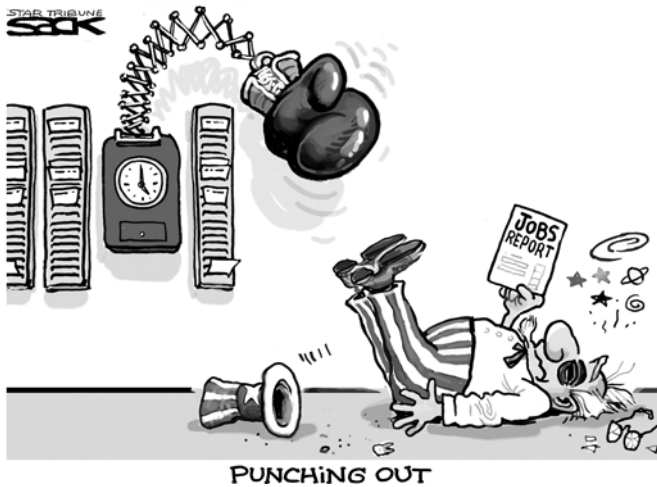


Review

You can read this little book in less time than it takes to watch your favorite TV show. But you'll be thinking about it as often as you hear about a friend or family member who is looking for work, or has trouble making ends meet, or gets abused on their job. Not only does it reveal why those things are happening, it tells what we need to do to stop them. There's plenty of work to be done in America -- for example, creating green jobs that reduce our dependence of fossil fuels. But the super rich who control our economy aren't going to do that for us. Read **GETTING AMERICA BACK TO WORK** if you want to find out how we can do it for ourselves.

Jeremy Brecher, author of:

Strike!, Labor Network for Sustainability



Maybe you are out of work as you read this. Surely, you know someone who is, maybe a family member or close friend. The dimensions of this tragedy are something most of us have not seen during our lifetime. Something like one in five American workers is officially unemployed, is among the so-called “underemployed,” or has given up on ever finding work.

The consequences of so many people out of work are overwhelming. Millions of American families can't make their credit card payments. Foreclosures and underwater mortgages are becoming the rule rather than the exception. One in eight Americans is on food stamps. Forty-seven million of us go without health insurance. Retirement dreams have become retirement nightmares.

Our Decade of Disaster has caught up with us:

- The first decade of the twenty-first century brought zero job growth. How bad is that? Every decade since World War II has ended with at least 20 percent more jobs than it began with.
- Income for working and middle class families has been stagnant since 1980. Since 2000, that income has actually declined.
- Family wealth has tanked.

Put another way, during the Decade of Disaster, America officially stopped working for ordinary Americans. Instead, America worked only for a handful of unbelievably rich, unimaginably powerful individuals. Jobs went off-shore, factories were closed, debt replaced paychecks, and tax breaks went to the super-rich.

We didn't just fall into this mess. For the last 30 years, America's working families have endured an assault by the Financial Elite specifically designed to slash our wages and benefits, lower our standard of living, and shift wealth and power from those of us in the middle and at the bottom to those at the top.

So here we are, in the middle of the biggest economic disaster most of us have ever seen, with two big jobs on our hands. First, we need to get Americans back to work. Second, we need to get America back to working for ordinary Americans. We can't do one without doing the other. How do we turn things around?

We must begin by recognizing that our economic problems are the result of *intentional, sustained, strategic* public policy—bad public policy cooked up by the Financial Elite and their henchmen. The good news is that in a democracy people can change public policy. That’s what this book is about—how we change public policy to get people back to productive work and to get America’s economy working for working families.

We must understand; then act. The first part of this book lays out the economics behind the Decade of Disaster. We explain the relationship between wealth and power and why we have to build more power to change things. Don’t let the word “economics” scare you—we left the gobbledygook at the university and wrote in kitchen table language. Then comes the action part. We will show you how to put more power in the hands of working families. Using that power wisely and strategically is the key to getting America back to work.