

What Do We Owe Foreign Labor?

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

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 position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Geva, A. (1999, July). Moral problems of employing foreign workers. *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 9(3), 381-403.

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. In what ways is *importing* labor *from* foreign countries morally different from *exporting* labor *to* foreign countries?
2. Aviva Geva maintains that foreign labor is special. In particular, Geva's various claims throughout this article suggest that foreign workers are different from local workers concerning

- The type of jobs they do,
- Their dependency on their employers, and
- Their vulnerability.

Why does Geva believe foreign labor is special in these three types of 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 the locals working for them.

Do you believe this claim is true?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

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.