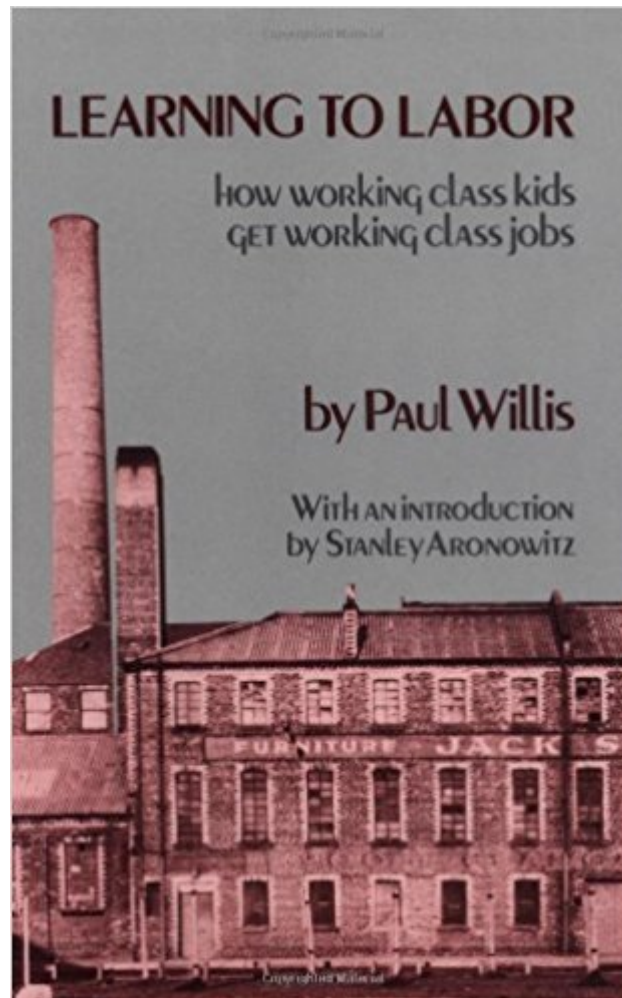




**Ebook Directory**  
the best source of ebook

**The book was found**

# **Learning To Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs**



## Synopsis

Hailed by the New Society as the best book on male working class youth, this classic work, first published in 1977, has been translated into several foreign languages and remains the authority in ethnographical studies.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; Morningside edition (April 15, 1981)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231053576

ISBN-13: 978-0231053570

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #78,266 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Labor & Industrial Relations](#) #55 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Labor & Industrial Relations](#) #68 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Adolescent Psychology](#)

## Customer Reviews

As fresh and challenging as when it was first published, Learning to Labor remains the text to inspire and teach ethnographers, from whatever disciplines, who probe unsentimentally human agency in institutions, political economy, and within the general constraints of modernity. -- George E. Marcus  
The unique contribution of this book is that it shows, with glittering clarity, how the rebellion of poor and working class kids against school authority prepares them for working class jobs. No American interested in education or in labor can afford not to read and study this book carefully. -- Stanley Aranowitz

Hailed by the New Society as the "best book on male working class youth," this classic work, first published in 1977, has been translated into several foreign languages and remains the authority in ethnographical studies.

The two books that have contributed most to the way I think about the social world and what it means to be are Simone DeBeauvoir's The Ethics of Ambiguity and Paul Willis' Learning to Labor.

The first one hundred pages of Willis' book are loaded with insights and antidotes to conventional wisdom: Why are working class students often anti-school and generally anti-authoritarian? Because schools ask a great deal in terms of work, conformity, fun foregone, and deference to school officials, but they offer little or nothing in return: working class children are almost certain to become working class adults. Thus, the absence of a basis for exchange generates hostility and resentment. Is that such a bad thing? It's tough on teachers, counselors, administrators, and on students who see reason to conform. But in the 1970's when *Learning to Labor* was written, a working class life in a British industrial city was reasonably comfortable and had its own rewards. So from the classroom to the shopfloor was a natural and easy transition to the world of work for the sons of working class fathers. For readers in the U.S., the absence of interest in upward mobility may seem self-defeating, and may be taken as evidence of family dysfunction. Oddly, however, the families studied by Willis seem supportive and warm; sons admire their fathers and have respect and affection for their mothers; fathers and mothers share their sons' alienation from schooling; and their reasons seem readily interpretable and in no way manifestations of family dysfunction. The anti-authoritarian students embrace the ethos of masculinity and toughness that provides their occupationally devalued fathers with self-esteem. Sadly this way of valorizing a working class life assures that the British working class will remain suffused with pernicious sexism. It's easy to romanticize Willis' working class rebels, and he sometimes makes this mistake. Whatever their attractive qualities, however, sexism, racism, and active derision toward same-aged students with a different mind-set are conspicuous characteristics of their way of life. Perhaps the most troubling question for 21st century readers of Willis' book is what happens to working class students today? The factory floor is unoccupied. Working class jobs have been moved en masse to third world countries to reduce labor costs. A well-defined social identity and lived culture have been destroyed. Again we see that whatever our position, nothing much is guaranteed. All this is part of the often very painful process of what DeBeauvoir called "disclosure of being in the world."

It has been many years since I read this book in graduate school. I actually bought a new copy for a friend who is a reading instructor and interested in the sociology of learning. Willis' book is a brilliant study of working class British students. It details how these students develop their own society out of a sense of self-preservation. The school system works to keep them in their working class ghettos and the inner society they develop helps them to cope with the inequities they face daily: And will continue to face as adults. I read this book as I thought about the United States and the severe inequities in our own educational system. There are some very disturbing parallels, and

though the study in the book is some years old, I would invite anyone interested in thinking about education in a democratic society to review this book as a starting point for discussion of today's issues.

Very happy with the book and the service received.

A must-read for sociologists, particularly those in the field of cultural studies, gender and youth research. Although an older book, it is still very much current.

Will be using for my Masters thesis

good

got it

good price, fast delivery

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs STEVE JOBS: Steve Jobs: Top Life Lessons: Unlimited Success, Leadership, and Powerful Creativity: Steve Jobs Biography: Steve Jobs (Business, Biographies ... Rich and Famous, Computers and Technology) International Jobs : Where They Are, How to Get Them (International Jobs : Where They Are, How to Get Them, 5th Ed) Get Nikon D5200 Freelance Photography Jobs Now! Amazing Freelance Photographer Jobs: Starting a Photography Business with a Commercial Photographer Nikon Camera! Books For Kids: Natalia and the Pink Ballet Shoes (KIDS FANTASY BOOKS #3) (Kids Books, Children's Books, Kids Stories, Kids Fantasy Books, Kids Mystery ... Series Books For Kids Ages 4-6 6-8, 9-12) Good Jobs, Bad Jobs: The Rise of Polarized and Precarious Employment Systems in the United States 1970s to 2000s (American Sociological Association's ... Rose Series in Sociology (Paperback)) Pharaohs and Foot Soldiers: One Hundred Ancient Egyptian Jobs You Might Have Desired or Dreaded (Jobs in History) Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors, Second ed. (Great Jobs ForÃ¢âÂ| Series) Archers, Alchemists: and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed (Jobs in History) Against Labor: How U.S. Employers Organized to Defeat Union Activism (Working Class in American History) Ambassadors of the Working Class: Argentina's International Labor Activists and Cold War Democracy in the Americas Linked Labor Histories: New England,

Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class (American Encounters/Global Interactions)  
Getting By in Postsocialist Romania: Labor, the Body, and Working-Class Culture (New  
Anthropologies of Europe) Back Labor No More!!: What Every Woman Should Know Before Labor  
Labor Economics and Labor Relations (11th Edition) Labor Economics: Introduction to Classic and  
the New Labor Economics Labor and Employment Arbitration: An Annotated Bibliography  
1991-1996 (Cornell Industrial and Labor Relations Bibliography Series) White Working Class:  
Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America Books for Kids: Lily the Little Mermaid (Mermaid Books  
for Kids, Children's Books, Kids Books, Bedtime Stories For Kids) (The Mermaid Stories: Kids  
Fantasy Books Book 2) Childrens Book : Fun facts about Egypt: (Ancient Egypt for kids) (Ages 4 -  
12) (egypt picture book, pyramids for kids, mummies for kids, hieroglyphs for ... books for kids,  
egypt history for kids)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)