Coercion, Contract, and Free Labor in the Nineteenth Century

Robert J. Steinfeld

State University of New York at Buffalo



Contents

List of Illustrations and Tables		<i>page</i> ix
Ack	nowledgments °	хi
Introduction: Free Wage Labor in the History of the West		1
	PART ONE. AMERICAN CONTRACT LABOR AND ENGLISH WAGE LABOR: THE USES OF PECUNIARY AND NONPECUNIARY PRESSURE	
1	"Free" Contract Labor in the United States: An Anti-essentialist View of Labor Types I	29
2	"Unfree" Wage Labor in Nineteenth-Century England: An Anti-essentialist View of Labor Types II	39
3	Explaining the Legal Content of English Wage Labor	85
4	Struggles over the Rules: The Common Law Courts, Parliament, the People, and the Master and Servant Acts	102
5	Struggles under the Rules: Strategic Behavior and Historical Change in Legal Context	167
6	Struggles to Change the Rules	192
7	Freedom of Contract and Freedom of Person	234
	PART TWO. "FREE" AND "UNFREE" LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES	
8	"Involuntary Servitude" in American Fundamental Law	253
9	Labor Contract Enforcement in the American North	290
Conclusion		315
Index		323