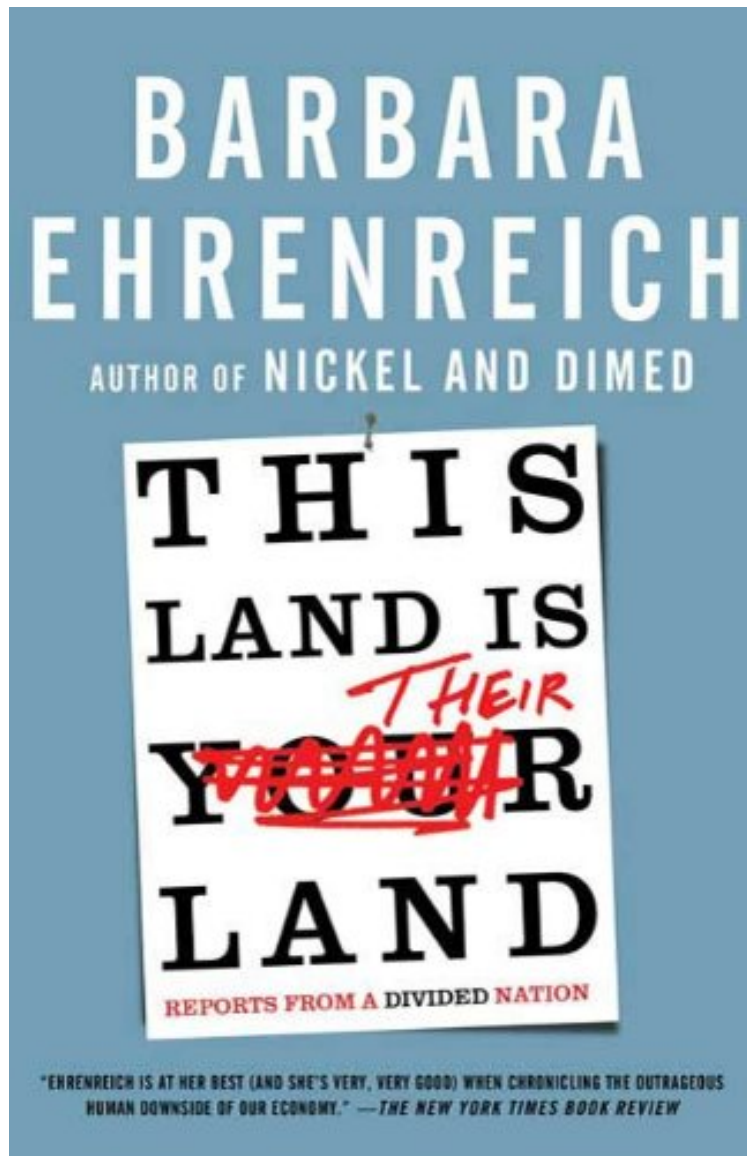


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## This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation

Barbara Ehrenreich

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**Barbara Ehrenreich : This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Economic class in AmericaBy edna thackerayExcellent first-hand research. Anyone who reads this book receives the truth about economic class, separation of and advantages of being rich, and disadvantages of being poor...how difficult it is to rise above poverty...Actual stories of people working under difficult, sometimes unfair, economic conditions0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy

Thomas J. Molinaro A group of short essays about income inequality told with biting sarcasm in Ehrenreich's inimitable style. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fast Easy Read By S. Bordwell This book is very informative and a fast read. Every chapter is about 2 pages but filled with facts. It is an easy read and makes a good bedtime book because you can read a few pages and you've covered a few topics. After I read this book, I gave it to my sister to read and she thought it was very interesting and well written. My sister isn't into politics so I think this is a good book that will inform all sorts of readers about what is going on in our world today.

America in the 'aughts; hilariously skewered, brilliantly dissected, and darkly diagnosed by the bestselling social critic hailed as "the soul mate" of Jonathan Swift. Barbara Ehrenreich's first book of satirical commentary, *The Worst Years of Our Lives*, about the Reagan era, was received with bestselling acclaim. The one problem was the title: couldn't some prophetic fact-checker have seen that the worst years of our lives; far worse; were still to come? Here they are, the 2000s, and in *This Land Is Their Land*, Ehrenreich subjects them to the most biting and incisive satire of her career. Taking the measure of what we are left with after the cruelest decade in memory, Ehrenreich finds lurid extremes all around. While members of the moneyed elite can buy congressmen, many in the working class can barely buy lunch. While a wealthy minority obsessively consumes cosmetic surgery, the poor often go without health care for their children. And while the corporate C-suites are now nests of criminality, the less fortunate are fed a diet of morality, marriage, and abstinence. Ehrenreich's antidotes are as sardonic as they are spot-on: pet insurance for your kids; Salvation Army fashions for those who can no longer afford Wal-Mart; and boundless rage against those who have given us a nation scarred by deepening inequality, corroded by distrust, and shamed by its official cruelty. Full of wit and generosity, these reports from a divided nation show once again that Ehrenreich is, as Molly Ivins said, "good for the soul." *The Times* (London)

From *Publishers Weekly* When a hospital employee whose hospital-supplied insurance doesn't cover her hospital-incurred bill finds her wages garnished, where's a political satirist to go for material? Feisty, fearlessly progressive Ehrenreich offers laughter on the way to tears in 62 previously published essays that show the rich getting richer and poor getting poorer. She investigates pockets of poverty among undocumented workers, military families and recent college graduates. Ehrenreich's reach is capacious, encompassing not only unemployment, health insurance and inflation, but corporate spying, cancer studies, marriage education, the abstinence training business and Disney's Princess products. Her passion, compassion and wit keep these excursions lively and timely; even when yesterday's headlines provide the immediate provocation, e.g., JetBlue's snow snafu. The vignettes go down a bit like eating peanuts; too many at one time palls, but they're not unhealthy, unless you have an allergic reaction to Ehrenreich's message: America is being polarized between the super-rich few and the sub-rich everyone else. Entertaining Ehrenreich certainly is, but she raises a hard, serious question: How many 'wake-up calls' do we need, people...? (May) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Despite long national claims to being a classless society, the U.S. has a growing gulch between the haves and have-nots and what used to be the middle class. Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed* (2001) and *Bait and Switch* (2005), catalogs the many ways that the rich are getting richer and the rest of us are getting poorer. The new top of the polarized social order has "pay in the tens of hundreds of millions, a private jet and a few acres of Nantucket," and the new bottom is virtual slavery; captive domestics, sweatshop workers, and sex slaves exploited by their employers. She details the huge compensation gaps between CEOs and other management, top-ranked professors and adjunct professors, law firm partners and temp lawyers. In separate sections, Ehrenreich analyzes how wealthy individuals and corporations maintain the gap by engineering social, political, and economic policies that continue to disadvantage the middle class and poor, and our accommodation to it. Ehrenreich's sharp analysis and engaging writing make the litany of misery enlightening, if not more bearable, reading. --Vanessa Bush "For those who truly do care about what America has to offer "the huddled masses...yearning to breathe free" in a post-9/11 world, *This Land Is Their Land* is essential [listening]. ---San Francisco Chronicle