

Teacher's Guide Questions for *No Man's Land*, by Cindy Hahamovitch
(Princeton University Press, 2011)

Why were the first guestworker programs created, according to the author? Why does she think they begin to appear in the late nineteenth century? What purposes did they serve?

If there wasn't a national shortage of farm labor during World War II, as the author suggests, why were the US guestworker programs created?

Do you think the guestworkers are more like free laborers or more like slaves? Why?

Hahamovitch positions the H2 program in a global context. Why?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of writing a transnational history like this one?

The author argues that Germany's postwar guestworker program became less exploitative over time while the US program became more exploitative. Why?

To what extent were Mexico, Great Britain, and later Caribbean governments able to shape the terms under which their citizens or subjects worked in the United States?

Compare the largely Caribbean H2 program to the Mexican Bracero program. Were they basically the same? Why did the H2 program continue, and is it just the Bracero program by another name?

What does the author think is the relationship between guestworker migration and unauthorized (i.e. "illegal") immigration?

What are the various activist and legal strategies Hahamovitch examines? Which ones were most successful? Why?

How does Hahamovitch represent organized labor? Were US unions in alliance with or against the H2 workers?

Why have farm employers become so dependent on foreign workers?

Why do you think guestworker programs have spread to so many parts of the world in recent decades? What sort of global future would you predict based on what you've read in this book?

Can a guestworker system exist that is not inherently exploitative?

What does the author think is the solution to the problems she describes? What do you think is the solution?