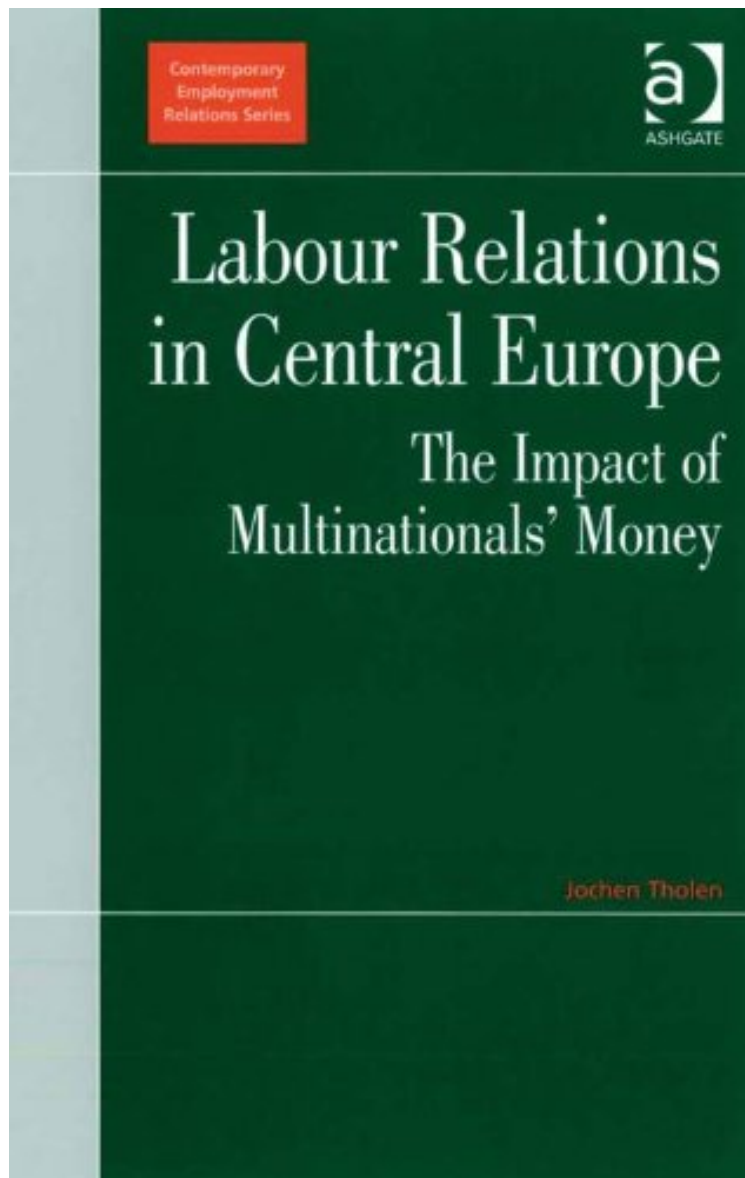


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Labour Relations in Central Europe: The Impact of Multinationals' Money (Contemporary Employment Relations)

Jochen Tholen

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Relations):

Since 1990, foreign direct investment (FDI) has quickened economic modernization in Central Europe. State of the art management techniques and cutting edge technology have been introduced in many cases. Labour Relations is an essential factor in the organization of labour and production. At the start of the process industrial relations were characterized by the conditions existing under the previous planned economies or - as with "greenfield" investments - had to be entirely reconfigured. In the case of investments by West European companies, this book reveals various emerging models of industrial relations but also a clear tendency towards company centralization. For the time being the European Works Council still plays a subordinate role despite its potential fundamental role as mediator between East and West. Empirically nine corporations from the metal/automotive industry, the chemical, energy and food processing industries (with their subsidiaries in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia) are considered.

About the Author Jochen Tholen is Senior Researcher and Departmental Head of the Institute Labour and Economy at the University of Bremen, Germany.