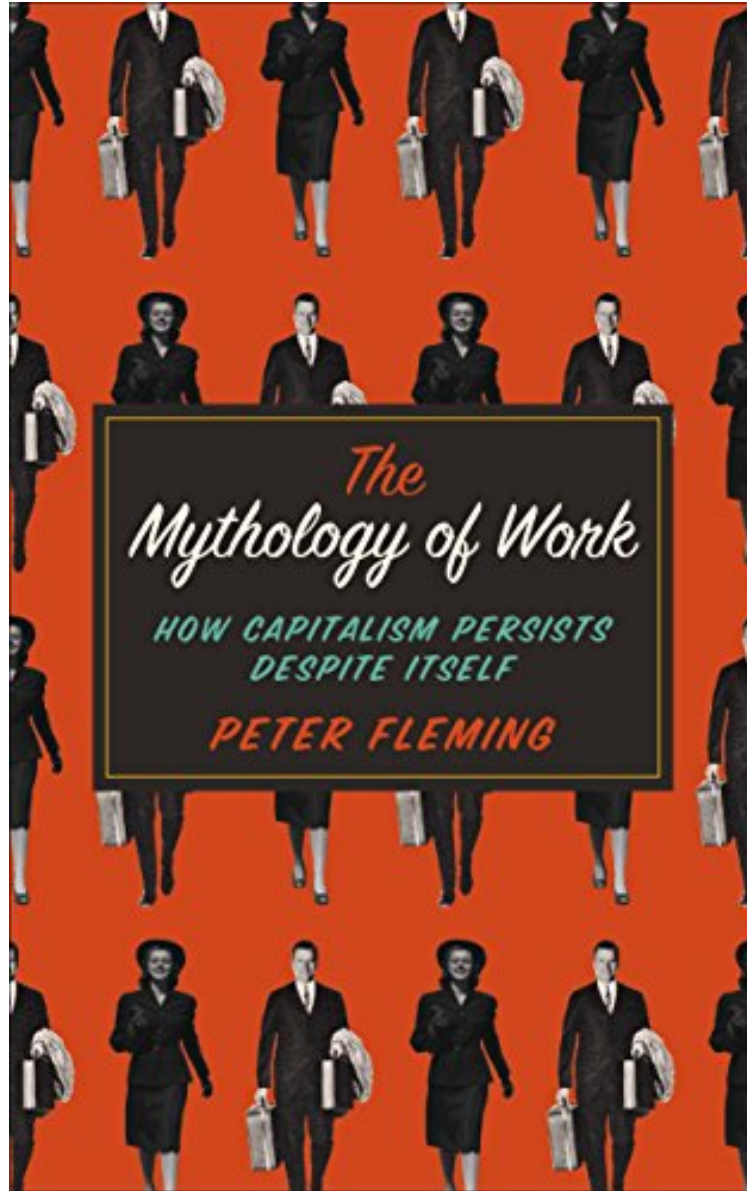


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The Mythology of Work: How Capitalism Persists Despite Itself

Peter Fleming

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Peter Fleming : The Mythology of Work: How Capitalism Persists Despite Itself before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mythology of Work: How Capitalism Persists Despite Itself:

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on what "work" has become, both verbally and operationally. Radical without being off-puttingly radical. Insightful and important. It is time that the West, especially the U.S., once again, brings discussions of work and labor into the political discourse. The consequences are nothing short of life and death, literally. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. the central message easy to understand
By JohnnyBeagle
While much of this was over my head, the central message easy to understand. I actually lost my job the day after I started to read this book. I'm in my early 60's and this book has convinced me to stay out of the work force, live on what I've saved, and be thankful to be out.

There was once a time when "work" was inextricably linked to survival and self-preservation; where the farmer ploughed the land so their family could eat. But the sun has long since set on this idyllic tableau, and what was once an integral part of life has slowly morphed into a painful and meaningless ritual, colonising almost every part of our lives - endless and inescapable. In *The Mythology of Work*, Peter Fleming examines how neoliberal society uses the ritual of work (and the threat of its denial) to maintain the late capitalist class order. As our society is transformed into a factory that never sleeps, work becomes a universal reference point for everything else, devoid of any moral or political worth. Blending critical theory with recent accounts of job related suicides, office-induced paranoia, fear of relaxation, managerial sadism and cynical corporate social responsibility campaigns, Fleming paints a bleak picture of neoliberal capitalism in which the economic and emotional dysfunctions of a society of wage slaves greatly outweigh its professed benefits.

Fleming's analyses of work critically confront today's capitalism, now well into its shift from old centers (western Europe, north America and Japan) to new, lower-wage centers (Asia, Latin America, Africa, etc.). The resulting precariousness, scarcity, and mindlessness of work imposed on the old centers is being covered with an ideological fetishization of work that this book well deconstructs.