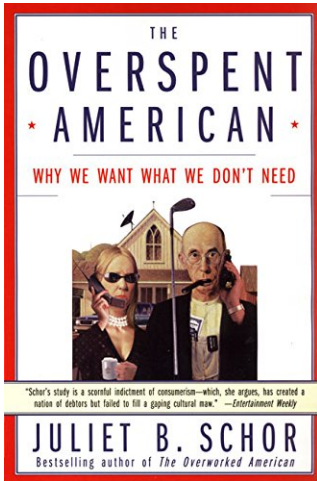


[PDF] The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need

Juliet B. Schor - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Description:

If getting and spending define our lives, then Juliet Schor now has us covered. Six years ago, her book scrutinized the getting part. It focused public attention on the disappearance of leisure and the harmful effects thereof on families and society. It sparked a debate over whether Americans really work as much as we proudly claim. (If so, how to explain the audience for *Monday Night Football*?) Nevertheless, Schor can take credit for helping push Congress into passing the Family Leave Act in 1993.

Now she is back with a critique of our spending. Schor notes that, despite rising wealth and incomes, Americans do not feel any better off. In fact, we tell pollsters we do not have enough money to buy everything we need. And we are almost as likely to say so

if we make \$85,000 a year as we are if we make \$35,000. Schor believes that "keeping up with the Joneses" is no longer enough for today's media-savvy office workers. We set our sights on the lifestyles of those higher up the organizational chart. We seek to emulate characters on TV. For teenagers, "enough" is the idle splendor that hardly exists outside of what MTV un-ironically calls *The Real World*. Schor offers an original and provocative analysis of why many Americans feel driven and unhappy despite our success. As an alternative, she profiles several "downshiftners" who've taken up voluntary simplicity in search of a more satisfying way of life. No policy solutions suggest themselves this time, only a change of heart. --Barry Mitzman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Publishers Weekly Whereas Schor's 1992 bestseller, *The Overworked American*, touched a nerve among all classes of American society, her latest study is geared to middle- and upper-middle-class consumers who, in her diagnosis, are participating in a national orgy of overspending and living beyond their means. She traces this competitive, status-conscious consumption to the diverging income distribution and growing inequality beginning in the 1980s, as increasingly overworked, insecure, dissatisfied consumers, pressured by advertising and television imagery, sought to emulate the upscale lifestyle of the most affluent. An economist and director of women's studies at Harvard, Schor presents her arguable conclusion that the more TV a person watches, the more he or she is likely to spend. In counterbalance, she also reports on her nationwide survey of "downshiftners," people who deliberately reduce their hours on the job in exchange for more leisure, time with family or other pursuits. In self-help fashion, she outlines nine steps individuals can take to break free of the cycle of compulsive spending. Although Schor's jeremiad lacks the impact of her earlier book, it offers trenchant commentary on Americans' overspending lifestyle and lack of savings.

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The Overspent American explores why so many of us feel materially dissatisfied, why we work staggeringly long hours and yet walk around with ever-present mental "wish lists" of things to buy or get, and why Americans save less than virtually anyone in the world. Unlike many experts, Harvard economist Juliet B. Schor does not blame consumers' lack of self-discipline. Nor does she blame advertisers. Instead she analyzes the crisis of the American consumer in a culture where spending has become the ultimate social art. "Philadelphia Inquirer" "Offers trenchant commentary on Americans' overspending lifestyle and lack of savings." -- "Publishers Weekly" "Consuming more now and enjoying it less? In this heavily researched but accessible work, Schor tells us how and why this is so and what we might do about it...This is an important analysis of who, or perhaps what, we are. It deserves and will surely gain a wide audience." -- "Kirkus Reviews". About the Author.Â Overall its a good book but I don't agree with strategies because it puts a limit on ways you can go out and make more money to get everything you want. Read more. 7 people found this helpful. The Overspent American: W has been added to your Cart. Add a gift receipt for easy returns. Buy usedÂ They teach you ways to downsize and never talk about how ECONOMICS work in general. If you want something and you like it then buy it, if you don't have money then find a way to make money to buy it. We are teaching people how to save (millions of blogs on the topic) but there are not that many teaching you how to make more money to buy whatever you want. Life is SHORT, so enjoy while you can, I am not saying go out burn all your money be smart about it but spend on things you like.