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Finding Time



Synopsis

Employers demand more of employees' time while leaving the important things in life—health, family—for workers to take care of on their own time and dime. How can workers get ahead while making sure their families don't fall behind? Heather Boushey shows in detail that economic efficiency and equity do not have to be enemies.

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Customer Reviews

This is hands down the most accessible book on an economic topic I've read. Boushey is brilliant for not only naming the problem (The American Wife as the Silent Partner for American Business), but for making sure that the solutions she is offering are already tried and tested. Brava!

excellent informative

A wonderful book on a crucial topic! This book tackles an issue affecting most American families: work-life conflict. Boushey does a comprehensive job tackling the problem from several angles. She

provides rich historical details, a thorough overview of the most relevant data, a guide to the key economic mechanisms behind work-life conflict, and several well-considered policy responses. (Boushey also provides the reader with an appendix of detailed information on data sources and methods as well as a trove of rich source material.) This is an important scholarly work, yet Boushey presents her arguments in a captivating way, holding the reader's attention through a combination of reasoned analysis and lighter examples, including a few vivid metaphors. As one example, Boushey describes the disruptive transitions in the workforce as analogous to the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Yet, as time passed, the mountain recovered, and today, hikers can walk to the rim of the mountain's new summit, since there are numerous new paths up the mountain. Likewise, despite the disruption in labor markets and family life, there are important ways that policy can respond to give us new paths forward. Boushey describes four essential ways forward: (1) policies addressing family and health leave for workers, (2) policies focused on predictable and reasonable work schedules, (3) policies addressing high-quality childcare and elder-care, and (4) efforts to ensure that solutions reach those throughout society. Boushey makes compelling arguments that these policy responses to work-life conflict are within our means as a society, given the economic mechanisms at hand. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the problems of work-life conflict.

Boushey..does a good job putting in context the impact of a lack of family centric policies from corporate that can impact overall GDP..but family growth and cohesiveness policy's remain elusive with most concerned about the expense side of the ledger

Was looking forward to this book but I regret, it is a disappointment. The author rambles about her childhood and Mt St Helens or TV shows like Downtown-Abbey. Many sentences are vacuous e.g. "housing is one of the largest expenses for the typical middle class family." Really? As teenagers would say: Dah. Or, "the typical middle-class family looks different today than in the past." Really? Is that so? [Dah]. It's unfortunate because this is an interesting subject-matter especially in year 2016, with a large female labor force but Ms Boushey does this area of study a disservice. With an approbation from Mr Summers combined with an interesting topic, I was almost sure this would be a fun read; I was wrong.

Wonderful book!

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