



The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism

Richard Sennett

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A *Business Week* Best Book of the Year.... "A devastating and wholly necessary book."?Studs Terkel, author of *Working*

In *The Corrosion of Character*, Richard Sennett, "among the country's most distinguished thinkers . . . has concentrated into 176 pages a profoundly affecting argument" (*Business Week*) that draws on interviews with dismissed IBM executives, bakers, a bartender turned advertising executive, and many others to call into question the terms of our new economy. In his 1972 classic, *The Hidden Injuries of Class* (written with Jonathan Cobb), Sennett interviewed a man he called Enrico, a hardworking janitor whose life was structured by a union pay schedule and given meaning by his sacrifices for the future. In this new book—a #1 bestseller in Germany—Sennett explores the contemporary scene characterized by Enrico's son, Rico, whose life is more materially successful, yet whose work lacks long-term commitments or loyalties. Distinguished by Sennett's "combination of broad historical and literary learning and a reporter's willingness to walk into a store or factory [and] strike up a conversation" (*New York Times Book Review*), this book "challenges the reader to decide whether the flexibility of modern capitalism . . . is merely a fresh form of oppression" (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review). Praise for *The Corrosion of Character*: "A benchmark for our time."?Daniel Bell "[A]n incredibly insightful book."?William Julius Wilson "[A] remarkable synthesis of acute empirical observation and serious moral reflection."?Richard Rorty "[Sennett] offers abundant fresh insights . . . illuminated by his concern with people's struggle to give meaning to their lives."?[Memphis] *Commercial Appeal*

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