

Working America

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From the author of the Pulitzer Prize – winning *Arab and Jew*, an intimate portrait unfolds of working American families struggling against insurmountable odds to escape poverty. As David K. Shipler makes clear in this powerful, humane study, the invisible poor are engaged in the activity most respected in American ideology—hard, honest work. But their version of the American Dream is a nightmare: low-paying, dead-end jobs; the profound failure of government to improve upon decaying housing, health care, and education; the failure of families to break the patterns of child abuse and substance abuse. Shipler exposes the interlocking problems by taking us into the sorrowful, infuriating, courageous lives of the poor—white and black, Asian and Latino, citizens and immigrants. We encounter them every day, for they do jobs essential to the American economy. This impassioned book not only dissects the problems, but makes pointed, informed recommendations for change. It is a book that stands to make a difference.

Whether valorized as the heartland or derided as flyover country, the Midwest became instantly notorious when COVID-19 infections skyrocketed among workers in meatpacking plants—and Americans feared for their meat supply. But the Midwest is not simply the place where animals are fed corn and then butchered. Native midwesterner Kristy Nabhan-Warren spent years interviewing lowans who work in the meatpacking industry, both native-born residents and recent migrants from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In *Meatpacking America*, she digs deep below the stereotype and reveals the grit and grace of a heartland that is a major global hub of migration and food production—and also, it turns out, of religion. Across the flatlands, Protestants, Catholics, and Muslims share space every day as worshippers, employees, and employers. On the bloody floors of meatpacking plants, in bustling places of worship, and in modest family homes, longtime and newly arrived lowans spoke to Nabhan-Warren about their passion for religious faith and desire to work hard for their families. Their stories expose how faith-based aspirations for mutual understanding blend uneasily with rampant economic exploitation and racial biases. Still, these new and old midwesterners say that a mutual language of faith and morals brings them together more than any of them would have ever expected.

Working Hard for the American Dream examines the various economic, social, and political developments that

shaped labor history in the United States from World War I until the present day. Presents an overview of labor history that also considers women workers, ethnic America, and post-World War II workers. Incorporates the most recent scholarship in labor history. Takes the story of labor up to the present day in a readable and accessible manner.

Since 1988, *The State of Working America* has provided a comprehensive answer to a question newly in vogue in this age of Occupy Wall Street: To what extent has overall economic growth translated into rising living standards for the vast majority of American workers and their families? In the 12th edition, Lawrence Mishel, Josh Bivens, Elise Gould, and Heidi Shierholz analyze a trove of data on income, jobs, mobility, poverty, wages, and wealth to demonstrate that rising economic inequality over the past three decades has decoupled overall economic growth from growth in the living standards of the vast majority. The new edition of *The State of Working America* also expands on this analysis of American living standards, most notably by placing the Great Recession in historical context. The severe economic downturn that began in December 2007 came on the heels of a historically weak recovery following the 2001 recession, a recovery that saw many measures of living standards stagnate. The authors view the past decade as "lost" in terms of living standards growth, and warn that millions of American households face another decade of lost opportunity. Especially troubling, the authors stress, is that while overall economic performance in the decades before the Great Recession was more than sufficient to broadly raise living standards, broad-based growth was blocked by rising inequality driven largely by policy choices. A determinedly data-driven narrative, *The State of Working America* remains the most comprehensive resource about the economic experience of working Americans.

Working Hard for the American Dream

The State of Working America, 1992-1993

Surviving in Small Town America

Sleeping Giant

Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid—And What We Can Do about It (Large Print 16pt) 1990-91

This wide-ranging volume brings together the commissioned papers that are the basis of James O'Toole and Edward E. Lawler's *The New American Workplace*, their follow-up to the groundbreaking 1973 *Work in America* report. Here leading scholars in the fields of business, management, and human resources offer new research and insightful analyses of existing studies, providing a definitive assessment of the state of the workplace today. Covering wage trends, worker health, education and the workforce, the effects of outsourcing, careers, human resources management, and a variety of other vital issues, this illuminating collection will prove indispensable for scholars, professionals, and policymakers.

The fourth version of the report prepared by the Economic Policy Institute. It draws on up-to-date government statistics, research by a

broad body of academicians, and independent analysis to provide a comprehensive portrait of how the US standard of living has changed during the last 15 years. From the dust-jacket blurb by Congressman Richard Gephardt: "[It] documents in great detail how middle-class families have paid dearly--in reduced wages and declining standard of living--as a result of the Reagan and Bush economic policies of the 1980s." Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR Drawing on a variety of data on family incomes, taxes, wages, employment, wealth, health care and poverty, this text provides a portrait of the living standards of Americans in the mid-1990s. It contains up-to-date data from the US Census.

A cogent analysis of North American trade unions' precipitous decline in recent decades

The State of Working America 2006/2007

Invisible in America

The State of Working America, 2000-2001

Working Hard and Making Do

Choices and Challenges

Wage Theft In America

When the first colonists arrived in what would become the United States, they confronted the reality that in order to survive, they would have to tame the land and make it work for them. In addition to these early settlers were those brought to North America against their will--enslaved Africans who were forced to toil in intolerable conditions. From these beginnings developed the fabled Puritan work ethic that has become the standard for Americans in the workplace--a standard that has both proponents and opponents. The agrarian economy of the early United States was eventually transformed by the Industrial Revolution. Amid the new reality of mass-production, workers organized--demanding better wages, safer working environments, and an end to child labor. The unique challenges that African-American and female employees faced spawned separate movements that are still relevant in a less-than-equal workplace. The future direction of working in America is complicated, as technological innovation and globalization drastically transform both working conditions and the composition of the American workforce. Each chapter in *Working in America*, a volume in Facts On File's new American Experience series, begins with an essay that chronicles the experience of workers in the United States. A chronology of events follows this essay. Each chapter closes with a section of excerpts--from such sources as speeches, journals, correspondence, and book passages. Included in this book are the words of Thomas Jefferson, Malcolm X, Samuel Gompers, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Jesse Jackson, Cesar Chavez, Jane Addams, and countless others. An appendix of documents includes such primary source materials as the Land Ordinance of 1785, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Also included are capsule biographies of 141 key figures, maps, graphs and tables, a glossary, notes, a bibliography, and an index. More than 100 black-and-white images illustrate the story of the workers whose contributions have helped shape the United States.

Two generations ago, young men and women with only a high-school degree would have entered the plentiful industrial occupations which then sustained the middle-class ideal of a male-breadwinner family. Such jobs have all but vanished over the past forty years, and in their absence ever-growing numbers of young adults now hold precarious, low-paid jobs with few fringe benefits. Facing such insecure economic prospects, less-educated young adults are increasingly forgoing marriage and are having children within unstable cohabiting relationships. This has created a large marriage gap between them and their more affluent, college-educated peers. In *Labor's Love Lost*, noted sociologist Andrew Cherlin offers a new historical assessment of the rise and fall of working-class families in America, demonstrating how momentous social and economic

transformations have contributed to the collapse of this once-stable social class and what this seismic cultural shift means for the nation's future. Drawing from more than a hundred years of census data, Cherlin documents how today's marriage gap mirrors that of the Gilded Age of the late-nineteenth century, a time of high inequality much like our own. Cherlin demonstrates that the widespread prosperity of working-class families in the mid-twentieth century, when both income inequality and the marriage gap were low, is the true outlier in the history of the American family. In fact, changes in the economy, culture, and family formation in recent decades have been so great that Cherlin suggests that the working-class family pattern has largely disappeared. *Labor's Love Lost* shows that the primary problem of the fall of the working-class family from its mid-twentieth century peak is not that the male-breadwinner family has declined, but that nothing stable has replaced it. The breakdown of a stable family structure has serious consequences for low-income families, particularly for children, many of whom underperform in school, thereby reducing their future employment prospects and perpetuating an intergenerational cycle of economic disadvantage. To address this disparity, Cherlin recommends policies to foster educational opportunities for children and adolescents from disadvantaged families. He also stresses the need for labor market interventions, such as subsidizing low wages through tax credits and raising the minimum wage. *Labor's Love Lost* provides a compelling analysis of the historical dynamics and ramifications of the growing number of young adults disconnected from steady, decent-paying jobs and from marriage. Cherlin's investigation of today's "would-be working class" shines a much-needed spotlight on the struggling middle of our society in today's new Gilded Age.

"I recommend a book by Professor Williams, it is really worth a read, it's called *White Working Class*." -- Vice President Joe Biden on Pod Save America An Amazon Best Business and Leadership book of 2017 Around the world, populist movements are gaining traction among the white working class. Meanwhile, members of the professional elite--journalists, managers, and establishment politicians--are on the outside looking in, left to argue over the reasons. In *White Working Class*, Joan C. Williams, described as having "something approaching rock star status" by the New York Times, explains why so much of the elite's analysis of the white working class is misguided, rooted in class cluelessness. Williams explains that many people have conflated "working class" with "poor"--but the working class is, in fact, the elusive, purportedly disappearing middle class. They often resent the poor and the professionals alike. But they don't resent the truly rich, nor are they particularly bothered by income inequality. Their dream is not to join the upper middle class, with its different culture, but to stay true to their own values in their own communities--just with more money. While white working-class motivations are often dismissed as racist or xenophobic, Williams shows that they have their own class consciousness. *White Working Class* is a blunt, bracing narrative that sketches a nuanced portrait of millions of people who have proven to be a potent political force. For anyone stunned by the rise of populist, nationalist movements, wondering why so many would seemingly vote against their own economic interests, or simply feeling like a stranger in their own country, *White Working Class* will be a convincing primer on how to connect with a crucial set of workers--and voters.

Each volume in the widely-successful *Working Americans* series focuses on a particular type of American and illustrates what life was like for that group from the 1800s to the present time. The volumes are arranged into decade-long chapters, each introducing to the reader three individuals or families. Individual profiles examine life at home, life at work, life in the community,

family finances and budget, cost of living and amusements. To further the reader's understanding of the time period, profiles are supplemented with national current events, economic profiles, an historical snapshot, news profiles, local news articles and illustrations derived from popular printed materials. Profiles cover a wide range of ethnic groups and span the entire country, providing a thorough examination of all types of Americans in that particular group. From a wealth of government surveys, social worker histories, economic data, family diaries and letters, newspaper and magazine features, these unique volumes assemble a remarkably personal and realistic look at the lives of Americans. For easy reference, Volumes II through VIII contain an in-depth Subject Index to make sure that the reader can locate specific information quickly and easily. The Working Americans series has become an important reference for public libraries, academic libraries and high school libraries. These volumes will enrich the reader's understanding of American history, through the eyes of its people, and will be a welcome addition to all types of reference collections.

The State of Working America, 1996-97

America's Working Man

Labor's Love Lost

The State of Working America, 2002/2003

The Fight for \$15

Split Dreams

In what has been described as "the crime wave no one talks about," billions of dollars worth of wages are stolen from millions of workers in the United States every year - a grand theft that exceeds every other larceny category on record annually. Between two and three million workers are paid less than the legal minimum wage. More than three million are misclassified by their employers as independent contractors when they are really employees, allowing employers to shirk their share of payroll taxes and illegally deny workers overtime pay. Even the Economic Policy Foundation, a business-funded think tank, estimated that companies annually steal \$19 billion in unpaid overtime. Nationally recognized labor activist Kim Bobo's Wage Theft in America is an incisive handbook for activists, organizers, workers, and concerned citizens on how to prevent the flagrant exploitation of America's working people. Bobo offers a sweeping analysis of the crisis, citing hard-hitting statistics and heartbreaking first-person accounts of exploitation at the hands of employers. She then offers concrete solutions, with special attention to what a new presidential administration can do to address one of the gravest issues facing workers in the twenty-first century. The economic recovery of the 1990s brought with it a surge of new jobs, but the prospects for most working Americans improved little. Family income rose only slightly and the period witnessed a significant degradation of the quality of work as well as in what people could expect from their waged employment. In this book, Margaret K. Nelson and Joan Smith take a look inside the households of working-class Americans to consider how they are coping with large-scale structural changes in the economy, specifically how the downgrading of jobs has affected survival strategies, gender dynamics, and political attitudes. Drawing on both randomly distributed telephone surveys and in-depth interviews, Nelson and Smith explore the differences in the survival strategies of two groups of working-class households in a rural county: those in which at least one family member has been able to hold on to good work (a year-

round, full-time job that carries benefits) and those in which nobody has been able to secure or retain steady employment. They find that households with good jobs are able to effectively use all of their labor power—they rely on two workers; they engage in on-the-side businesses; and they barter with friends and neighbors. In contrast, those living in families without at least one good job find themselves considerably less capable of deploying a complex, multi-faceted survival strategy. The authors further demonstrate that this difference between the two sets of households is accompanied by differences in the gender division of labor within the household and the manner in which individuals make sense of, and respond to, their employment.

The Great Recession brought rising inequality and changing family economies. New technologies continued to move jobs overseas, including those held by middle-class information workers. The first new edition to capture these historic changes, this book is the leading text in the sociology of work and related research fields. Wharton's readings retain the classics but offer a new spectrum of articles accessible to undergraduate students that focus on the changes that will most affect their lives. New to the fourth edition"

There was a time when America's working class was seen as the backbone of the American economy, having considerable political, economic, and moral authority. But the working class we have now—far more female and racially diverse and employed by the fast food, retail, health care, and other service industries—has been marginalized, if not ignored, by politicians and pundits. This is changing, swiftly and dramatically. Today's working class is a sleeping giant. And as Tamara Draut makes abundantly clear, it is just now waking up to its untapped political power. Sleeping Giant is the first major examination of the new working class and the role it will play in our economic and political future. Blending moving individual narratives, historical background, and sophisticated analysis, Draut forcefully argues that this newly energized class is far along in the process of changing America for the better. Draut examines the legacy of exclusion based on race and gender that contributes to the invisibility of the new working class, despite their entwinement in everyone's day-to-day life. No longer confined to the assembly line, today's working class watches our children and cares for our parents. They park our cars, screen our luggage, clean our offices, and cook and serve our meals. They are us. With "Fight for \$15" minimum-wage protests popping up throughout the country (and in some places winning) and economic inequality being recognized as one of the defining issues of our time, today's working class will soon become impossible to ignore and foolish to dismiss. Sleeping Giant is the first book to tell the story of this extraordinary transformation in full and inspiring detail.

Statistical Handbook of Working America

A Blueprint for the New Labor Market

Is Working America Preparing for Retirement?

Working America

Working Women in America

Wage Theft in America

Examines the distribution of income and wealth in the U.S., and how the economy affects the living standards of the American people.

This work provides a comprehensive portrait of how the US standard of living has changed during recent years, as compared to the whole period since World War II. The study presents statistics that are

compiled from government and private data sources. Using the evidence, the authors analyze trends in income, wages, jobs, wealth, poverty and the distribution of taxes and compare US trends with those of other advanced countries.

An anthology of readings that explore the work ethic and define the demands of the contemporary workplace.

“ Rolf shows that raising the minimum wage to \$15 is both just and necessary, lest the American dream of middle class prosperity turn into a nightmare ” (David Cay Johnston, Pulitzer Prize – winning journalist). Combining history, economics, and commonsense political wisdom, *The Fight for \$15* makes a deeply informed case for a national fifteen-dollars-an-hour minimum wage as the only practical solution to reversing America ’ s decades-long slide toward becoming a low-wage nation. Drawing both on new scholarship and on his extensive practical experiences organizing workers and grappling with inequality across the United States, David Rolf, president of SEIU 775—which waged the successful Seattle campaign for a fifteen dollar minimum wage—offers an accessible explanation of “ middle out ” economics, an emerging popular economic theory that suggests that the origins of prosperity in capitalist economies lie with workers and consumers, not investors and employers. A blueprint for a different and hopeful American future, *The Fight for \$15* offers concrete tools, ideas, and inspiration for anyone interested in real change in our lifetimes. “ The author ’ s plainspoken approach and stellar scholarship illuminate in-depth discussions about the deliberate policy decisions that began to decimate the middle class at the start of the 1980s as well as the insidious new ways in which big business continues to attack American workers today via stagnant wages, rampant subcontracting, unpredictable scheduling, and other detrimental practices associated with the so-called ‘ share economy. ’ ” —Kirkus Reviews “ David Rolf has become the most successful advocate for raising wages in the twenty-first century. ” —Andy Stern, senior fellow at Columbia University ’ s Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy 2008-2009

Industrial Union Department Energy Project

White Working Class

How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland

The State of Working America 1994-95

The State of Working America, 12th Edition

A study of the changing face of the American labor market. The American labor market faces many deep-rooted problems, including persistence of a large low-wage sector, worsening inequality in earnings, employees' lack of voice in the workplace, and the need of employers to maximize flexibility if they are to survive in an increasingly competitive market. The impetus for this book is the absence of a serious national debate about these issues. The book represents nearly three years of deliberation by more than 250 people drawn from business, labor, community groups, academia, and government. It traces today's labor-market policy and laws back to the New Deal and to a second wave of social regulation that began in the 1960s. Underlying the current system are assumptions about who is working, what workers do, and how much job security workers enjoy. Economic and social changes have rendered those assumptions invalid and have resulted in mismatches between labor institutions and efficient and equitable deployment of the workforce, as well as between commitments to the labor market and family responsibilities. This book should launch a national dialogue on how to update our policies and institutions to catch up with the changes in the nature of work, in the workforce, and in the economy.

Entries offer statistical pictures of about 600 occupations including: demographic profile; geographic profile; industry statistics; legal and ethical issues and much more.

Presents a statistical portrait of the standard of living of America's working families. This work analyzes areas such as family income, taxes, wages, jobs, wealth and poverty, and shows how the economy is reflected in the lives of American workers.

Working-Class America represents the new labor history par

excellence. Its ten original essays, by some of the best young scholars in the field, are at the frontier of current research and demonstrate the ability of working-class historians to produce exciting new insights into the nature of American society. *Working-Class America*, however, offers more than scholarly historical-sociological analyses. In these pages, the lives of real men and women emerge from behind the veil of statistical abstraction. It is precisely that human dimension which makes this collection so valuable as a digest for scholars and yet so accessible as a text for students.

The Working Poor

Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America

The State of Working America

Why Millions of Americans Are Not Getting Paid—And What We Can Do About It

Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Aging of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Second Session, on Examining the Retirement Pressures Confronting Today's Lower and Middle Class Workers, June 13, 1996

The Right Wage for a Working America

“ This book will give you an entirely new perspective on work in America. ” —Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed* In what has been described as “ the crime wave no one talks about, ” billions of dollars ’ worth of wages are stolen from millions of workers in the United States every year—a grand theft that exceeds every other larceny category. Even the Economic Policy Foundation, a business-funded think tank, has estimated that companies annually steal an incredible \$19 billion in unpaid overtime. The scope of these abuses is staggering, but activists, unions, and policymakers—along with everyday Americans in congregations and towns across the country—have begun to take notice. While the first edition of *Wage Theft In America* documented the scope of the problem, this new edition adds the latest research on wage theft and tells what community, religious, and labor activists are now doing to address the crisis—from passing state and local wage-theft bills to establishing mayoral task forces and tapping agencies that help low-wage workers in spotting wage theft. Citing hard-hitting statistics and heartbreaking first-person accounts of exploitation at the hands of employers, this updated edition of *Wage Theft In America* offers concrete solutions and a roadmap for putting an end to this insidious practice.

A look at the working class considers housing, leisure activities, marriage, family life, occupational mobility, politics, religion, ethnicity, and class consciousness

Working Women in America studies the dynamic growth in women's labour force participation with an eye to understanding what the actual experience of working women is today. The book offers a broad perspective on the diversity of women and their work, and it raises the need to rethink ideas concerning work, family and gender roles in order to help solve women's work and family life dilemmas. The authors begin with an historical perspective on women at work which recognizes the importance of the economic and legal dimensions of women's work lives. This broad perspective lays the groundwork to a further examination of the particular work situations of women and a recognition of the fact that diversity of woman's work experiences are formed by racial, class, and other inequalities (sexual, age, etc.).

Prepared biennially since 1988 by the Economic Policy Institute, this work includes a wide variety of data on family incomes, wages, taxes, unemployment, wealth and poverty, allowing the authors to examine the effect of the economy on the living standards of the American people.

Workers and Their Unions, World War I to the Present

America at Work

The Rise and Fall of the Working-Class Family in America

Work, Home, and Politics Among Blue Collar Property Owners

Meatpacking America

NAFTA and Labor in North America

Should teenagers have jobs while they're in high school? Doesn't working distract them from schoolwork, cause long-term problem behaviors, and precipitate a precocious transition to adulthood?

This report from a remarkable longitudinal study of 1,000 students, followed from the beginning of high school through their mid-twenties, answers, resoundingly, no. Examining a broad

range of teenagers, Jeylan Mortimer concludes that high school students who work even as much as half-time are in fact better off in many ways than students who don't have jobs at all. Having part-time jobs can increase confidence and time management skills, promote vocational exploration, and enhance subsequent academic success. The wider social circle of adults they meet through their jobs can also buffer strains at home, and some of what young people learn on the job--not least responsibility and confidence--gives them an advantage in later work life.

The State of Working America, prepared biennially since 1988 by the Economic Policy Institute, includes a wide variety of data on family incomes, wages, taxes, unemployment, wealth, and poverty--data that enable the authors to closely examine the effect of the economy on the living standards of the American people. As well as providing a snapshot of working Americans at the turn of the new century, this latest edition will look behind the extraordinary job and income growth of the late 1990s to assess the quality of these new jobs, weigh the contribution of the high-tech sector in the so-called "new economy," and examine the widening gap in wages and incomes. Praise for The State of Working America 1998-99. "The State of Working America 1998-99 may be the most up-to-date, comprehensive economic portrait of American labor available."--Publishers Weekly "Read The State of Working America to appreciate how growth is generating benefits very unequally."--Harvard Business Review "The authors present a convincing case and go to great pains to bolster their conclusions with a wide range of figures, studies, and statistical analyses. Their argument is compelling. Its ramifications are frightening."--Inside Business

Praise for previous editions of The State of Working America: "The State of Working America remains unrivaled as the most-trusted source for a comprehensive understanding of how working Americans and their families are faring in today's economy."—Robert B. Reich "It is the inequality of wealth, argue the authors, rather than new technology (as some would have it), that is responsible for the failure of America's workplace to keep pace with the country's economic growth. The State of Working America is a well-written, soundly argued, and important reference book."—Library Journal "If you want to know what happened to the economic well-being of the average American in the past decade or so, this is the book for you. It should be required reading for Americans of all political persuasions."—Richard Freeman, Harvard University "A truly comprehensive and useful book that provides a reality check on loose statements about U.S. labor markets. It should be cheered by all Americans who earn their living from work."—William Wolman, former chief economist, CNBC's Business Week "The State of Working America provides very valuable factual and analytic material on the economic conditions of American workers. It is the very best source of information on this important subject."—Ray Marshall, University of Texas, former U.S. Secretary of Labor "An indispensable work . . . on family income, wages, taxes, employment, and the distribution of wealth."—Simon Head, The New York Review of Books "No matter what political camp you're in, this is the single most valuable book I know of about the state of America, period. It is the most referenced, most influential resource book of its kind."—Jeff Madrick, author, The End of Affluence "This book is the single best yardstick for measuring whether or not our economic policies are doing enough to ensure that our economy can, once again, grow for everybody."—Richard A. Gephardt "The best place to review the latest developments in changes in the

distribution of income and wealth."—Lester Thurow The State of Working America, prepared biennially since 1988 by the Economic Policy Institute, includes a wide variety of data on family incomes, wages, taxes, unemployment, wealth, and poverty--data that enable the authors to closely examine the effect of the economy on the living standards of the American people.

Working and Growing Up in America
Energy for a Working America
Essays on Labor, Community, and American Society
Working Americans, 1880-2005: Sports & recreation
A Humanities Reader
Continuity, Conflict, and Change in a New Economic Era