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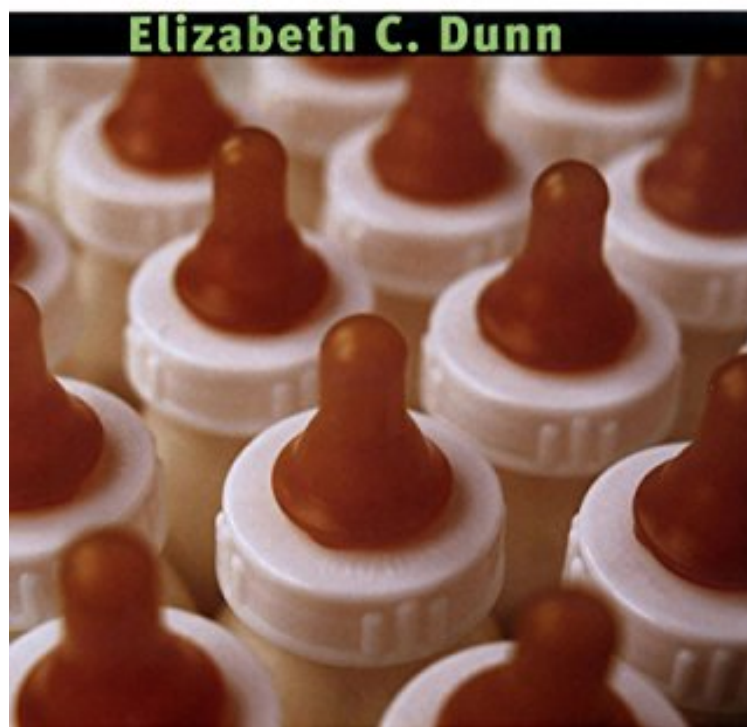
# Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor (Culture and Society after Socialism)

*Elizabeth C. Dunn*

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## Privatizing Poland

**Baby Food, Big Business,  
and the Remaking of Labor**



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**Elizabeth C. Dunn : Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor (Culture and Society after Socialism)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor (Culture and Society after Socialism):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clear, concise, and informational! By WangDunn knows how to write and organize an ethnography. This was interesting to read, even it was for a sociology class. I thought her insights into the insidious nature of neoliberal governmentally were particularly cognizant. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reagan nomics By Tod ToadWow I wish I where more smarter . I understand it's hard to train a human to work for less that's why gerber went to a far away country to get cheaper labor an spread genetically modified baby food throughout the new colonies. I think the raping of Poland an other countries who where forced into the euro union is sad example of denationalizing a culture that's survived many years without the help of "big business" Now in Poland it's hard (expensive) to get the great natural products Poland once produced. The "Big Business" western food an beverage companies ( Nestleacute;,Pepsi,Budweiser,Kraft,ConAgra,Monsanto, Tyson,smith land,gerber.....) have purchased or put out of business most all of Poland's great iconic food company's, and the proof is in the tasteless quality Poland now produces. Poland was known for its great chocolate, meats an dairy products now it's not the fault of the workers or the way they worked it's the greed of "Big Business" that ruined it. thanks to glasnost Poland now has all the worst from the west. I understand from this book that it's really hard to denationalize a country unless your ready to spend it like George sorros did. I spent the time an money to read "Privatizing Poland :Baby Food,Big Business,and the remaking of Labor" and I wondered Why America can't keep its own company's here in the USA are the workers here in America untrained or to lazy to work anymore? I think not . I think the reason gerber went to Poland was to get cheap labor. If gerber wanted to help the Polish people it would have gone to Poland in 1945. I gave this read 2 stars for the tears . One for each eye An I could give it 5 stars for shame. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Awesome By GeographerOne of the best books on the chaos, stress, and culture shock of post-socialist transformation on the market. The research is fascinating, the writing is great, and the whole premise is really cool. Buy this book!

The transition from socialism in Eastern Europe is not an isolated event, but part of a larger shift in world capitalism: the transition from Fordism to flexible (or neoliberal) capitalism. Using a blend of ethnography and economic geography, Elizabeth C. Dunn shows how management technologies like niche marketing, accounting, audit, and standardization make up flexible capitalism's unique form of labor discipline. This new form of management constitutes some workers as self-auditing, self-regulating actors who are disembedded from a social context while defining others as too entwined in social relations and unable to self-manage. Privatizing Poland examines the effects privatization has on workers' self-concepts; how changes in "personhood" relate to economic and political transitions; and how globalization and foreign capital investment affect Eastern Europe's integration into the world economy. Dunn investigates these topics through a study of workers and changing management techniques at the Alima-Gerber factory in Rzeszoacute;w, Poland, formerly a state-owned enterprise, which was privatized by the Gerber Products Company of Fremont, Michigan. Alima-Gerber instituted rigid quality control, job evaluation, and training methods, and developed sophisticated distribution techniques. The core principle underlying these goals and strategies, the author finds, is the belief that in order to produce goods for a capitalist market, workers for a capitalist enterprise must also be produced. Working side-by-side with Alima-Gerber employees, Dunn saw firsthand how the new techniques attempted to change not only the organization of production, but also the workers' identities. Her seamless, engaging narrative shows how the employees resisted, redefined, and negotiated work processes for themselves.

"Privatizing Poland is a study based on participant-observation of the takeover of Alima, a baby-food factory in the medium-sized Polish city of Rzeszoacute;w, by the Michigan-based Gerber Corporation. . . . Dunn succeeds admirably in presenting the clash between the frameworks of flexible accumulation and actually existing socialism. . . . It stands out as one of the best case studies of the process of privatization in Eastern Europe."?American Ethnologist"This is a pathbreaking book. Elizabeth C. Dunn is the first to allow us to feel what postcommunist transformation is all about. Her detailed account of the concrete ways in which people's lives have changed makes dry social science concepts like 'transition,' 'class formation,' and 'privatization' come alive. How are people working differently? How are they made to think differently? How has 'democratization' been used to create a new, subordinate type of worker, as well as new types of managers? Postcommunism has never been captured like this before."?David Ost, author of The Defeat of Solidarity"In this stimulating book, Elizabeth C. Dunn renews an anthropology of capitalism, and will stir debates about postsocialist transition. In the land of Solidarity, management techniques seek to remake labor discipline as well as Polish worker identities in accordance with neoliberal ideals of privatized responsibility. Workers, however, struggle to reclaim values that sustain a moral vision of solidarity. The author's vivid ethnography and engaging style make this book a pleasure to read."?Aihwa Ong, coeditor of Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar"Well organized and well crafted, Privatizing Poland is an excellent addition to the literature on the postsocialist transition in Eastern Europe. Both participant and observer, Elizabeth C. Dunn worked side-by-side on the shop floor and behind the sales desk with those in the midst of the transition."?Martha Lampland, coeditor of Standards and Their StoriesAbout the AuthorElizabeth Cullen Dunn is Associate Professor of Geography and International Affairs at Indiana

Universitydash;Bloomington. She is the author of *Privatizing Poland*, also from Cornell.