

# The New Better Off: Reinventing the American Dream

Courtney E. Martin

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#225903 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-09-13 2016-09-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 1580055796304 pagesThe New Better Off Reinventing the American Dream | File size: 31.Mb

**Courtney E. Martin : The New Better Off: Reinventing the American Dream** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Better Off: Reinventing the American Dream:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The manifesto and handbook for the next 'civic' generationBy E. KolawoleWe will look back on this book and say, "Thank goodness someone was brave enough to write this down."This book rests, for me, alongside Anne Lamott's "Bird by Bird" and Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist".

Courtney Martin confirms that, when it comes to the reigning definitions of success and wealth we've adopted (primarily in the U.S., but also beyond), the whisper of doubt many of us now experience is more than worth heeding. Courtney is also a fantastic writer. She doesn't hint at or brush up against our more profound challenges. She crashes into them, bringing to bear the full force of an expert researcher and wordsmith. She fiercely hugs the reader with each sentence. Each hug is a reminder that they are richly deserving of dignity, community and a path to their dreams. I could go on, but I'd rather you not take a second longer before starting in on this wonderful book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This puts so much of what I've been thinking about into words

By Sarah Kathleen Peck

How do you create a community that you can trust and love and live within? What is it mean to be a woman or a man at the home and at work? How do we define ritual in a world that is increasingly secular? How does this all relate to living a great life and asking meaningful questions? Courtney Martin does an incredible job of articulating these questions, their historical precedents, and ways that everyday people are starting to deviate from the norm across the board. And perhaps it's not the norm after all, but just a dream but never really was in the first place.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Should be required reading in all homes

By Nancy Tripp-Leport

A book all 20-30 somethings should be reading. We have set up an impossibly stressful life for them as the norm. This book helps bring some perspective to the discussion of work life balance. It will take some sacrifices but given what is being sacrificed now to "achieve", it is well worth it.

Are we living the good life and what defines 'good,' anyway? Americans today are constructing a completely different framework for success than their parents' generation, using new metrics that TED speaker and *On Being* columnist Courtney Martin has termed collectively the "New Better Off." The *New Better Off* puts a name to the American phenomenon of rejecting the traditional dream of a 9-to-5 job, home ownership, and a nuclear family structure illuminating the alternate ways Americans are seeking happiness and success. Including commentary on recent changes in how we view work, customs and community, marriage, rituals, money, living arrangements, and spirituality, *The New Better Off* uses personal stories and social analysis to explore the trends shaping our country today. Martin covers growing topics such as freelancing, collaborative consumption, communal living, and the breaking down of gender roles. *The New Better Off* is about the creative choices individuals are making in their vocational and personal lives, but its also about the movements, formal and informal, that are coalescing around the *New Better Off* idea people who are reinventing the social safety net and figuring out how to truly better their own communities.

I've been waiting for someone to articulate what the brilliant Courtney Martin has done in *The New Better Off*. The book poses a question that I believe is critical to our families, our culture, our nation: What does it mean and who gets to determine what a good life, a safe life, a happy life and generous life looks like? And how did we get to this place where to be well-off means to be constantly busy and tired and distracted, disconnected from our families and communities? I hope everyone reads this book and examines what matters most in their lives, and in the life of our society.

Elizabeth Lesser, author *Marrow and Broken Open*, and cofounder of Omega Institute "The *New Better Off* is essential to understanding how to have a better life and a new and better you. Too many of us are sick and tired of the 9-5 grind, of having to fall in line, of seeing success as a purely individual pursuit; Martin shows that there is another way.

Richard Florida, author, *Rise of the Creative Class* "In times of great disruption we are forced to question everything. Courtney Martin has taken this to heart and challenges us to reassess, rethink and reinvent the very notion of what a good life might be. *The New Better Off* is an invaluable source of insight and inspiration for those wishing to embark on one of post-consumer society's most important projects.

Tim Brown, CEO of IDEO and author of *Change By Design* "When a moment and a voice align perfectly, you get a book like *The New Better Off*. Courtney Martin reimagines success and purpose in ways counterintuitive and wise. This is our future speaking the language of our ancestors. Listen closely.

Eric Liu, founder and CEO, Citizen University "We all know that money can't buy peace, kindness or honesty in the Age of Trump, what could be more clear? Courtney Martin is a practical and lyrical explorer in showing us how money as the only measure of "better off" has failed us, and what is needed to create a new American Dream for us and the next generation. Never has there been a more timely and livable book.

Gloria Steinem "This book encapsulates a huge idea: That our dreams of individual success are in urgent need of an upgrade. Courtney Martin makes the case with extraordinary eloquence anchored in beautiful personal stories. If you're depressed about the current state of America, she offers a powerful antidote.

Chris Anderson, CEO of TED Courtney Martin, who's less than half my age, has been a mentor to me for nearly a decade. In 2008, when her second book came out, I called her one of our most insightful culture critics and finest young writers. With *The New Better Off*, I'm doubling down on that praise. Telling compelling real-life stories backed by carefully researched facts all of it couched in her beautifully readable prose Martin reframes what it means to live a good life in ways that offer her generation and mine much-needed inspiration and practical guidance.

Parker J. Palmer, author of *Let Your Life Speak, A Hidden Wholeness, and Healing the Heart of Democracy* Unabashed, provocative, and deeply soulful, Courtney Martin is the prophet you didn't know you were seeking. In *The New Better Off*, she offers a blueprint for living that's radically

different from the one you grew up with. Whether or not you agree with all its details, its spirit will inspire you to examine your life and if you don't like what you find there, give you the courage to rebuild. Susan Cain, co-founder of Quiet Revolution and New York Times bestselling author of QUIET: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking "Courtney and I are on parallel tracks! The New Better Off beautifully articulates a powerful vision of reinvention. My message to low-status American communities has always been: You don't have to move out of your neighborhood to live in a better one. Measuring success by how far we get from our communities leaves a subtle form of destruction in its wake. With this book, Martin presents the profound, impactful alternatives with spirit and verve. A focus on success, filtered through the metrics of The New Better Off, makes it a little easier for the next generation to see their success in you." -- Majora Carter, Urban Revitalization Strategy Consultant