

## **Abstract**

This thesis aims to explore the methods and results of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the area of labor rights in China, Bangladesh and Indonesia. These countries have become important outsourcing hubs for Western companies due to their cheap and reliable labor, supplying our markets with inexpensive goods at the cost of the health, wealth, and security of their workers. Using a longitudinal case study, the thesis compares the labor conditions in these countries beginning in the year 2000 up until 2020, focusing on indicators like wages, work hours, work safety, child labor, forced labor, non-discrimination, and freedom of association.

The thesis employs a model based on the principle of Rights Based Approaches. RBAs assert that the relationship of duty bearers and rights holders goes both ways, and underscore the empowerment of the rights holders as an essential part of human rights advocacy. While RBAs are typically used in development, I believe that their usage in analyzing labor rights provides a fresh point of view that can help uncover possible paths for NGOs to take as well as challenges that they are to overcome in order to be successful at enacting systemic change for the labor rights of these countries.