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Generation Debt: How Our Future Was Sold Out for Student Loans, Bad Jobs, No Benefits, and Tax Cuts for Rich Geezers--And How to Fight Back

Anya Kamenetz

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GENERATION DEBT ANYA KAMENETZ

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Anya Kamenetz : Generation Debt: How Our Future Was Sold Out for Student Loans, Bad Jobs, No Benefits, and Tax Cuts for Rich Geezers--And How to Fight Back before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Generation Debt: How Our Future Was Sold Out for Student Loans, Bad Jobs, No Benefits, and Tax Cuts for Rich Geezers--And How to Fight Back:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book By The Final Verdict Bought this back when I was in college as part of a project that my Economics professor had assigned me. A lot of things that this book talks about is absolutely true and can now be seen even more as time has passed. It's sad to admit but is the hard reality, if you want

that piece of paper that says you have successfully graduated from university with a Bachelors/Master/PhD degree, you will have to pay a lot to accomplish that... A LOT. I know some people whose student loans are as much as my mortgage loan yet they have just as good of a job as I do... now THAT is really sad.49 of 52 people found the following review helpful. Some Strong Arguments for ChangeBy Frederick S. GoethelAt the age of 50, I have seen the deterioration of the job market over the past 25 years, to the point where there are very few jobs that can be obtained with a BA or BS degree that will not be outsourced. In addition, I have watched as companies sold out their employees for the bottom line and the almighty dollar. It has become nearly impossible to stay in a job for very long, which in turn makes it very hard to pay down student debt.I currently have a child in high school and I watch with amazement as districts push more and more students into the college merry-go-round with little thought as to whether or not they will be able to handle the work, or even finish a degree. At the same time I have watched as programs that would be very useful to the majority of today's kids are cut because the world has become so focused on testing and keeping little "Johnny" up to speed when he should be held back.An example is the auto shop programs from when I was in high school. You could leave high school and get a job working as an auto mechanic directly from school. The programs now don't have the financing to buy the computer technology needed for these kids to actually work as mechanics, even though the vast majority of graduating students will never go to college and will need some type of vo-tech training before they can become employable.As is pointed out in this book, maybe we should re-examine the needs and desires of today's students to see what classes will actually benefit them. Adding classes which will allow students to work directly from school would decrease their debt loading and it would free up college space, as well as help employers get employees with a good solid training in a field that they want to work in.I am fortunate enough to live in a district that is looking in that direction and is trying to figure out what classes the kids of today need to become employable in a global economy without having to become mired in debt while obtaining a degree they may never use.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fast paced readBy dcingramThis book is full of anecdotes that are written in a fast paced style. I found myself skim reading rather than being given something to think about. It presages the student debt balloon of today (2014). It obviously did not head of the problem. The data cited in the book appear to be correct so it is a good resource for someone researching the student-debt issue.

Generation Debt offers a truly gripping account of how young Americans are being ground down by low wages, high taxes, huge student loans, sky-high housing prices, not to mention the impending retirement of their baby boomer parents. Twenty-four-year-old Anya Kamenetz examines this issue from every angle and provides a riveting, rousing manifesto that will inspire everyone to take care of their financial future.

From Publishers WeeklySurveying the economic realities facing today's 20- and 30-somethings, 24-year-old Kamenetz decides, "It's not too dramatic to say that the nation is abandoning its children." Thanks to skyrocketing tuition and changes in federal funding, college students are graduating with an average of almost \$20,000 in loans at the same time that jobs have become scarcer, real wages have dropped and the cost of health care has soared. Is it any wonder that kids are boomeranging home and racking up credit card debt? Kamenetz, who first wrote about these issues for the Village Voice, intertwines an analytical overview of the new economic obstacles with interviews of the financially strapped and descriptions of her own experience struggling to make ends meet as a freelance journalist. Her book is livelier than Tamara Draut's similarly themed *Strapped*, but lighter in its analysis of law and policy. Most interestingly, Kamenetz documents how our perception of the crisis is shaped by self-centered boomers who have lost touch with their children's plight. More of a white paper than a guidebook, this volume doesn't offer under-40s much personal financial advice (that job is taken up by *Gener@tion Debt*, see review below). It does, however, make clear how imperative it is that we find solutions to these problems as quickly as possible. (Feb.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistA new book tackles the 18-to-35-year-old generation's problems--those they face and those they create.Kamenetz believes the younger generation is hampered by the fact that salaries and job opportunities haven't kept up with drastically increasing costs of living. Because of the exorbitant cost of college, many young people can't afford to go, and those who do go graduate with huge debt. Graduates expect to pay off those loans once they get jobs, but entry-level jobs often come with low wages. The job prospects are even worse for those who don't finish or who don't go to college at all--some can't even afford living on their own, another drastically increased cost. The solution to these problems? Kamenetz makes a passionate argument for young people to take action, such as lobbying the government as a cohesive group and being practical and frugal about money matters. Kristine HuntleyCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorAnya Kamenetz received her B.A. from Yale in 2002 and writes for New York magazine, Salon, The Nation, and The Village Voice, where she earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination for her contributions to the series "Generation Debt: The New Economics of Being Young." She has appeared on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer as a spokesperson on the employment obstacles facing youth.