BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

What Do We Owe Foreign Labor?

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?

2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Geva, A. (1999, July). Moral Problems of Employing Foreign Workers. Business Ethics Quarterly, 9(3), 381–403.

Questions

1. In what ways is *importing* labor from foreign countries morally different from *exporting* labor to foreign countries?

2. Geva maintains that foreign labor is special. In particular, Geva's various claims throughout this article suggest that foreign workers are different from national workers concerning (A) the type of jobs they do, (B) their dependency on their employers, and (C) their vulnerability to discrimination and exploitation. Why does Geva believe foreign labor is special in these three ways?

3. According to Geva, who has moral obligations to foreign labor and what do those obligations involve?

4. An important consequence of all this is that businesses have stronger moral obligations to their foreign workers than their nationals. Do you believe that is true?