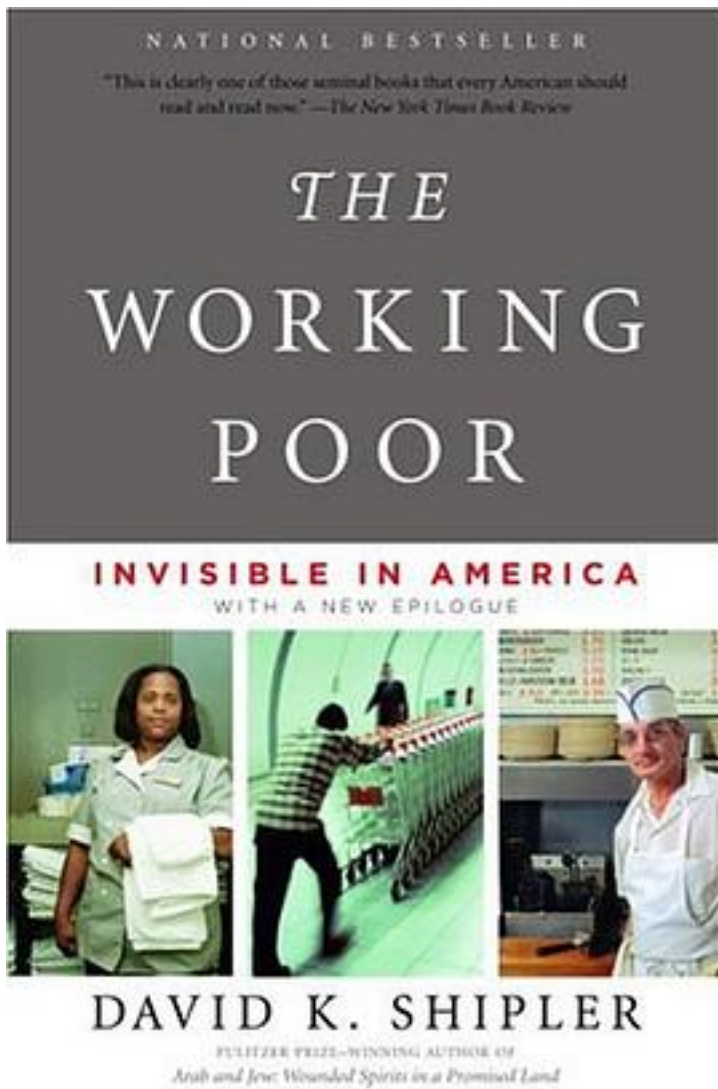


The Working Poor



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著者:David K. Shipler

出版者:Knopf

出版时间:2004-2-3

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780375408908

“Most of the people I write about in this book do not have the luxury of rage. They are caught in exhausting struggles. Their wages do not lift them far enough from poverty to improve their lives, and their lives, in turn, hold them back. The term by which they are usually described, ‘working poor,’ should be an oxymoron. Nobody who works hard should be poor in America.” —from the Introduction

From the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Arab and Jew*, a new book that presents a searing, intimate portrait of working American families struggling against insurmountable odds to escape poverty.

As David K. Shipler makes clear in this powerful, humane study, the invisible poor are engaged in the activity most respected in American ideology—hard, honest work. But their version of the American Dream is a nightmare: low-paying, dead-end jobs; the profound failure of government to improve upon decaying housing, health care, and education; the failure of families to break the patterns of child abuse and substance abuse. Shipler exposes the interlocking problems by taking us into the sorrowful, infuriating, courageous lives of the poor—white and black, Asian and Latino, citizens and immigrants. We encounter them every day, for they do jobs essential to the American economy.

We meet drifting farmworkers in North Carolina, exploited garment workers in New Hampshire, illegal immigrants trapped in the steaming kitchens of Los Angeles restaurants, addicts who struggle into productive work from the cruel streets of the nation’s capital—each life another aspect of a confounding, far-reaching urgent national crisis. And unlike most works on poverty, this one delves into the calculations of some employers as well—their razor-thin profits, their anxieties about competition from abroad, their frustrations in finding qualified workers.

This impassioned book not only dissects the problems, but makes pointed, informed recommendations for change. It is a book that stands to make a difference.

作者介绍:

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标签

评论

“贫困”暂时不具备普世性，至少没几个国家敢把自己的贫困标准和美国看齐

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书评

一、写这本书的读后感之前先说一个故事：
某个周末和妻子、儿子去中心书城看书玩耍。期间玩累了，估计小家伙也有点饿了，就在附近的某面包店买了面包，坐在北区大台阶补充一下能量。刚坐下旁边的两个人就走了，留下一杯只喝了1/4的奶茶。接着又来了两个小伙子，看起来...

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