

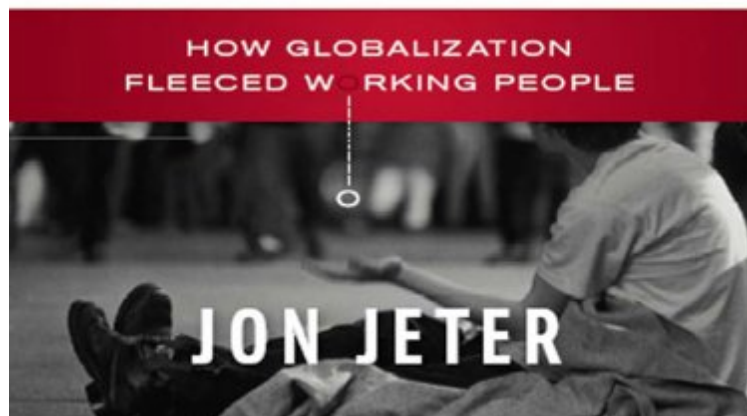
(Read now) Flat Broke in the Free Market: How Globalization Fleeced Working People

Flat Broke in the Free Market: How Globalization Fleeced Working People

Jon Jeter

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FLAT BROKE IN THE FREE MARKET



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Jon Jeter : Flat Broke in the Free Market: How Globalization Fleeced Working People before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flat Broke in the Free Market: How Globalization Fleeced Working People:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. superbBy Richard P. BennettMr. Jeter has a way of making a very difficult and dry topic read like a mystery novel. Intimate stories are seamlessly woven with macroeconomics into the history corporate globalization. This is a "must read" for all concerned adults.12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Essential for anyone who cares about justiceBy LibrericaWhen Ross Perot told us we'd be hearing the giant sucking sound of our jobs leaving the country, he didn't even know the half of it. Perot was right about NAFTA, but that is only one small element in a broad effort to create a world where global capital holds all the cards and the people have no power at all (sometimes literally, their power is cut off), scenarios so aptly detailed in this excellent

work by Jon Jeter. I would consider this a companion volume to Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine*. Where Ms. Klein's book examined the actions of governments, their policy statements, their military enforcement of corporate will, and the broad effects of trade policies pushed by the WTO and the IMF, Jeter shines a light on specific individuals as examples of the devastating impact that "free trade" policies have on poor people. As a middle class American, it's so easy to feel far removed from the rest of the world. But having read *Flat Broke*, I will never again turn on a water faucet without remembering the woman in Soweto who can no longer afford running water and instead will walk three hours to the river and three hours back to take a chance on bacteria-infected water, or the people in Bolivia who were forbidden from collecting their own rainwater. The individual stories that Jeter describes are powerful and heartbreaking, and all the more so because our government, and therefore, WE are responsible for creating these situations -- where multinational corporations win and poor people lose over and over again. Whether they pay with their health, with persistent hunger, or with their lives, or as in the U.S. where they pay with the loss of dignity that comes from having a decent job, all for the glory of the corporation, you will read this book and ask yourself - is there any justice in this world? The one thing I wish had been included is a citizen's guide to action in the final chapter. After I finished reading this I was fired up and ready to grab the pitchfork and head to Washington, DC. It does end on a somewhat optimistic note with Jeter's explanation of the ways that several South American countries have rejected the neoliberal trade prescription and as a result are slowly healing their ruined economies. Most fascinating was the information about Chile. Free traders always point to Chile as their example of success, but either they don't know or don't want to tell you that it was government 'interference in the market' and government regulation that saved Chile's economy after "free trade" wrecked it. You frequently hear that 'the genie is out of the bottle' - globalization has been unleashed and we can't go back. Read this book and you may stop accepting defeat so calmly. What is the force that can push back against globalization? Will it just be the dogged persistence of working people as detailed in *Flat Broke*? We need a name for our movement. Maybe we should call it Re-localization. Bottom line: this is a powerful, extremely well-written book that I strongly recommend for anyone high school age and up. For anyone annoyed by the ravings of "free traders" get this book and *The Shock Doctrine* and you will be fully armed for debate. Get the *Myths of Free Trade* by Sherrod Brown and you'll be totally ready for a trade debate smackdown. 20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Globalization: An Absolute Unqualified Failure for ordinary people around the globe. By R. A. Barricklow (Scaramouche) The author succinctly dismantles the mainstream kudos of globalization without remorse. This is the story of how globalization has widened inequality, corrupted politicians, estranged neighbors from one another, torn families apart, privatized the commons (even rainwater!), prostituted women, caused numerous suicides, and sadly, the gut wrenching beat of betrayal goes on. The World Bank, IMF, U.S. Treasury has created a transnational underclass. Globalization is an international shakedown, that targets ordinary people around the globe, making them economic outcasts in their own countries of birth. This madness is no way accidental, but has a signature of method writ large all over the globe by the financial wizards of elitism. Stock prices jumped because workers didn't get a raise, millions lost their jobs, retirement funds were eliminated,... WALL STREET REJOICED! Globalization is extractive, accumulation by dispossession, the rich exploiting the poor for no other reason than to fatten their pockets. Deregulation unleashed transnational corporations that privatized state-owned industries utilities while eating up and spitting out jobs, driving up electricity water costs. GOVERNMENTS TRANSFER PUBLIC PROPERTY TO PRIVATE HANDS PRIVATE DEBT TO PUBLIC HANDS!!!!!! The author personally interviewed over a seven year period - cab drivers, prostitutes, produce sellers, garbage collectors, people around the globe knocked down but not out. A hard but necessary read to understand the depth of betrayal by those who have and are continuing to orchestrate a world/no one with any heart would want/nor frankly allow. A succinct/without remorse/portrayal of globalization. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED !!!!!

A powerful, accessible, and eye-opening analysis of the global economy. Growing up in an African American working-class family in the Midwest, Jon Jeter watched the jobs undergirding a community disappear. As a journalist for the *Washington Post* (twice a Pulitzer Prize finalist), he reported on the freemarket reforms of the IMF and the World Bank, which in a single generation created a transnational underclass. Led by the United States, nations around the world stopped making things and starting buying them, imbibing a risky cocktail of deindustrialization, privatization, and anti-inflationary monetary policy. Jeter gives the consequences of abstract economic policies a human face, and shows how our chickens are coming home to roost in the form of the subprime mortgage scandal, the food crisis, and the fraying of traditional social bonds (marriage). From Rio de Janeiro to Shanghai to Soweto to Chicago's South Side and Washington, DC, Jeter shows us how the economic prescriptions of "the Washington Consensus" have only deepened poverty -- while countries like Chile and Venezuela have flouted the conventional wisdom and prospered.

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . In an eloquent, no-holds-barred indictment of globalization, Jeter, former *Washington Post* bureau chief for southern Africa, weaves the narratives of prostitutes in Buenos Aires and cab drivers in Brazil, tomato sellers in Zambia and an upwardly mobile black woman in Chicago into an analysis of how

globalization and free trade have transformed many of the world's manufacturing hubs into global flea markets. There are true moments of heartbreak, particularly when Jeter shows how globalization has slowed progress in postapartheid South Africa and mingles with racism in Brazil, where employers and the state target poor black women for forced sterilization for the putative sake of a larger work force. The ghetto is in its ascendancy, he writes, challenging free trade orthodoxy and its ability to reduce poverty with examples of nations like Chile which have rethought their attitudes toward globalization and are moving toward new strength and independence. Jeter's stinging criticisms are a catalyst for a truthful and painful discussion about who a global economy helps and who it destroys. (May) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This moving account of what poverty looks like in Mexico, Malawi, and Johannesburg (among other sites) by a former Washington Post bureau chief gently sings with the indignity of it all. By personalizing the struggle for survival around the globe (and based on seven years of interviews), whether it's an Argentine prostitute or a Zambian tomato seller, Jeter dramatically paints the pictures of the "have nots," pointing to political machinations, economic greed, failed governmental policies, and the deconstruction of the family framework as contributing causes to famine, disease, and crime. Readers will recognize many contemporary portraits, including that of Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush, now far from his roots as a Black Panther "power to the people," and that of Chicago Afro-American Sonia, who cannot find a comparable mate. Yet he also profiles two countries—Chile and Venezuel—that have bucked the system and invested in manufacturing and exports, with no small reduction of the world's chasm between wealthy and dirt-poor. An impassioned storyteller, Jeter wisely refrains from polemics and preachifying, gaining a powerful voice that, one hopes, will not be ignored. --Barbara Jacobs Flat Broke is a brilliant and much-needed assessment of how globalization, neoliberalism, the World Bank, IMF and the other tools of modern empire-building caused the current global economic crisis. And then Jeter goes deeper. He demonstrates that today's international resistance movements, led by a number of Latin American nations, offer hope for a future that will no longer exclude peasants, blue-collar workers, and the 3 billion people presently living below the poverty line—a sustainable and just future our children will want to inherit.