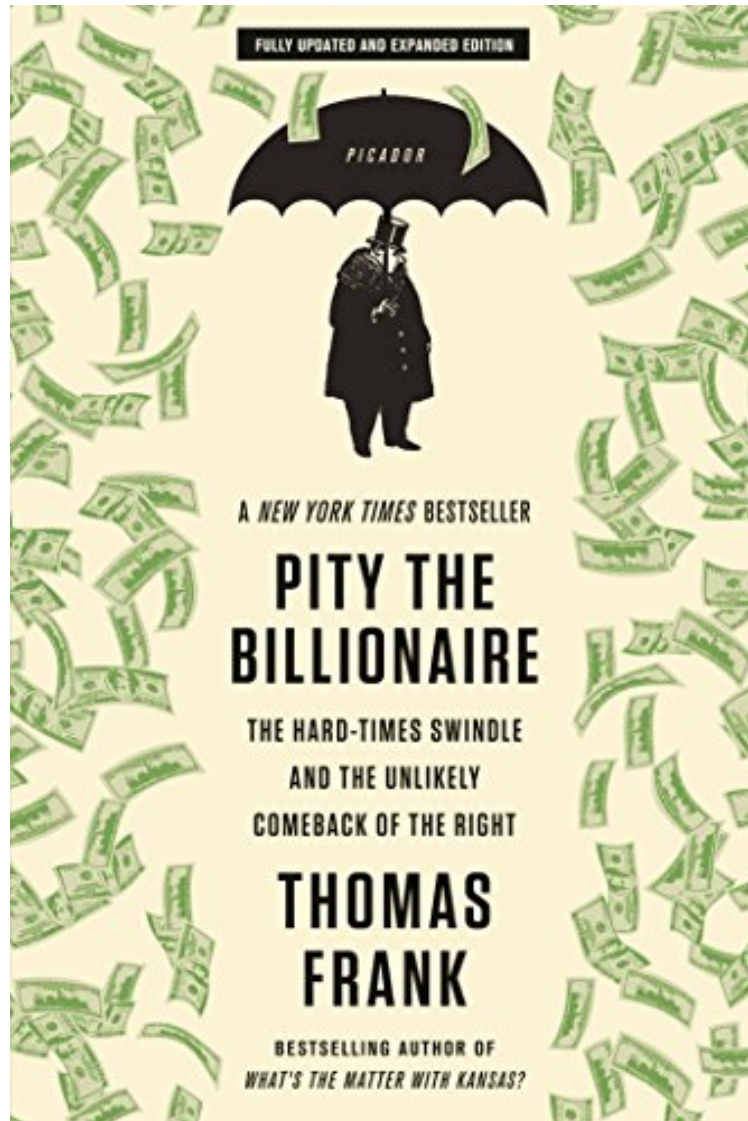


[Download free pdf] Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right

## Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right

Thomas Frank

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**Thomas Frank : Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Our number one social criticBy Mary Ellen JohnsonWhat is there not to love about Thomas Frank and his work? A brilliant vocabulary, a snarky and always effective way of mocking both sides, and a laser-like way of cutting through all the b.s. and obfuscation to the core of our societal and economic

problems. While Frank is an unashamed liberal, in the best, old-fashioned sense of the word, he is harder on today's neo and faux liberals than he is on their opposite. At least the right is effective. At least the right has core convictions. The left, or what passes for the left today, does not. Pity the Billionaire explains why, rather than a return to enlightened and effective policies of the thirties following the great recession, America has jerked even farther to the right. And as Frank would say, "The fault, gentle readers, rests with those who do the bidding of their fat cat friends -- that is, the Democrats." If you stand for nothing, anything, no matter how absurd on its face--and Frank points out how absurd is the populism emerging from the likes of Freedom works and Glenn Beck--will prevail. Only a true idealist could be as splendidly cynical as Thomas Frank. While his prose at times is laugh out loud funny, beneath it lurks a most rare and admirable quality, the belief that words do matter and that standing up to the billionaires and their buds can return America to at least a modicum of compassion, fairness and equality. I am so grateful that Thomas Frank has not become so disheartened as to simply give up and go away. Please continue fighting, Thomas, giving a voice to people like me who increasingly think, Why bother? That fighting the insane right with a flabby, corrupted political party that has long since lost its way is an exercise in self-torture. Perhaps it is. But so long as you keep on writing and keep on skewering our politicians and exhorting us weary liberals to keep on fighting, the least I can do is to embrace your grace and passion and tenacity with a measure of my own.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.  
Interesting Perspective about the Crash of 2008 and Its Political Aftermath  
By Nancy M. Gould  
This is an interesting book albeit a bit dated. It gives a lot of insights into what really happened in 2008, and explains why populists have turned against big government rather than big business. The last chapter is interesting in that it talks about some of the things the Obama administration could (and should) have done differently after the crash of 2008 (as opposed to simply continuing with the Bush bailout).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. We need to be much more discerning in choosing our political leaders.  
By David J. Keefe  
Anything by Thomas Frank is, in my view, worth reading. He's smart, clear-eyed well read. "Pity the Billionaire" is a sequel to his "What's the Matter With Kansas." The thesis is that, while the moneyed class (i.e., Republicans) have laid waste to the economy and many other things important to working-class Americans, they've managed to hoodwink a significant portion of the public into believing that the rich are victims. He makes his case persuasively, which--sadly, in today's toxic political environment--means that few who don't already agree with him will accept his conclusions. What to do? Sadly, Frank's book is only the start. We've got a lot of work to do.

From the bestselling author of *What's the Matter with Kansas?*, a wonderfully insightful and sardonic look at why the worst economy since the 1930s has brought about the revival of conservatism. Economic catastrophe usually brings social protest and demands for change; or at least it's supposed to. But when Thomas Frank set out in 2009 to look for expressions of American discontent, all he could find were loud demands that the economic system be made even harsher on the recession's victims and that society's traditional winners receive even grander prizes. The American Right, which had seemed moribund after the election of 2008, was strangely reinvigorated by the arrival of hard times. The Tea Party movement demanded not that we question the failed system but that we reaffirm our commitment to it. Republicans in Congress embarked on a bold strategy of total opposition to the liberal state. And TV phenom Glenn Beck demonstrated the commercial potential of heroic paranoia and the purest libertarian economics. In *Pity the Billionaire*, Frank, the great chronicler of American paradox, examines the peculiar mechanism by which dire economic circumstances have delivered wildly unexpected political results. Using firsthand reporting, a deep knowledge of the American Right, and a wicked sense of humor, he gives us the first full diagnosis of the cultural malady that has transformed collapse into profit, reconceived the Founding Fathers as heroes from an Ayn Rand novel, and enlisted the powerless in a fan club for the prosperous. The understanding Frank reaches is at once startling, original, and profound.