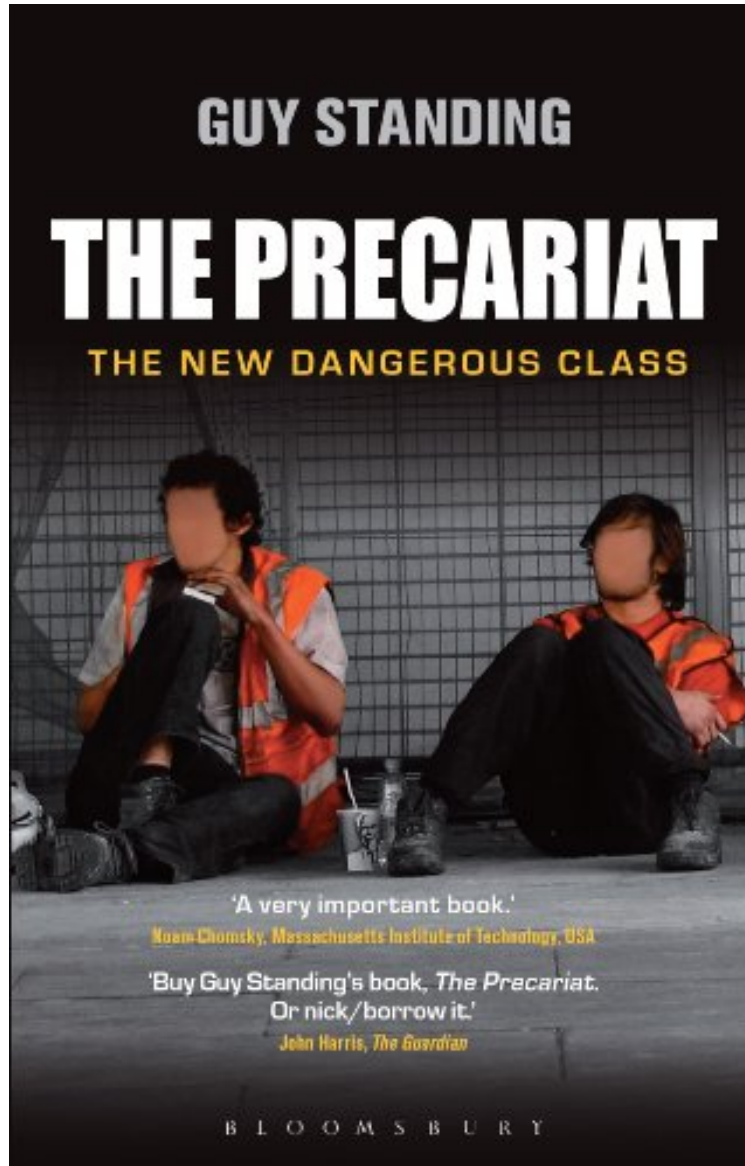


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## The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class

*Guy Standing*

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**Guy Standing : The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Startling conclusions based on irrefutable facts. A book to read again and again ... and then reconsider the world's future. By John Turner To be ignorant of the catastrophic socio-economic forces unleashed within the globalised international community is excusable in the uneducated. To be unconcerned by those forces is understandable when people blind themselves with denial. But caring citizens should

be fully aware of them and especially that of the Precariat - the new dangerous class. It is a growing class unconstrained by national borders and no longer limited to any particular generation. Guy Standing will tell you about them. But if you intend to read his book in the presence of someone else, be warned: you will inevitably find yourself quoting numerous snippets from the book and delivering a barrage of facts from it along with Guy's well-considered observations and trenchant warnings. So I suggest you save yourself a great deal of time and energy: buy two of *The Precariat* - one for you and one for your partner. It'll be more cost effective that way. (By the way, I had not heard of Guy Standing until I came across a critique of his book. This really is a genuine and sincere review, and I have no personal interest in doubling his sales' figures.)

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. *The Precariat is a Lot of Us* By J. Lambrecht This wide-ranging book examines the life situations of people from many places in the world who would like the stability of employment and the financial security work can bring. Such security is presented as a basic human right, much like "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Persons looking for rationale arguments for a basic income for all will be interested in the ideas in this book. I would have liked to have seen more attention to the plight of the academic Precariat, the growing teaching cadre made up of the most highly educated in our society. Persons with doctorates and enthusiasm to teach end up, by necessity, in unpredictable, low-paid jobs in tertiary education when they had hoped for more. While these limited-contract teachers are implicitly included within the broad definition of the contingent, casual workforce described in this book, this topic would have fit well into the discussion of increasingly privatized, even teacherless schooling. But, even with this omission, the ideas are compelling. They challenge readers to recognize and accept fundamental universal rights and to consider how public policies act to acknowledge, or not, basic human dignity.

43 of 45 people found the following review helpful. A rare case of academics being ahead of the public By JCGuy Standing is the very model of the temperate, discrete and research-oriented UK professoriat. But his book's genius is the laser-like light he shines onto what we see happening around us. The public discourse of 'recovery' with its nostalgic sense of hoping to get back to things as they were is shown to be utterly out of touch with what is actually happening - most importantly to the youth whose efforts we hoped would support us in our declining years as well as carry us forward into the more competitive future. Standing makes it clear there will be no going back. The framing here is matched by the situation in Europe - where no going back is possible either. Standing shows the conditions of work and politics are subtly and brutally related - and likewise related to the slowly clarifying crisis of American democracy. Our precariat - such as the Occupy Wall-street movement - still lacks name, identity and focus, just as the European precariat is still a movement or class in the making. But Standing shows that - most importantly - the impulse is not an easily dismissed resurgence of privileged student neo-Marxism. Something fundamentally new is happening. Anyone wanting think seriously about where we go from here, rather than scream inanities at each other in the way those in Washington DC do, will find powerful angles and levers in this fine example of how the best academic work serve the public as they seek to grapple with their anxieties. It is a book in the tradition of Hobbes and Hume, or even Paine.

This book presents the Precariat — an emerging class, comprising the rapidly growing number of people facing lives of insecurity, moving in and out of jobs that give little meaning to their lives. Guy Standing argues that this class is producing instabilities in society. Although it would be wrong to characterise members of the Precariat as victims, many are frustrated and angry. The Precariat is dangerous because it is internally divided, leading to the villainisation of migrants and other vulnerable groups. Lacking agency, its members may be susceptible to the siren calls of political extremism. To prevent a 'politics of inferno', Guy Standing argues for a 'politics of paradise', in which redistribution and income security are reconfigured in a new kind of Good Society, and in which the fears and aspirations of the Precariat are made central to a progressive strategy.