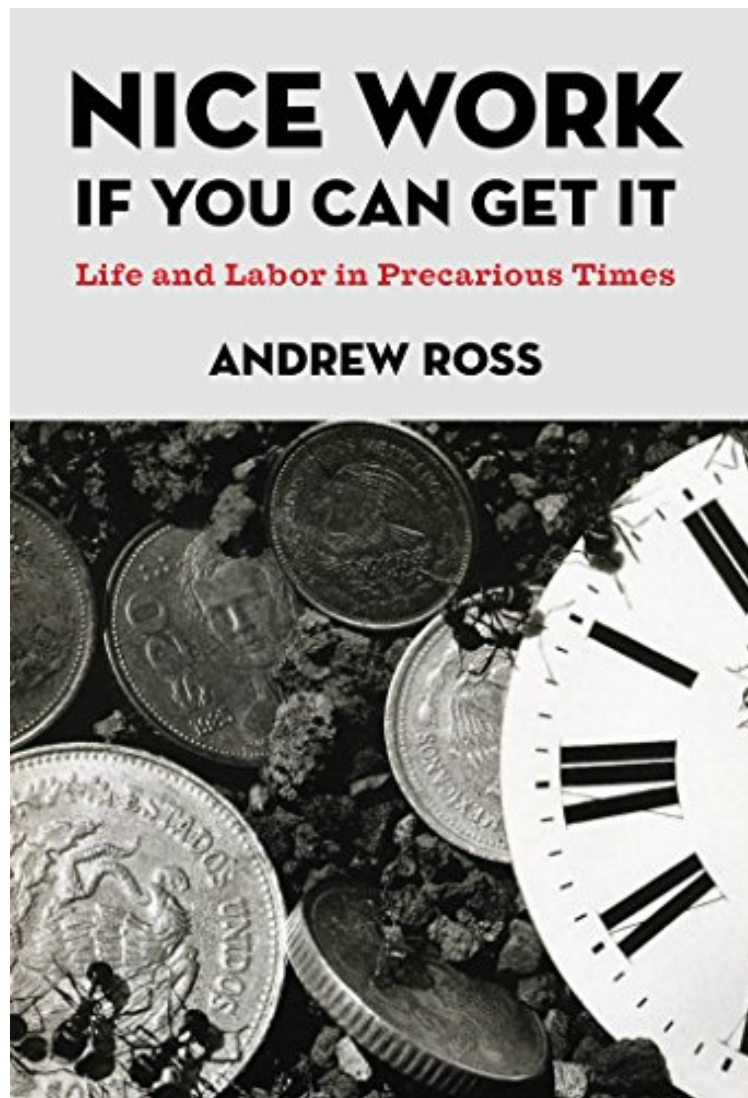


(Free download) Nice Work If You Can Get It: Life and Labor in Precarious Times (NYU Series in Social and Cultural Analysis)

## Nice Work If You Can Get It: Life and Labor in Precarious Times (NYU Series in Social and Cultural Analysis)

*Andrew Ross*

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**Andrew Ross : Nice Work If You Can Get It: Life and Labor in Precarious Times (NYU Series in Social and Cultural Analysis)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nice Work If You Can Get It: Life and Labor in Precarious Times (NYU Series in Social and Cultural Analysis):

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Interesting book, very poor kindle executionBy Zora HurstonI would give the text four stars, but Kindle did such a poor job with it that I cannot recommend buying it in electronic form - I would give a negative 2 stars - they should give a refund or update it with a better product - for free. It is impossible to

navigate or look up text, there is no table of content or page numbers and thus even though one might want to use it in scholarly writing (or just recommend passages to friends) - you cannot. It is truly doing the author a disservice - which is a shame because there are some very interesting ideas here and a great deal of information. Basically this book is about how dramatically work has changed for all of us, including some of the most privileged, such as academics (bias alert - I am an academic). It is not a happy story, but it does seem to be on to something in discussing just how contingent work has become and how we have been fooled (I would say) into accepting it - indeed in thinking it is glamorous and liberating. Perhaps it is for a few, but insecurity is not really so wonderful, is it? I thought the chapters on the globalization of education were especially interesting and informative. If we will not let foreign students come here - guess we will have to go to them and it seems we are doing just that - in droves. Add to that online education and yet one other sector is disappearing and being outsourced. Truly interesting and stuff you are not likely to find elsewhere. Also kind of academic, but approachable. I liked the book itself a lot, but needs to get its act together and not put out such poorly executed products. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Terri Horne Informative and right on point for my class. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The product was exceptional clean and new. The material ... By Yao The product was exceptional clean and new. The material itself was intriguing - at least for me; it showed me what economists don't care or don't talk about when they talk about copyrights and international trade expansion. Although sometimes tainted with conspiracy theory, the majority of the time, I believe Ross did a fair job of advocating for a worldview that he values.

2009 Choice Outstanding Academic Title Is job insecurity the new norm? With fewer and fewer people working in steady, long-term positions for one employer, has the dream of a secure job with full benefits and a decent salary become just that; a dream? In *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, Andrew Ross surveys the new topography of the global workplace and finds an emerging pattern of labor instability and uneven development on a massive scale. Combining detailed case studies with lucid analysis and graphic prose, he looks at what the new landscape of contingent employment means for workers across national, class, and racial lines; from the emerging "creative class" of high-wage professionals to the multitudes of temporary, migrant, or low-wage workers. Developing the idea of "precarious livelihoods" to describe this new world of work and life, Ross explores what it means in developed nations; comparing the creative industry policies of the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union, as well as developing countries; by examining the quickfire transformation of China's labor market. He also responds to the challenge of sustainability, assessing the promise of "green jobs" through restorative alliances between labor advocates and environmentalists. Ross argues that regardless of one's views on labor rights, globalization, and quality of life, this new precarious and "indefinite life," and the pitfalls and opportunities that accompany it is likely here to stay and must be addressed in a systematic way. A more equitable kind of knowledge society emerges in these pages; less skewed toward flexploitation and the speculative beneficiaries of intellectual property, and more in tune with ideals and practices that are fair, just, and renewable.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . With admirable timing, this volume examines a global workplace infrastructure that's as shaky as the economy would indicate. Taking a hard line against exploitation of workers in a variety of roles worldwide, Ross looks closely at workers on the verge, and those putting them there. In the chapter "China's Next Cultural Revolution?", he warns that "Beijing's rulers have nothing to worry about" so long as "the creative sector behaves like other industries... They can be groomed and promoted... to absorb foreign investment and foreign ideas, to exploit low production costs..." He tackles the Western world with the same nonplussed tone, as when discussing corporate PR tactics to deny ties to labor abuses by promoting social good, naming names like Nike, Reebok and the Gap. He also hits higher education, where much of the workplace is shaped, noting that it's "all too easy to conclude that the global university, as it takes shape, will emulate some of the conduct of multinational corporations." Rejecting the widely influential, free marketeer notion of a worldwide "playing field," Ross leaves no room for easy answers (or an "alternative, and equally snappy, image" to answer Thomas Friedman's or Richard Florida's). Though far from uplifting, this is a bold, pointed look at reality as it is, a far more valuable commodity. From *The New Yorker* According to Ross, job insecurity became commonplace long before the current financial debacle. As economies shifted from industry to information, the benefits and securities of the Keynesian era quietly gave way to a workforce of temps, freelancers, adjuncts, and migrants. Ross finds that city fathers are more interested in Olympic bids and stadium projects than in sustainable employment, while corporations spend more on "social responsibility"; public-relations campaigns than on addressing worker complaints, and activists are too focussed on narrow concerns to find common cause with natural allies. Given the urgency of the subject, it's a pity that Ross didn't give more space to European developments, such as the colorful "precarity" protest movement and the discussion of policies that could extend labor rights to all workers. Copyright copy; 2008 Click here to subscribe to *The New Yorker* "Nice Work provides insight into a sea change in labor markets and work lives that has occurred over the past forty years. It is an intelligent work that raises thought-provoking questions about

contingent labor."-Steven T. Sheehan,Enterprise and Society;Economic liberalization, [Ross] demonstrates, has opened up a frenetic global traffic in jobs and migrants, uprooting people in a manner both useful and troubling to the managers of capital. In short, more people are available to exploit, but they are also harder to control. . . . A thorough and thoughtful study of global professional insecurity."-The Times Literary Supplement;This excellent and, in places, brilliant book should be read by anyone interested in a timely and astute analysis of the malaise of life and work in neoliberal postmodern society. . . . Highly recommended."-Choice;Illuminating. . . . Who knows what will be on the table when the damage of the global crisis is told? At the very least, one may hope for a return to security, sensible financial regulation, and a renewed interest in economic equity. Other worlds are possible, and with luck thinkers like Ross can point the way to imagining them more fully."-BookForum;According to Ross, job insecurity became commonplace long before the current financial debacle. As economies shifted from industry to information, the benefits and securities of the Keynesian era quietly gave way to a workforce of temps, freelancers, adjuncts, and migrants. Ross finds that city fathers are more interested in Olympic bids and stadium projects than in sustainable employment, while corporations spend more on "social responsibility" public-relations campaigns than on addressing worker complaints, and activists are too focussed on narrow concerns to find common cause with natural allies."-The New Yorker;Nice Work If You Can Get It, is impressive for its extraordinary range and sweep, and for asking questions about the kinds of transnational and cross-class alliances that might be made, the kinds of solidarities that might be forged, between differently positioned members of the global "precariat": sweatshop labourers, janitors, academics, and creatives. In doing so it offers a passionate, humane critique of contemporary capitalism."-Times Higher Education Supplement;With admirable timing, [Ross] examines a global workplace infrastructure that's as shaky as the economy would indicate. . . . Though far from uplifting, this is a bold, pointed look at reality as it is, a far more valuable commodity."-Publishers Weekly, Starred "Though Ross favors ironic twists on cliches like Nice Work If You Can Get It, he might also have titled the book Working Absurd. And though he would probably resist the high handed aspect of the public intellectual, he has fleshed out the precarious and inequitable terms of contemporary labor, meeting people where they are." -The Chronicle ;Nice Work If You Can Get It, insists that the combination of transnational capitalism and globalization has eliminated stability and security from the lives of working people."-The New Leader;What is compelling about Ross's analysis of precarity is recognition that the "movement" of these part-time workers is loaded with a host of internal contradictions. The concept of precarity has been deployed by academics and organized labor to describe the "condition of social and economic insecurity associated with post-Fordist employment and neoliberal governance (p. 34). [hellip;] As Ross asks: "Even if this concept is theoretically plausible, does it make sense to imagine cross-class coalitions of the precarious capable of developing a unity of consciousness and action on an international scale?" (p. 6). Indeed, this remains a pertinent question considering the debates emerging as a result of the international Occupy phenomenon."-Critical Sociology