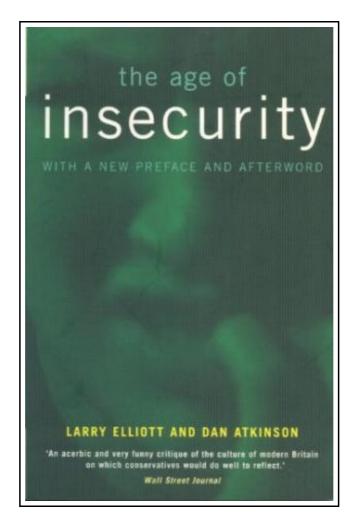
The Age of Insecurity



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Reviews

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THE AGE OF INSECURITY



Verso Books/An Imprint of the New Left Books, London & New York, 1998. Trade Paperback. Book Condition: Brand New. Lisa Billard Design, NY (Jacket Design), Do Diligence, NY (Front Jacket Photo) (illustrator). 1st Published by Verso 1998. 8vo - over 73/4" - 93/4" tall. 312 pp. Copy in pristine state. Synopsis: This visionary leftist critique of the "new world order" argues that notwithstanding the apparent triumph of big business values from the late 1970s to the present, the resulting free-market, globalized economic system is a failure, producing ever-increasing insecurity and marginalization for the average worker. Elliott, economics editor for the Guardian, and Atkinson, a Guardian reporter, forcefully document the extent to which the middle class has been ravaged by downsizing, vanishing career ladders, growing consolidation of economic power by large firms and low-paid, part-time or home-based work. In their assessment, both Clinton's Democratic centrism and Tony Blair's Labour Party program in Britain offer largely cosmetic reforms but leave essentially intact a laissez-faire capitalism that primarily serves the needs of multinational corporations and a privileged technocratic elite. Calling for a "green Keynesianism," the authors boldly advocate fairer distribution of income both within and between countries; reinvestment in community services; price controls on essential goods and services to benefit the poor at the expense of wealthier consumers; restraints on transnational capital flows; and development of technologies to heal environmental wounds. They weave in a freewheeling cultural history of postwar Britain. Despite the mostly British frame of reference, their study will engage American readers. An acerbic and very funny critique of the culture of modern Britain on which conservatives would do well to reflect.



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