

## Providing Security through Unions

Since the Industrial Revolution, unions have been direly needed to ensure that skilled and unskilled labor workers are working under safe conditions, earning fair pay, and maintaining legal protection. Although many would argue that the conditions of the Industrial Revolution are not true today, I argue that Unions are needed as much as they were in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and even more so for guarantying of jobs in a time of this impacting economic recession. Unions protect the small working class man and ensure fairness in the workplace and fairness in the future of individuals. Some employers, though not all, are only concerned with advancing their company and gaining for profit, regardless of the effect on the individuals who are carrying the company on their hardworking, breaking backs. Atrocities may be occurring daily if unions were not in place to stop them. Unions are essentially the foundation of the American dream, guaranteeing fairness and a chance at a future for many Americans individually, as well as having a positive effect on the economy as a whole.

Unions provide the support to ensure that workers are not exploited by employers. A sad fact of modern American business is that most employers are not interested in creating a fair playing field for their employees; but rather believe in a winner-take all mentality. In a way, social Darwinism is thriving – if an individual is not “strong” enough to survive in the workplace, they are dispelled. Unions also attempt to protect the equality of the classes, by giving workers a stronger voice so that they can receive a fair share of the economic growth they helped to create. If unions were not in place, the economic stratification of Americans would be ever stronger than it is today.

Unions also play a part in maintaining jobs in the United States. No matter how prosperous some businesses and industries become, many would rather ship the jobs overseas than pay their workers an adequate wage. Producing products overseas leads to more profit for the owners because of smaller wages they must pay the labor. As a result, the United States would quickly transform from an independent reigning nation into a dependent nation. Relying on another country to produce our goods would result in loss of business, loss of jobs, and a stagnant economy. Unions help prevent this tragedy and ensure American workers keep their jobs. This also helps the economy, as it lowers the unemployment rate and stimulates the economy. It guarantees a sustainable economy where workers are adequately rewarded and have the income they need to purchase goods. Unions also increase worker productivity, leading to an increased economic production. Numerous studies have shown that as workers are treated and paid fairly, their willingness to innovate increases. When productivity increases, the business and the overall economy are benefited as a large number of goods are produced.

Unions are required for the best interest of the workers, business, and the economy of the United States. Unions provide job security, fair wages, and safe working conditions to average workers who do not always have a say. Unions increase worker productivity, benefiting both the business and economy, and prevent jobs from being shipped overseas. In this light, unions are not only a benefit for the country but rather a necessity. Unions are a stipulation, and the benefits received from unions are priceless. Many people do not appreciate unions as they should, for the American business world, and the society at large, would be much worse if unions were not an aspect of modern day society.