

A Democratic Right to Political Strikes

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A Democratic Right to Political Strikes

- a rationale for political strikes

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- a rationale for political strikes
- and a moral defense

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- a rationale for political strikes
- and a moral defense
- and some considerations for regulation

Realist Democracy

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- in the extreme: objectionable rule!

Realist Democracy II

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- not less formal rules!
- better ways for regular people to exercise influence
- in order to defend themselves against infringements on their democratic rights

One Possibility: Political Strikes



Figure 1: The recent General Strike in Israel

What's a Political Strike?

- collective refusal to work

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- with political demands
- in a direct conflict with the state, not the employers

Arguing for a Right to Political Strikes II

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 - limits politicians' options
- empirically we find some effectiveness

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- necessary to defend democratic rights?
 - are there any less invasive means available?
- the realist assessment puts conventional means in doubt
- elite capture blocks democratic paths
- but, still, some other means should probably have been tried first

Proportionality

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- I will discuss these along the lines of two objections

Narrow Proportionality: Are Employers Liable?



Figure 2: Taking Employers Hostage

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- and they have duties that ground liability
 - duties of fairness to support co-citizens who face injustice
 - duties of aid to help others whose political rights are infringed upon
- employers are often very well able to bear substantial costs due to comfortable material positions

Wide proportionality: Undue escalation?



Figure 3: Cooperative ants

Undue escalation?



Too Antagonistic an Institution?

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- sure, this is more antagonistic
- but be realistic about the point of comparison
 - its efficiency
 - in how far it realizes democratic values
- then the more antagonistic version is not unattractive!

Regulating Political Strikes

- ensure *ultima ratio* status

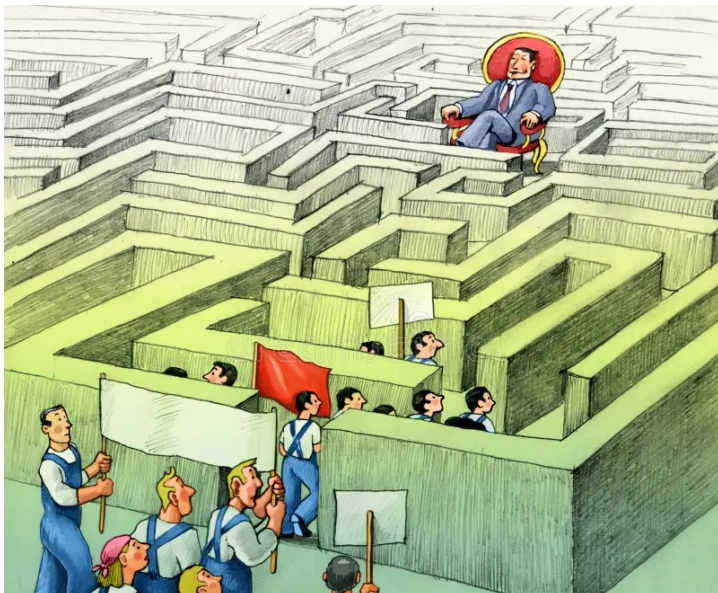
Regulating Political Strikes

- ensure *ultima ratio* status
- ensure proportionality

Regulating Political Strikes

- ensure *ultima ratio* status
- ensure proportionality
- distribute harms properly

Regulating Political Strikes II



Recap

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- a defensive mechanism
- both effective and necessary
- follows narrow and wide proportionality
- but difficult to properly regulate
- a fair distribution of the costs of democracy

The end

Thank you for your attention.