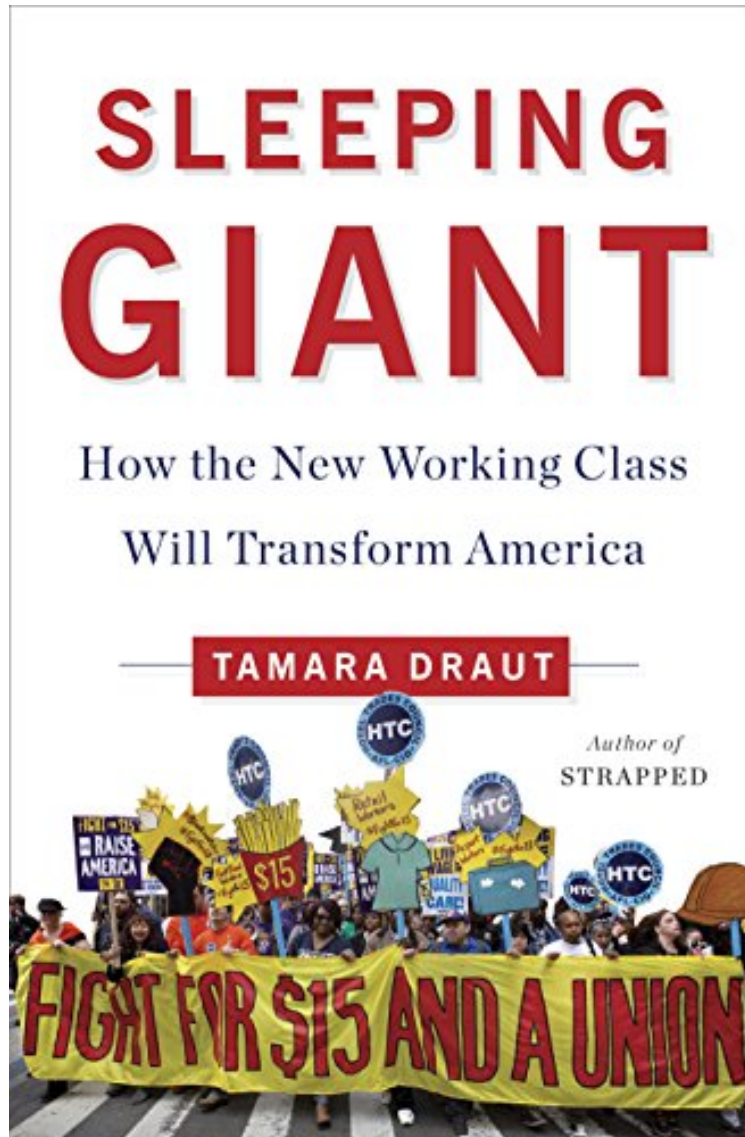


# Sleeping Giant: How the New Working Class Will Transform America

Tamara Draut

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**Tamara Draut : Sleeping Giant: How the New Working Class Will Transform America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sleeping Giant: How the New Working Class Will Transform America:

35 of 37 people found the following review helpful. A welcome addition to the conversation about the downward slide of working people in the US. But there are better, deeper books. By Worddancer Redux There is a lot of good material

out there about the downward slide of the middle class, and the decreased work possibilities for working class people. I strongly recommend BOTH HANDS TIED for people who are interested in how Clinton's welfare 'reform' produced great numbers of people (largely women) who have been compelled to take any job, no matter how poorly paid, or how uncertain the hours are, etc. I recommend BOOM, BUST, EXODUS for people who want to know more about how closing US factories and sending jobs south to maquilas can be awful for both groups of workers. \$2 A DAY discusses the cash poor, and the intractable obstacles they face trying to enter the work force. EVICTED (wrongly being lauded as the best thing about poverty in decades) explains how eviction can and does begin a slide into unemployment and poverty that the dispossessed cannot reverse. (For those who like her work, Juliet Schorr also has several relevant publications.) Why do I mention all those books in my review of this one? To point out that there are a lot of people out there discussing the downward slide, and its drivers, its shape, and its implications. My own view is that the books I have named are all deeper and more insightful than Ms. Draut's book. Draut's belief that the possession (or non-possession) of a college education is all-important--for women as well as men--seems to me neither well-defended nor even true. (Ask some of the people who 'retrained' and got college degrees when they were left high and dry when Maytag abandoned Galesburg how much good they think that did them.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wake Up and Smell the Coffee! By Robert W. Grant An important book for our times. A required read for those who consider themselves adequately informed voters in the upcoming U.S Presidential Election! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Heather Logan Came as promised Great quality

There was a time when America's working class was seen as the backbone of the American economy, having considerable political, economic, and moral authority. But the working class we have now--far more female and racially diverse and employed by the fast food, retail, health care, and other service industries--has been marginalized, if not ignored, by politicians and pundits. This is changing, swiftly and dramatically. Today's working class is a sleeping giant. And as Tamara Draut makes abundantly clear, it is just now waking up to its untapped political power. *Sleeping Giant* is the first major examination of the new working class and the role it will play in our economic and political future. Blending moving individual narratives, historical background, and sophisticated analysis, Draut forcefully argues that this newly energized class is far along in the process of changing America for the better. Draut examines the legacy of exclusion based on race and gender that contributes to the invisibility of the new working class, despite their entwinement in everyone's day-to-day life. No longer confined to the assembly line, today's working class watches our children and cares for our parents. They park our cars, screen our luggage, clean our offices, and cook and serve our meals. They are us. With *Fight for \$15* minimum-wage protests popping up throughout the country (and in some places winning) and economic inequality being recognized as one of the defining issues of our time, today's working class will soon become impossible to ignore and foolish to dismiss. *Sleeping Giant* is the first book to tell the story of this extraordinary transformation in full and inspiring detail. From the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Sleeping Giant*: "Read *Sleeping Giant*. It is raw. It is honest. And it is powerful. It is about the conversation we need to have in this country." -- Senator Elizabeth Warren "Books about the state of the American working class do not usually fill me with optimism, but Tamara Draut's thorough and lively report on the 'new working class' that inhabits our 'bargain basement economy' is a big exception!" -- Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed*, Founder of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project "Sleeping Giant sets the record straight about what most American workers face every day--and what it's going to take to win a future where everyone who works hard in our country can thrive. Tamara Draut is telling the stories of today's working families, especially the growing and diverse group of service and care workers, whose stories politicians and other policymakers need to hear. These workers are demanding a better future for themselves and their children, through movements like the Fight for 15." -- Mary Kay Henry, President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) "On the eve of the financial crisis, Tamara Draut provided a stirring picture with *Strapped* of the stagnating wages and rising personal debt that was creating a more unequal and unstable economy. Now, a decade later, she's issuing an equally important and hopefully equally prescient message: America's diverse new working class is ready to be mobilized behind a bold agenda for economic and political reform. In our populist time, her call could not be more relevant or vital." -- Jacob S. Hacker, co-author of *American Amnesia* and *Winner-Take-All Politics* "This is quite simply the best analysis yet of the difficult challenges and dynamic potential of today's working class. It's also a wonderful read that will leave you both moved and hopeful." -- Bob Herbert, Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos and former Op-Ed Columnist for the *New York Times* "Tamara Draut's new book is a wonderful tribute to working people. By offering a fresh and insightful new look at work in America--who's doing it, how it's changed, and why we should care, she helps us understand where everyone from the caregiver to the sanitation worker is situated, and offers a blueprint for a better life for all of us." -- Ai-jen Poo, Director of National Domestic Workers Alliance, Co-Director of *Caring Across Generations* and author of *Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom*

in a Changing America" A close examination of the plight of the working class, the decline of organized labor's political power, and the stirrings of activism that indicate change may be on the way. Draut pulls no punches in her analysis... Readers who concur that we have a "neoliberal economic system that is systematically rotten to the core" will welcome Draut's impassioned report. —Kirkus sAbout the AuthorComing soon...Tanya Eby has been a voice-over artist for over a decade. She is an Audie-nominated and AudioFile Earphones Award-winning narrator. Besides narrating, Tanya spends her time teaching creative writing classes at the collegiate level, blogging, and working on her own novels.