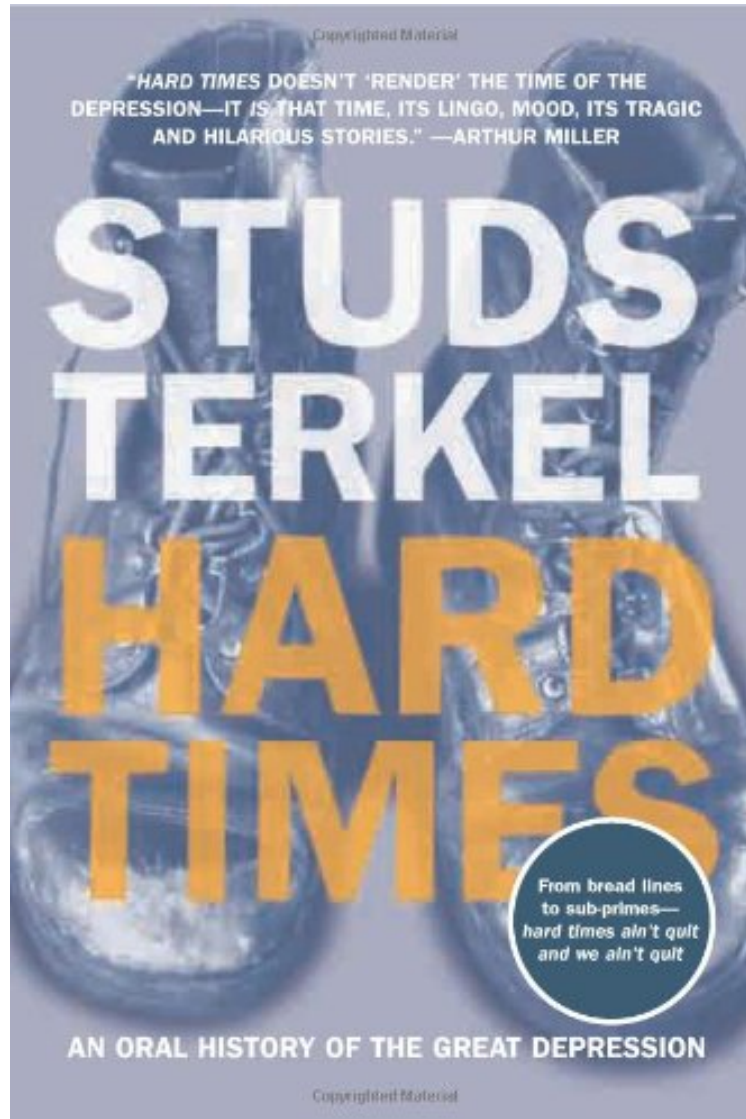


[Download free pdf] Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression

Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression

Studs Terkel

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Studs Terkel : Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Hard Times" a let-down...By pyramidcvvStud Terkel's "Hard Times" is a collection of interviews of people who lived during the Great Depression, or were in some way related to people who did.I bought the book expecting to hear stories of people who suffered great deprivation and want during the Depression.But there's actually not that many hard luck stories here.In fact, lots of the people interviewed for this book were quite successful or otherwise got along fairly well during the Depression."Hard Times" reads more like a

history of the '30s rather than a riveting account of suffering people. Terkel spends a lot of time talking about the labor movement, for example, hardly a subject unique to any decade. He also talks to people who are just criticizing Roosevelt and the New Deal (ten million remained unemployed all throughout the New Deal until the war; the suicide rate peaked in 1937-38, during Roosevelt's New Deal, not during the Hoover years). I recently read "Tombstone," Yang Jisheng, a hair-raising, eye-witness account of the Chinese famine of 1958-1962. In this page-turner, we read about people reduced to cannibalism in which parents told their starving children to eat their bodies after they are dead. But the people who had it tough in the 1930s don't sound any different from the hard-luck stories you hear in the 21st century. You don't feel as if the Great Depression was any worse than any of the recent recessions (e.g., 1981-1982, 2008-2009). For a really gut-wrenching account of the American Depression, I think Steinbeck's "The Grapes Of Wrath" is far more hard-hitting than "Hard Times". Studs Terkel is from Chicago, so most of the interviewees come from there. Informative and entertaining, but nothing really heart-rending. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Axlerod Studs Terkel book about the Hard Times is a classic and well worth reading! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not bad By AntHad to buy for class, wasn't a bad book though.

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.

.com 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. 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) 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.