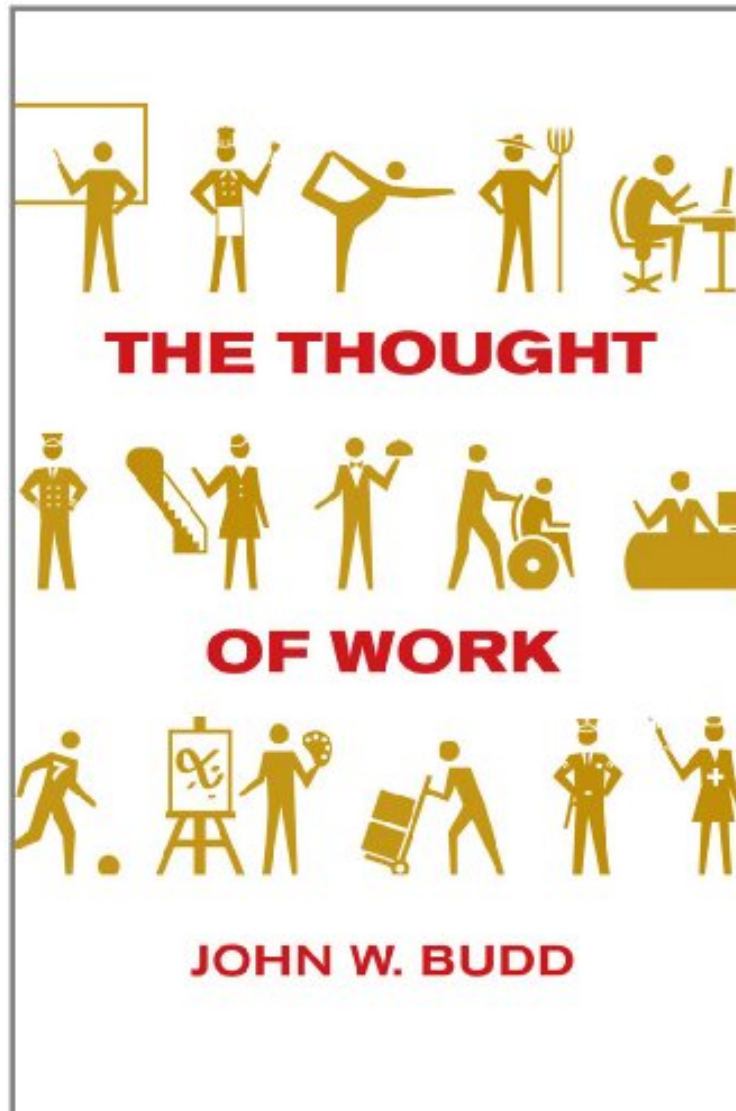


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John W. Budd

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John W. Budd : The Thought of Work (Cornell Paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thought of Work (Cornell Paperbacks):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A broad swipe of the history of workBy J. LambrechtAs a professional who has prepared teachers of vocational subjects (now called "career and technical education"), I've often felt the need for students to not only know about real employment needs, but also to think about critiquing the status quo. Conceptualizing work in the ten overlapping dimensions presented in this book could help students/teachers do this.This book was a pleasure to read. It is well structured and amply supported through its citations, unobtrusive as these are. It has lead me to even more good books to read, such as The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and

Economic Progress by Joel Mokyr, just to mention one. The author continually links each section to other sections in the book so the contrast or similarity of views is easy to follow. The key writers who have influenced thinking about work range from Classical Greek and Roman philosophers through the Reformation, through the Industrial Revolution, up through the digital Taylorism of technological call centers. I was surprised that John Budd did not mention the book *The Global Auction: The Broken Promises of Education, Jobs, and Incomes* by Phillip Brown, Hugh Lauder, David Ashton until I noticed these books have the same copyright date. I would expect Budd to agree that *The Global Auction* supports his arguments about global labor markets making conceptions of work more complex. People who care about how work unavoidably affects both individual and social well being and who realize the importance of challenging overly narrow conceptions of employment in a society will enjoy this book. It is history, sociology, psychology, critical theory, economics, and industrial relations all in one place. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mr. Keith Y. Harvey Great book on the many splendored aspects of work.

What is work? Is it simply a burden to be tolerated or something more meaningful to one's sense of identity and self-worth? And why does it matter? In a uniquely thought-provoking book, John W. Budd presents ten historical and contemporary views of work from across the social sciences and humanities. By uncovering the diverse ways in which we conceptualize work—such as a way to serve or care for others, a source of freedom, a source of income, a method of psychological fulfillment, or a social relation shaped by class, gender, race, and power—*The Thought of Work* reveals the wide-ranging nature of work and establishes its fundamental importance for the human experience. When we work, we experience our biological, psychological, economic, and social selves. Work locates us in the world, helps us and others make sense of who we are, and determines our access to material and social resources. By integrating these distinct views, Budd replaces the usual fragmentary approaches to understanding the nature and meaning of work with a comprehensive approach that promotes a deep understanding of how work is understood, experienced, and analyzed. Concepts of work affect who and what is valued, perceptions of freedom and social integration, identity construction, evaluations of worker well-being, the legitimacy and design of human resource management practices, support for labor unions and labor standards, and relationships between religious faith and work ethics. By drawing explicit attention to diverse, implicit meanings of work, *The Thought of Work* allows us to better understand work, to value it, and to structure it in desirable ways that reflect its profound importance.

"This is a really useful and important book for anyone working or especially teaching in the field of employment studies. . . . The book can be used in a number of ways and at different levels to teach about work. It is, for example, an excellent way to introduce students to the general subject matter of economic life. Importantly, it invites the reader to think in theoretical, conceptual and at times philosophical ways about work. . . . Budd and his publisher are to be congratulated on producing a text that will be an invaluable resource for teachers and students of sociology, philosophy, management and business, as well as other disciplines. The book deserves to be a staple on any self-respecting critical reading list on work and employment. *The Thought of Work* is part of a real renaissance in the interdisciplinary study of work and is to be applauded." Tim Strangleman, *British Journal of Industrial Relations* (March 2013) "Budd does an excellent job of describing how work has utterly triumphed among us . . . but also confronts the issue of the deeply and widely held view that work no longer offers food for the soul and that many people's experience of paid employment is characterized by a radical loss of meaningfulness beyond its obvious and fundamental functionality." Paul Gilfillan, *Work, Employment Society* (2013) "In academic analysis as in everyday life, we hold conflicting perspectives and assumptions regarding work. In this impressive book, John W. Budd offers a comprehensive overview of past and present conceptions of working life and demonstrates that it is necessary and possible to find complementarities across our often contradictory ways of thinking about work." Richard Hyman, London School of Economics, author of *Understanding European Trade Unionism* "John W. Budd's *The Thought of Work* provides a much needed and highly eloquent statement of the meanings and orientations to work across time and nations. It is essential reading for students of work from senior scholars to beginning undergraduates." Randy Hodson, Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University, and past editor, *American Sociological* "The *Thought of Work* is an erudite and engaging interdisciplinary synthesis of ten meanings of work that shows the centrality of work in our lives, identity politics, and society. The book draws on meanings of work from the social sciences and humanities and discusses their implications for a wide range of policy issues, including labor-management relations, the environment, human resource management, race relations, health and mental health, poverty, and gender relations." Daniel B. Cornfield, Vanderbilt University, and editor, *Work and Occupations* About the Author John W. Budd is the Industrial Relations Land Grant Chair and Director of the Center for Human Resources and Labor Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of *Employment with a Human Face: Balancing Efficiency, Equity, and Voice* and *The Thought of Work*, also from Cornell, and *Labor Relations: Striking a Balance*; coauthor of *Invisible Hands, Invisible Objectives: Bringing Workplace Law and Public Policy into Focus*; and coeditor of *The Ethics of Human Resources and Industrial Relations*, a LERA Research Volume

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