

How Good Jobs Went Bad And What We Can Do About It

The Erosion of Good Jobs in America

For decades, the American dream has been built on the promise of a good job. A good job provides a living wage, benefits, and a sense of security. But in recent years, the number of good jobs in America has declined, and the jobs that remain are often not as good as they used to be.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the erosion of good jobs in America. One factor is the decline of unions. Unions have traditionally been a strong advocate for workers, and they have helped to negotiate better wages, benefits, and working conditions. However, the number of union members in America has declined in recent decades, and this has weakened the power of unions to bargain for better jobs.



Overload: How Good Jobs Went Bad and What We Can Do about It by Erin L. Kelly

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Another factor that has contributed to the erosion of good jobs is the rise of automation. Automation has led to the loss of many jobs, particularly in manufacturing and other blue-collar industries. And even when automation does not lead to job losses, it can often lead to lower wages and benefits, as employers are able to replace higher-paid workers with lower-paid machines.

The decline of good jobs in America has had a number of negative consequences. For workers, it has meant lower wages, fewer benefits, and less job security. For families, it has meant more financial stress and less economic mobility. And for the economy as a whole, it has meant slower growth and less productivity.

What Can Be Done?

The erosion of good jobs in America is a serious problem, but it is one that can be solved. There are a number of things that can be done to restore good jobs to America, including:

- * **Strengthening unions:** Unions have a long history of fighting for workers' rights, and they are essential to restoring good jobs to America. We need to make it easier for workers to join unions and bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.
- * **Investing in education and training:** Education and training are essential for workers to compete in the 21st-century economy. We need to invest in education and training programs that will help workers develop the skills they need to get good jobs.
- * **Rebuilding our infrastructure:** Rebuilding our infrastructure will create millions of good jobs and help to boost the economy. We need to invest in projects that will improve our roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure.
- * **Supporting small businesses:** Small businesses create

the majority of new jobs in America. We need to support small businesses by providing them with access to capital, tax breaks, and other assistance.

* **Raising the minimum wage:** Raising the minimum wage will help to ensure that all workers in America can earn a living wage. We need to raise the minimum wage to a level that is indexed to inflation, so that it keeps pace with the cost of living.

Restoring good jobs to America will not be easy, but it is essential to our economic future. By taking action to strengthen unions, invest in education and training, rebuild our infrastructure, support small businesses, and raise the minimum wage, we can create a more just and prosperous economy for all Americans.

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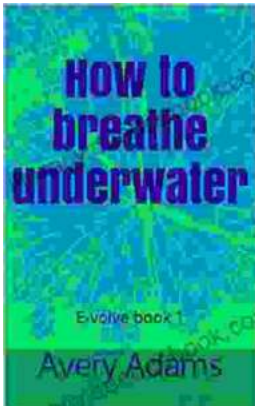
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