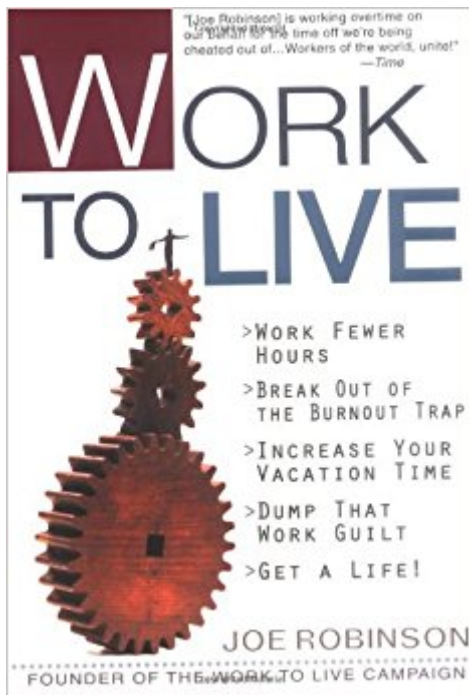


The book was found

Work To Live



Synopsis

Why do Americans' vacations range from "none" to "not much" when other industrialized nations mandate breaks of four to six weeks or more? More importantly, what can you do about it? The founder of the Work to Live Campaign strives to set all Americans on the path towards a happy, healthy balance between work and life-and in this lively book, he offers tips on... € Breaking out of the burnout trap € Increasing vacation time (it can be done!) € Working fewer hours € Dumping that work guilt € and Getting a Life!

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Perigee Trade; 1st edition (January 7, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399528504

ISBN-13: 978-0399528507

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,279,342 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Business Culture > Health & Stress #1026 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Skills > Time Management #12596 inÂ Books > Self-Help > Motivational

Customer Reviews

At a time when the relentless drive of the corporate profite-imperative has swept up so many of us in a mindless labor habitrail-whose only reward seems to be more and faster-paced work-Joe Robinson has done some hard thinking and insightful research and come up with a number of unique solutions to help us break the dysfunctional employer-worker relationship that's quickly eroding life in this country. (If you're the type who blames MTV and other red herrings on societal woes, stop and think how much time away from family mothers and fathers are forced to spend these days just to hang on to their paychecks.) It's interesting to me that an author calling for basic rights in the workplace-things that labor unions supposedly won for the work force decades ago-can be viewed in some quarters as an extremist. I've read some of the reviews that equate Robinson's ideas with socialism or that accuse him of somehow being oposed to "the American way." This is knee-jerk reaction at its worst: "Robinson wants fairness so he must be socialist!" "Robinson enjoys vacations so he must hate work!" Granted, debate in this country has become dangerously

polarized, Still, it's depressing to see how easily people can twist nuanced, reasoned argument into black and white polemic. I can't say I agree with everything Robinson says in this book, but I do recognize much of what he describes in the fact that I work harder than my father ever did, with far less time off, and probably a slightly lower overall quality of life. I certainly live in a smaller house and spend less time with my family than he did. Americans are fond of believing we have "the highest standard of living in the world." Guess what?

I finally found the time to read Mr. Robinson's book *Work to Live*. But, it isn't because I've been working. Au contraire. I quit my job in August 2002 to go answer a few questions I had about life, and to make a life change (I don't like that word career). While I've been back for 5 months as of this review, that was after 7 months straight of traveling Asia (Thailand, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Singapore, among others), and a loop around Australia, and parts of Arabia. That was a follow up to 3 months driving around the US, 6 weeks in S. America (Rio Carnaval!), and 3 weeks in China & Taiwan. I'll be on the road again soon! My change in life was fueled by personal events and only reconfirmed by Sept. 11th. I may not have quit if I had more time off (Though I am very glad I did in retrospect!). Our antiquated vacations laws are something I became consciously aware of (And mad!) when I traveled to Europe for business or when I met fellow travelers in other places. In the eye of the storm, it is difficult to see the truth. And that is what applies to the masses of the USA in regards to work. We can't see the forest for the trees. Mr. Robinson discusses so many ideas that I have come to on my own - including the distortions of our productivity reporting. I may someday write a book that takes these ideas even further. So many "difficulties" our country faces are ripple effects from our lack of time to see the big picture. On this fact alone, Mr. Robinson's work is in my list as one of the most important books of the present for Americans. Read it! In the book Mr. Robinson quotes Hewitt Associates a number of times. Hewitt is the #1 benefits consultant in the US (World?). They have a reputation as a great place to work.

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