

# IGNOU Books, IGNOU Result, IGNOU Solved Assignment, IGNOU

Home  
The Lathe of Heaven  
The Ides of March  
As I Lay Dying  
The Skull Beneath the Skin  
Gaudy Night  
Slouching Towards Bethlehem  
No Country for Old Men  
The Darling Buds of May  
Darkness Visible  
Kiss Me Kate  
What Dreams May Come  
Murder Being Once Done  
The Golden Apples of the Sun  
A House Divided  
A Great Deliverance  
Consider Phlebas

Posted on 15 February 2017 By Malcolm Harris

## IEBOOK ? Kids These Days ? eBooks or Kindle ePUB free

I ve never been one to blame millennials or make fun of them I interact with a lot of them as an educator and I ve been nothing but impressed They re better than my generation This

book is a bleak look at what millennials have to deal with, but that's not why it's relevant. It's important because the book takes a macro look at the economic trends that have resulted in this generation. That and the excessive policing and drugging, but Harris claims that all of that stems from the exploitation of labor by capital. I think he's mostly right. Millennials are going to be worse off than their parents and grandparents' generations because wealth inequality has increased drastically. So the few that win will win big and the rest won't. However, something else that is very millennial is the nihilism and pessimism of the generation. They have every reason to be angry, but Harris offers no hope of change at all. His solution section is the most depressing part of the book: neither voting or protesting or volunteering will work. Millennials are being told that they are screwed no matter what they do. So if this book is a Marxist criticism of capitalism, there is neither opiate for the masses or workers uniting at the end. Maybe because I am not a millennial, but I think that's wrong. There are solutions. He laments the end of unions; why isn't that one option? He says Sanders couldn't win because they will never let him win. Way too conspiratorial. He also peddles in the DNC stealing elections thing. I guess this is where I break from this group. I was not a Bernie or Bust and I still believe in the system. Maybe they are right and we are wrong, but what are the implications that this whole generation has completely lost trust and faith in institutions? Maybe they are right because institutions have let them down, but it seems like the options are checking out or fascism. This is an important book, but I hope there are like it that are less bleak and conspiracy theory oriented. Strong argument that IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S CAPITALISM. Easily the most important book yet written on the subject. Any honest discussion of millennials ought to start here. In which we see ourselves as the inflection point of late capitalism, or western civilization in general. How will capitalism end? If we look to the daily habits and life prospects of the generation born since the onset of neoliberalism, we start to get an answer. Talkin' bout my generation. Mom and Dad, I don't blame you. In retrospect, maybe seems unwise to procreate during this phase of capitalism, but I still love you anyway. A properly historical materialist critique of social media, very, very impressive, necessary right now. Don't believe curmudgeonly idealists. The media really is not the message in this case. For a generation born after the epochal shift from a manufacturing to a service-based economy, raised from birth as human capital, the kind of socializing facilitated by Facebook, Twitter, etc., is entirely adaptive. In the brave dystopia of our present, there is no boundary between the personal and the economic. Every aspect of life is an opportunity to gain a competitive advantage over one's peers. Life itself is a permanent popularity contest. Granted, the kids can be pretty stupid with their endless pictures of food and so on, but to focus on this to the exclusion of any deeper social analysis really is a form of victim-blaming. This book is a devastating punch to the gut. All due respect to Spinoza, knowing you're a slave doesn't really make you free. Enjoyed this book, but I'd have a hard time recommending it to anyone. I would describe it as a series of essays about how capitalism overworks you and makes you crazy, and how millennials,

born into our dysfunctional capitalism in decline, are overworked and made crazy Harris doesn't seem to be an expert in anything other than the on-the-ground experience of Occupy. If you want to actually dig into the dysfunctions of public schools or independent contractor work or loan debt or the carceral state then he mentions books he's read about each. So I mean, maybe as a sort of bibliography. It's a bit too much preaching to the choir for me. I dunno, in 2003 Immortal Technique wrote the time has come to realize your net worth in the market and stop being a fuckin' commodity and if you didn't understand what I just said then you already waitin' to get fucked and it's still true. If you're a millennial and you're not aware of this stuff then what are you even doing? Trump is in the White House and you're still not paying attention. Damn, dude. And then even if you are within the weird triangle of 1 uninformed and 2 liberal to centrist Republican and 3 willing to read Marxist analysis of current events go read *Brief History of Neoliberalism*, and some *Current Affairs* or *Jacobin* if you want to get mad. There just isn't much meat here. The one useful point Harris does make is about the labor value of schoolwork, which I don't see other people talk about in quite the same way. We often discount the amount and value of schoolwork which children do, because it's unpaid, but it accretes utility. Kids who finish high school now have done work over the course of the four years than, say, 30 years ago, because of factors like intensification of coursework and technology allowing for efficient study. Because they've done work on themselves during this time, they can produce value for their employers. The implicit contract that you educate yourself to get paid better has broken down over the years, because everyone is getting better educated and we're encouraged to compete against each other, and also because labor protections have been eroded. This is not a new idea, but the emerging patterns of workers paying in labor and money to educate themselves and capitalists reaping the benefits are explored in a worthwhile way. The book just doesn't go anywhere. There's no argument running throughout or call to action at the end. Things are bad and getting worse. You should know about it, and be mad. But there's no possible way to change things because they're too bad already.



"The first major accounting of the Millennial generation written by someone who belongs to it." —Jia Tolentino, *The New Yorker*

# KIDS THESE DAYS

*The Making of Millennials*

MALCOLM HARRIS

This book is so smart, so witty, and so fucking dead on about everything that it could ve

only been written by a millennial Here s what Harris proposes how about we look at the Millennial generation the way corporations and governments have looked at them since the beginning as human capital to be relentlessly overworked, brainwashed into a hyper competitive mentality, and underpaid What he finds is so much convincing and compelling that any stupid bullshit Atlantic thinkpiece about how lazy we are The facts of Harris s story weren t all new to me he discusses at length the NCAA players strike, mass incarceration, the inflation of college tuition, endless student loan debt, the destruction of our environment, the over prescription of pills, etc , but what was totally fresh was how Harris ties all of these things to our do you mind if I use that pronoun age cohort The making of his title is literal we were fucking labrats, designed to be perfect social machines capable of producing than any other previous generation, I might add at any time of the day We re all sociopathic monsters, and if there s truth Harris s kind of hilariously bleak conclusion where he basically says that conscious consumerism, protesting, volunteering, and VOTING are all bullshit , then we re only gonna get worse.I can t remember identifying with a book so completely Every other page I had to shout out some line to my warped millennial girlfriend Every person from 20 40 must read this book And every person above that age group should read it, too Though I understand that it s much easier to just make up dumb shit and talk about napkins and pretend like you re morally superior because of a historical accident that made your generation the first to love the Beatles And then subsequently turn your back on Wings, because you wanted to hear serious and artful stuff like Dan Fogelberg Great job Keep murdering your children with outdated gun laws, boomers You guys rule. This book seeks to get behind the stereotypes about the millennial generation to explain on the basis of research what is actually going on within the generation and what is not going on to deconstruct the popular hype about millennials Some of the prior comments on the book suggested that the author provided a fact based and rigorous approach to looking at generational issues Since I have continuing contacts with millennials in both my personal and professional life and have even been exposed to most of the stereotypes, I eagerly picked up the book and looked for enlightenment.After finishing the book, I am still looking and the song Won t get fooled again is increasingly playing in my head My three star rating is generous and likely than the book deserves.I grant the central intuition of the book, namely that the stereotypes about millennial slackers are wrong and that if anything millennials are too focused and competitive rather than the reverse I already knew this, however, and I long ago came to the realization that most if not all popular stereotypes are likely dead wrong even the ones you agree with.I will try to list my issues with this well intended and readable book This list is not exhaustive.First, the author assembles and comments on several lines of popular research in child rearing, education both secondary and post secondary , criminal justice, and popular culture Think Malcolm Gladwell and you will get the idea The trouble with this approach is that the author may not fully appreciate the nuances of the research that he she is reviewing and may as a result draw

oversimplified conclusions, even with the best intentions and care That happens, from time to time with Gladwell although I still read him The alternative would be for a researcher to integrate a body of research for a broader audience, such as was recently done by Kahneman in *Thinking Fast and Slow* Harris has a lot to say in this book, but he has such a broad reach that one starts to see signs of oversimplification that was the case for the areas where I was familiar with the research and makes me wonder about the others too. Second, I do not accept the overall narrative that is used to tie the different aspects of millennial life together In effect, what is presented is a critique of post industrial capitalism that complains about the monetization of everything, the transformation of most jobs and careers into low paying commodity gigs, and the overall oppression and exploitation of those who end up on the wrong side of the looming economic divide between the jobs and careers that can be automated and rendered obsolete and the small number of remaining elite professions and ownership positions I am not disagreeing with the economic trends that Harris highlights I am objecting to the deconstructionist watercolors that are used to cover most issues and turn them into exploitative instances It would have been better if the author had given some indication that he had actually read serious arguments about human capital, economic inequality, or technological change rather than listening to the latest podcasts and reading blurbs in front of paywalls online The details matter the arguments matter Invoking rage against the exploitative system comes across as argumentative flash powder He could have even talked about Piketty s arguments I could follow the arguments but I had to fill in too much for myself and that made me wonder what the author was actually providing. Third, and perhaps most importantly, generational arguments seem to correlate highly with lazy thinking The idea that everyone in a birth cohort will share some characteristics is certainly defensible it is obvious The problem is to show that the shared generational characteristics add something to a consideration of the immediate issue OK, so the middle part of the economy has been hollowed out leaving most low paying and insecure jobs for most people and a small number of lucrative plum situations for the elite overlords and their minions This is happening to everyone, not just to millennials It has been chronicled in various forms since before the millennials were born and these trends have been terrorizing older generations too What does generation have to do with it Again, I am not saying that you cannot find an effect for birth cohort in some statistical analysis The point is in showing that such effects are important for understanding anything. There are other problems with generational arguments The first is that, by construction, you eliminate the need for policy prescriptions You only see generational effects after they have occurred and long after any important causal drivers can be changed Holy Cow Hegel s Owl of Minerva is back Isn t it great when you can bring up all sorts of problems and then blame the system, the boomers, or the capitalists for them and not have to offer any suggestions for change Harris dances around this in a concluding chapter but it is cute than informative. With a generational argument, you can also lengthen you book at will, adding chapters and topics areas to taste

If it happened to that generation, then it is a generational issue. The material on education is an example: Helicopter parents, the professionalizing of college preparation, and the like have been around for quite some time. Tiger Moms and Excellent Sheep anyone? This is a problem with the book throughout. I did not see an area that was not better elaborated elsewhere. Harris mostly employs meta-analysis of survey studies to draw his conclusions. There are few cases presented to show how these trends come together in a real person. The cases presented are extremes that are used to further his points. Fair enough, except that the danger from outliers looms very large when the population of interest is tens of millions of people. It is also likely that the survey results thrown around in the book have not been well vetted to see which results are supportable and which are not. Not all surveys are well done and well interpreted, and popular surveys suffer from this. If you don't believe me, look up recent efforts at replicating pop psychological study results and how they have turned about for the original authors. Given the variance that I am certain exists in this research, I am left wondering how thin the ice is upon which Mr. Harris is skating. Mr. Harris is aware of many of the issues with generational research; he clearly says so at the beginning of the book. But then, he tosses the caveats in the trash and starts off on his meta-narrative on millennials. Some readers will remember what authors say in introductions. A final issue that I will mention here is how could I possibly show that the arguments presented by Harris are wrong? What findings would disprove what he is arguing? If there are not any, that is a problem with the argument in principle. I had high hopes for the book but found it disappointing. Still, there is enough in the book, especially early on, to make it an enjoyable and quick read.

**EBOOK ? Kids These Days ? The First Major Accounting Of The Millennial Generation** Written By Someone Who Belongs To It Jia Tolentino, The New Yorker The Best, Most Comprehensive Work Of Social And Economic Analysis About Our Benighted Generation Tony Tulathimutte, Author Of Private Citizens The Kind Of Brilliantly Simple Idea That Instantly Clarifies An Entire Area Of Culture William Deresiewicz, Author Of Excellent Sheep Millennials Have Been Stereotyped As Lazy, Entitled, Narcissistic, And Immature We Ve Gotten So Used To Sloppy Generational Analysis Filled With Dumb Clichés About Young People That We Ve Lost Sight Of What Really Unites Millennials Namely We Are The Most Educated And Hard Working Generation In American History We Poured Historic And Insane Amounts Of Time And Money Into Preparing Ourselves For The 21st Century Labor Market We Have Been Taught To Consider Working For Free Homework, Internships A Privilege For Our Own Benefit We Are Poorer, Medicated, And Precariously Employed Than Our Parents, Grandparents, Even Our Great Grandparents, With Less Of A Social Safety Net To Boot Kids These Days, Is About Why In Brilliant, Crackling Prose, Early Wall Street Occupier Malcolm Harris Gets Mercilessly Real About Our Maligned Birth Cohort Examining Trends Like Runaway Student Debt, The Rise Of The Intern, Mass Incarceration, Social Media, And , Harris Gives Us A Portrait Of What It Means To Be Young In America Today That Will Wake You Up And Piss You Off Millennials Were The

First Generation Raised Explicitly As Investments, Harris Argues, And In Kids These Days He Dares Us To Confront And Take Charge Of The Consequences Now That We Are Grown Up A passionate polemic that sheds light on the ways in which our society has evolved to make every aspect of the lives of our children geared towards forming them into better workers The increasing structure of their so called leisure time, the ubiquity of social media, and increasingly rigid academic curricula are all, Harris argues, in the service of making children into human capital Though much of Harris analysis is convincing, there s a theoretical problem at the heart of the book Harris on the one hand, approaches his subject with a decidedly Marxist framework, but on the other hand, a lot of his problem with the treatment of young people as human capital seems not to be the darkness of that proposition, but rather, the fact that late capitalism fails to deliver on its promises In other words, at many points in the book, it seems like all of these problems would be made okay if only unemployment wasn t so high, or colleges were tuition free In a lot of ways, I think he underplays the darkness of some of the cultural changes he s describing. Born 1985 Malcolm Harris, it s not you, it s me Well, maybe it s not entirely me and maybe it s some of you Either way, I was clearly not the target audience for this book I do not espouse the term late capitalism , I did not stand with Occupy Wall Street, I did not vote for Bernie Sanders Which means that a lot of your conclusions, I disagreed with That s okay, but let s get a few things straight here that we can agree on 1 Companies are not hiring women because executives can pay them less 2 Bernie Sanders was not cheated out the Democratic nomination.3 Occupy Wall Street OWS did not fall apart because of the police or at least, not entirely 4 ADHD it not a conspiracy created by teachers and parents to wanted to control children 5 Not every millennial works for a tech start up 6 Voting happens than once every four years This goes to one of my problems with the book He would say something that I agreed with, but then he would follow it up with a sentence that would stop me in my tracks Or, as happened often, entire chapters would go by without a point There was no central theme other than things are bad And then he would contradict himself After chapter after chapter about how overworked and over supervised kids are, he then talks about the amount of time kids are spending on YouTube videos, Vines, and other enterprises This would have been fine if he explained how these two ideas co exist, but he never quite got there The worst offender, the one that dropped the book from two stars to one was the conclusion Harris says that a book like this needs solutions, right And you know what, it really does However, Harris forfeits He names possible solutions, and tries to say why they won t work Without providing others that may work One of this solutions is to drop out of the system , whatever that means Overall, the book is too weak, too scattered, too dare I say , whiney I get it, as a Millennial, life sucks I didn t need a book to talk about how bad life is We need solutions. Bleak in both its conclusions and on the potential for escaping them, Kids These Days is still very much worth a read.

## New Post

Death Be Not Proud

Cakes and Ale

The Fault in Our Stars

The House of Mirth

Go Down, Moses

Breakfast of Champions

Pale Fire

The Dogs of War

The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth

Nothing Like the Sun

His Dark Materials

Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness

Days of Wine and Roses

Winter's Tales

The Lathe of Heaven

## Recent Post

Brave New World

Something Wicked This Way Comes

East of Eden

The Sound and the Fury

Of Mice and Men

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Gone with the Wind

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Tender is the Night

Far From the Madding Crowd

A Handful of Dust

The Grapes of Wrath

Vanity Fair  
The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side  
A Farewell to Arms  
The Winter of Our Discontent  
Things Fall Apart  
Stranger in a Strange Land  
Absalom, Absalom!  
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings  
Cold Comfort Farm  
A Thousand Splendid Suns  
In Cold Blood  
Under the Greenwood Tree  
All the King's Men  
A Separate Peace  
Death Be Not Proud