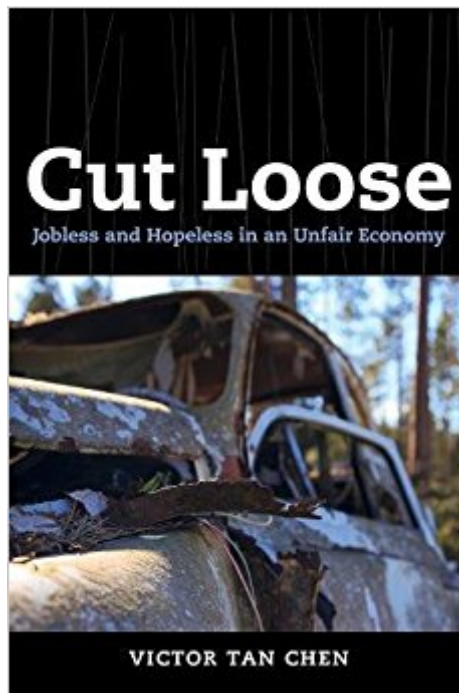




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# Cut Loose: Jobless And Hopeless In An Unfair Economy



## Synopsis

Years after the Great Recession, the economy is still weak, and an unprecedented number of workers have sunk into long spells of unemployment. *Cut Loose* provides a vivid and moving account of the experiences of some of these men and women, through the example of a historically important group: autoworkers. Their well-paid jobs on the assembly lines built a strong middle class in the decades after World War II. But today, they find themselves beleaguered in a changed economy of greater inequality and risk, one that favors the well-educated or well-connected. Their declining fortunes in recent decades tell us something about what the white-collar workforce should expect to see in the years ahead, as job-killing technologies and the shipping of work overseas take away even more good jobs. *Cut Loose* offers a poignant look at how the long-term unemployed struggle in today's unfair economy to support their families, rebuild their lives, and overcome the shame and self-blame they deal with on a daily basis. It is also a call to action; a blueprint for a new kind of politics, one that offers a measure of grace in a society of ruthless advancement.

## Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (July 20, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520283015

ISBN-13: 978-0520283015

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #738,756 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Unemployment #3704 in Books > Business & Money > Human Resources #17689 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology

## Customer Reviews

"Rich... Chen constructs a skilled analysis of overlapping issues rising from differences of race, gender and family status." (Angelia R. Wilson Times Higher Education 2015-10-15)"The book is full of accounts, many containing moving, first-person stories of the impact on individuals and families of difficult work. . . . Recommended." (C. K. Piehl CHOICE connect 2016-01-01)"Cut Loose is an illuminating look at the impacts of prolonged joblessness that accompanied economic restructuring

for a group of long-term unemployed autoworkers in Michigan and Ontario in 2009." (American Journal of Sociology)"[Chen's] in-depth interviews are both empathetic and perceptive... Important." (Contemporary Sociology 2016-11-01)

"Cut Loose is the most powerful and poignant study of the effects of prolonged joblessness in today's economy that I have read. Chen uses his skills as an interviewer to elicit moving responses from laid-off autoworkers on the impact of long unemployment spells on their finances, family life, and physical and mental health. Readers of this blockbuster book will understand why the changing economy, with its increasing inequality, puts families who once had well-paid jobs on the assembly line at risk. Chen's illuminating and accessible study, which serves as a call to action, is a must-read." William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Harvard University "Cut Loose is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the costs of globalization on the ground and the efficacy of social policy for protecting citizens caught in the grip of profound economic change." Katherine Newman, co-author of Learning to Labor in the 21st Century

The author takes us into the lives of laid-off autoworkers and how they have coped with the new information technological economy of the 21st century. I believe that the author himself believes that what he has learned in his interviews presents a landscape of a depressed economic future for the remaining 10 to 12 million manufacturing employees in North America. After reading this book, I have become more convinced that income inequality is here to stay and that unless a true change in the American perspective of value and morality takes place, millions of workers will face the same challenges and destitution of the workers in this book. I am taking one star off because of the author's proposed solution of an alternative morality system. I sympathize with the author in his efforts at a new way of perspective on those who are unemployed and possibly unemployable, one that is more compassionate and without judgment. However, I wish the author had more details as to how exactly that would work in practice.

Fabulously well-written book that is so pertinent to the times we live in.

thank you

So any times when we hear numbers about who isn't working or how the labor market seems to be

changing we can forget that these are not JUST numbers. These are lives that are being impacted either positively or negatively by the ability to have a job, take care of one's self and one's family. In the book CUT LOOSE author Victor Tan Chen does an amazing job of putting a name and real-life circumstance to some of those who we have heard only statistics about---and I think all of us would be better for reading it. So much of what Chen says in the book allows us to realize that not all of us are affected the same by the economy and the ability or inability to have the type of employment that can sustain us. The book shows through real examples how education doesn't necessarily translated into a "good" job no more than the way our circumstances can affect whether we can keep said job. Chen evaluates some of the things that makes this a difficult time for many, in spite of the promising numbers that may have been coming out lately about people entering the workplace. The other thing that for me was really interesting and sad in some ways was that there are some as Chen shares in the book that don't see a job as "good" or even worthy of decent pay if it's not something considered more honorable than manual labor. As someone who knows from my days in the hotel industry it is sometime the ones who seem to do the most work that receive the less pay and recognition----something that is accepted until tables or turned and those with the more comfy jobs realize how difficult those "menial" jobs are. CUT LOOSE shows there may have been progress made over the years, but we are by no means where we need to be when it comes to equality in the workplace and making sure that people who want to work can do so and take care of themselves in process. Definitely a conversation that needs to be had, and I'm glad that Victor Tan Chen is opening up the door to that conversation with his new book

Cut Loose provides an eye-opening contrast between the social safety nets of the US and Canada and how these differences often determined how well laid-off auto workers fared during the 2008 Recession. VCU Professor Chen's description of his fieldwork in the two countries covers a lot of sociological ground, and I was just as impressed with his political analyses and empathetic profiles of the workers (he is a former journalist with a gift for writing, so Cut Loose rarely reads like a dry sociology case study). Some of the most interesting explorations in the book are the ideological roots of self-blame among the unemployed (Chen argues that America's extreme individualism can be destructive and argues for a secular "morality of grace") and the practicalities that make politicians' promises of job retraining unrealistic at best for no-longer-young workers. Highly recommended.

This product cuts through bread like a hot product through butter. Great product! Nice and valuable. Satisfied. fast shipping, send it to my teacher as a gift,

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