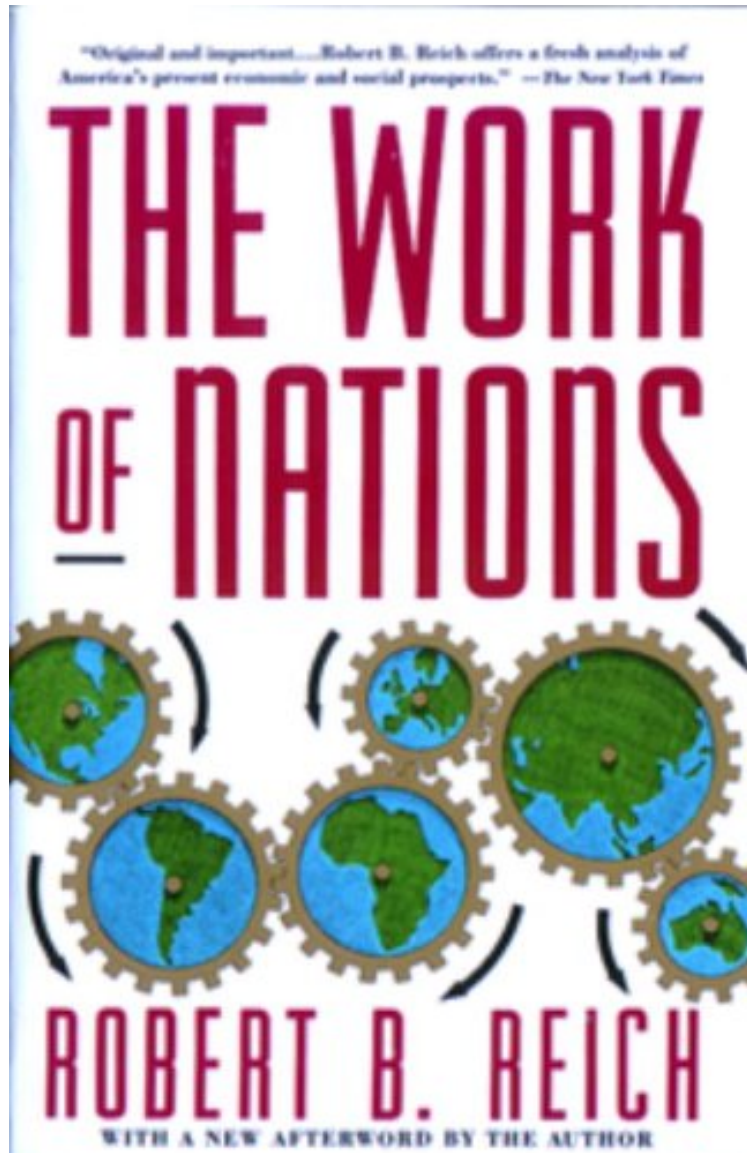


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The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for 21st Century Capitalis

Robert B. Reich

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Robert B. Reich : The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for 21st Century Capitalis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for 21st Century Capitalis:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Globalization 101By Robert CarlbergAlthough written way back in 1990-1, this book was prescient enough and insightful enough to still be relevant today. The trends Reich lays out --

toward globalization of capital, outsourcing of labor, the internationalizing of information through the internet and the growing Third World distrust of "American ideals" -- continue unabated in 2004 just as he said they would. He provides a clear analysis of why American hegemony in manufacturing evaporated in the '60s '70s, and how this led inevitably in the '80s '90s to the shrinkage of the middle class. He shows why the rich continue to get richer (through PACs) while the poor get poorer (through withdrawing from a system which continues to abandon them). Although the book is not overtly political, he exposes "Reaganomics," the trickle-down theory and their current euphemisms as self-aggrandizing pandering to political contributors. Contrary to some reactionary reviewers, Reich does NOT advocate a return to progressive income taxation (which created the biggest consumer boom in history), because he acknowledges it's too late for that. Throughout, his text is very concise and direct, without an extraneous word. He loses a star only for the last chapter, which is a utopian and not-very-convincing prescription for a way out of the morass. He no doubt felt a responsibility to provide some sort of solution after 300 pages of problems -- but his days with the Clinton administration immediately following the publication of this book may have disabused him of such easy answers.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Too bad Reich's recommendations for fixes have zero chance of being ...By Jmcgow

Although written at the end of the last century, this book explains why Sander and Trump now. The income disparity between the upper cognitive class and the rapidly declining middle class has led to anger that is now emerging in politics. Lesser skilled workers are disenchanted with both parties and are looking for a seismic change in politics. Too bad Reich's recommendations for fixes have zero chance of being implemented by the government.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great, very fast.

By Customer

Very fast, item as described.

There is no longer such a thing as an American economy, say Robert Reich at the beginning of this brilliant book. What does it mean to be a nation when money, goods, and services know no borders? What skills will be the most valuable in the coming century? And how can our country best ensure that all its citizen have a share in the new global economy? Robert B. Reich, the widely respected and bestselling author of *The Next American Frontier* and *The Resurgent Liberal*, defines the real challenge facing the United States in the 21st century in this trail-blazing book. Original, readable, and vastly informed, *The Work of Nations* is certain to set a standard for the next generation of policy-makers.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly

Why is the gap between rich and poor widening, both in the U.S. and globally? Linking income differentials to levels of education, Reich (*The Next American Frontier*) divides the universe of jobs into three categories: routine production, in-person services and symbolic-analytic. Symbolic analysts--those who identify, solve and broker problems--are doing well, while prospects for the other types of workers are declining, Reich maintains. He links their fortunes to a newly emerging, global economic order in which the description, "U.S. corporation," is increasingly a fiction as companies operate transnationally in a decentralized web of goods and services. This immensely stimulating treatise holds that the prosperity of a nation and its people is ever more tenuously linked to corporate profitability. Reich urges Americans to develop skills that contribute to the world economy, to invest in infrastructure, education and training, and to be open to foreign investments in U.S. enterprises.

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From Library Journal

According to Harvard economist Reich, author of *The Resurgent Liberal* (LJ 8/89), we are going through a historic transformation that is rearranging the politics and economics of the 1990s and the 21st century. Economies are no longer simply national in scope but global, rewarding the most skilled around the world with ever greater wealth while consigning the less skilled to declining standards of living. He sees the global work forces as already divided into three groups: routine producers (e.g., data processors), in-person servers (e.g., librarians), and symbolic analysts who manipulate symbols for large profits (e.g., financial wizards). In 1989, these analysts comprised about one-fifth of the population of the United States, but they earned more than half the income. As the rich get richer and the rest get poorer, Reich urges a national recommitment to the productivity and competitiveness of all citizens. This is highly recommended for all academic and public libraries.

- Jeffrey R. Herold, Bucyrus P.L., Ohio

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"Original and important... Robert B. Reich offers a fresh analysis of America's present economic and social prospects." - The New York Times

"The World of Nations will bemdash;and should bemdash;widely read and debated." - Wall Street Journal

"Robert Reich is one of the country's most innovative and interesting political economists.... Very few readers will walk away [from this book] without learning;to think about the world in a new and;clearer way." - Los Angeles Times

"A rarity...a work of economic theory that a layman can read with pleasure and intellectual profit." - The New Yorker

"Reich covers a;remarkable range of material with facility and intelligence." - Washington Post

Book World;From the Trade Paperback edition.