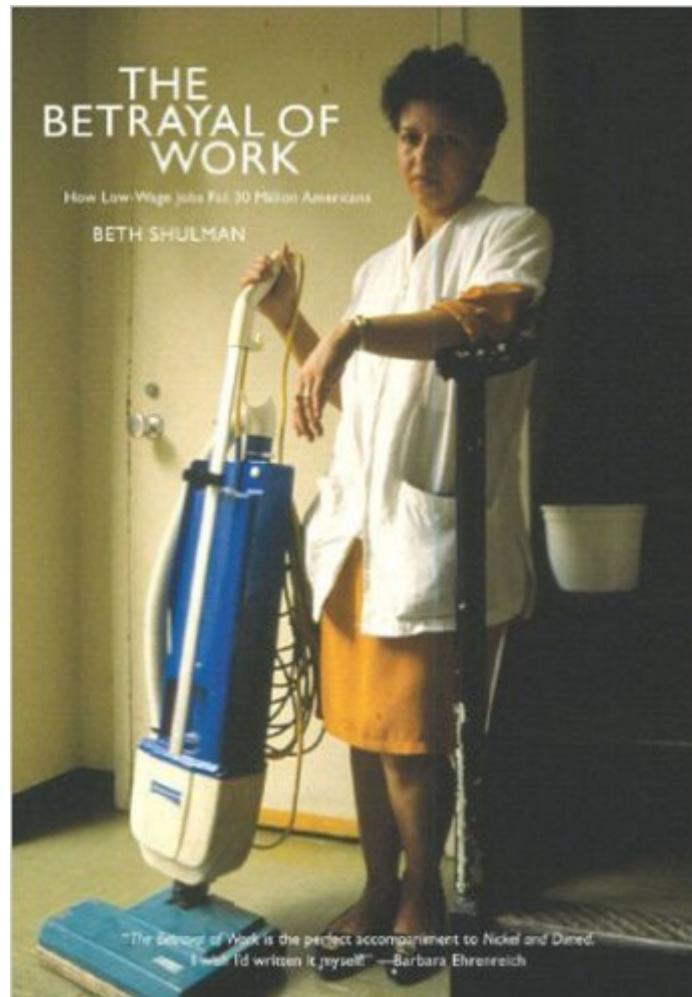


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# The Betrayal Of Work: How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans



## Synopsis

Following its publication in hardcover, the critically acclaimed *Betrayal of Work* became one of the most influential policy books about economic life in America; it was discussed in the pages of *Newsweek*, *Business Week*, *Fortune*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsday*, and *USA Today*, as well as in public policy journals and in broadcast interviews, including a one-on-one with Bill Moyers on PBS's *NOW*. The *American Prospect*'s James K. Galbraith's praise was typical: "Shulman's slim and graceful book is a model combination of compelling portraiture, common sense, and understated conviction." Beth Shulman's powerfully argued book offers a full program to address the injustice faced by the 30 million Americans who work full time but do not make a living wage. As the influential Harvard Business School newsletter put it, Shulman "specifically outlines how structural changes in the economy may be achieved, thus expanding opportunities for all Americans." This edition includes a new afterword that intervenes in the post-election debate by arguing that low-wage work is an urgent moral issue of our time.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

There is a gross misperception that all employed working Americans are doing well living the American dream, well this book rips off the cover from this blanket of lies, on pages 4-5 "BUT THE GREAT SECRET OF AMERICA IS THAT A VAST NEW IMPOVERISHED POPULATION HAS GROWN UP IN OUR MIDST. YET THESE ARE NOT AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE WORLD OF WORK; IN FACT, THEY MAKE UP THE CORE OF MUCH OF THE NEW ECONOMY. INDEED, OUR RECENT PROSPERITY RESTS, IN PART, ON THEIR MISERY.

THEIR POVERTY IS NOT INCIDENTAL TO THEIR ROLE AS WORKERS, BUT DERIVES DIRECTLY FROM IT. THEY ARE AMERICA'S SUPER-EXPLOITED. AND THAT IS BOTH A SHAME AND A CHALLENGE OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS. A SHAME BECAUSE AMERICA HAS ALWAYS HONORED WORK, YET NOW FINDS ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF DEGRADING IT. A CHALLENGE BECAUSE WHATEVER ONE THOUGHT OF AMERICA'S WELFARE POOR, FEW PEOPLE WERE MAKING MONEY OFF THEM. THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF OUR NEW WORKING POOR. CORPORATIONS, CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, SHAREHOLDERS, AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS ARE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY OFF OF THEM. THIRTY MILLION AMERICANS, ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR WORKERS, MAKES LESS THAN \$8.70 AN HOUR. AND THESE LOW-WAGE, NO-BENEFIT JOBS TRANSLATE INTO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROFITS, EXECUTIVE PAY, HIGH STOCK PRICES, AND LOW CONSUMER PRICES."In case you're wondering exactly who are these low-wage workers then turn to the bottom of page 5-6, "THEY ARE NURSING HOME WORKERS AND HOME HEALTH-CARE WORKERS WHO CARE FOR OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS, YET MAKE SO LITTLE INCOME THAT MANY QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS. THEY ARE POULTRY PROCESSING WORKERS WHO BONE AND PACKAGE THE CHICKEN WE EAT FOR OUR DINNER, YET THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE LINE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

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