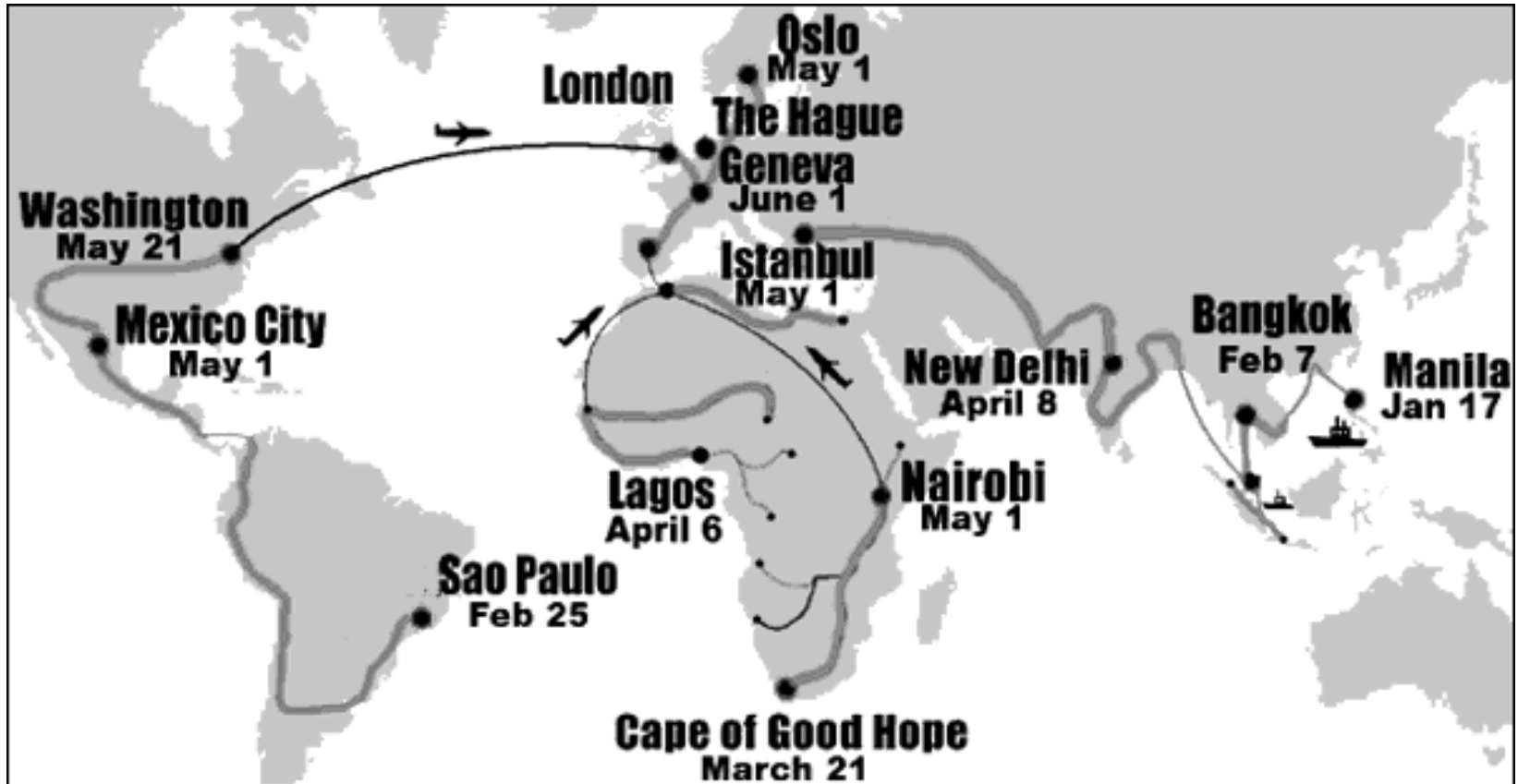


Likani Kumari Sada, 14
Former Domestic Worker - Nepal



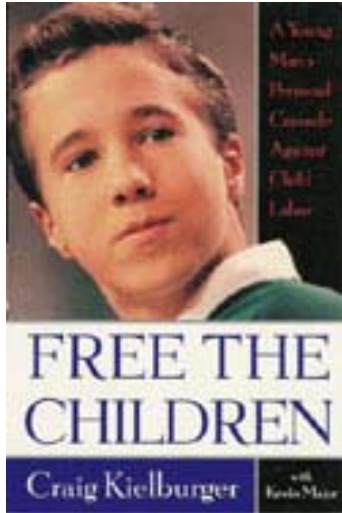
Hoojagy Ashvin Bhooshan, 13
Child Worker - Mauritius

Community Organizations



Global March Against Child Labor

Students, Across the Globe



The Kids Campaign to Build



A Bullet Can't Kill A Dream

Photo courtesy of A School for Iqbal.



Athletes



Craig Zaidie
DC United



The Argentina National Team



Brandi Chastain
US Women's National Team

Unions, Across the Globe



History's Strategies Still Apply:

- Union and Community Organizing**
- Free Education for All Children**
- Campaigns to Change Public Opinion**
- Universal Minimum Standards**

Collective Bargaining Strategies

Brazil

The National Confederation of Workers in Agriculture Is Negotiating Contracts that:

- ✓ **Limit Child Labor**
- ✓ **Provide education for child workers**
- ✓ **Financial assistance for families of child laborers.**

Global Agreements

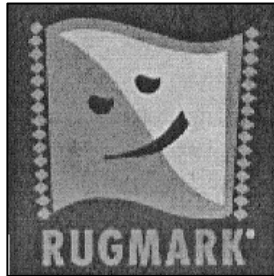
International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers' Unions signed a global agreement with Freudenberg that:

- ✓ **Protects Workers Rights**
- ✓ **Bans Child Labor**

Codes of Conduct and Labeling



“Fair Trade” Certified Products



Rugmark “no child labor” labels

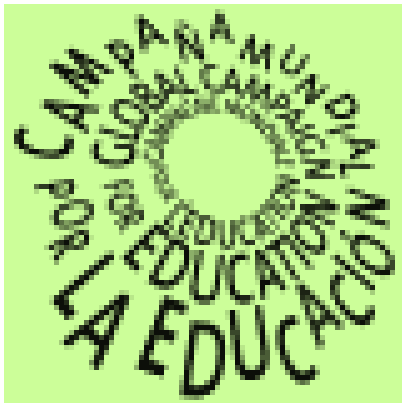


**2000 Olympics Code of Conduct
for Sponsors and Licensees**

Promoting Access to Education

Bangladesh Building and Woodworkers' Federation and the Metal Workers' Union:

- Remove children from hazardous workplaces
- Enroll children in education and assistance programs



Global Campaign for Education

Coalition involving Teachers' Unions, Global March Against Child Labor, Oxfam, and Action Aid

Campaigns for Global Labor Standards

**Demanding a Social Clause
in Trade Rules**



**Working Toward Ratification
and Enforcement of
Convention 182**



Solidarity Across Borders



2001 Campaign to support Mexican garment workers

2002 Campaign to support Ecuador's banana workers

Raising Awareness

All India Trades Union Council

Members visited slate mines using child labor and mobilized support for a campaign against child labor



American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

Video and curriculum designed for students in the United States