



Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression

By Studs Terkel



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In this unique recreation of one of the most dramatic periods in modern American history, Studs Terkel recaptures the Great Depression of the 1930s in all its complexity. Featuring a mosaic of memories from politicians, businessmen, artists, and writers, from those who were just kids to those who remember losing a fortune, *Hard Times* is not only a gold mine of information but a fascinating interplay of memory and fact, revealing how the Depression affected the lives of those who experienced it firsthand.

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Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression By Studs Terkel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

First published in 1970, this classic of oral history features the voices of men and women who lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s. It includes accounts by congressmen C. Wright Patman and Hamilton Fish, as well as failed presidential candidate Alf M. Landon, who recalls what it was like to be governor of Kansas in 1933:

Men with tears in their eyes begged for an appointment that would help save their homes and farms. I couldn't see them all in my office. But I never let one of them leave without my coming out and shakin' hands with 'em. I listened to all their stories, each one of 'em. But it was obvious I couldn't take care of all their terrible needs.

The book includes also the perspectives of ordinary men and women, such as Jim Sheridan, who took part in the 1932 march by World War I veterans to petition for their benefits in Washington, D.C., where they were repelled by army troops led by General Douglas MacArthur. Or Edward Santander, who was a child then: "My first memories come about '31. It was simply a gut issue then: eating or not eating, living or not living." Studs Terkel makes history come alive, drawing out experiences and emotions from his interviewees to the degree few have ever been able to match.

Review

Wonderful!....It will resurrect your faith in all of us to read this book. (*Newsweek*)

Open [it] to almost any page and rich memories spill out....Read a page, any page. Then try to stop. (*National Observer*)

Anybody who wants to know where we were and how we got to where we are now—read this book.

(Arthur Miller)

An invaluable record. (*The New York Times*)

A huge anthem in praise of the American spirit. (*Saturday Review*)

From the Inside Flap

A reissue of Terkel's classic work, with a new introduction by the author. "HARD TIMES doesn't render the time of the Depression or historicize about it - it is that time, its lingo, mood, its tragic and hilarious stories..." - Arthur Miller.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carissa Taylor:

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