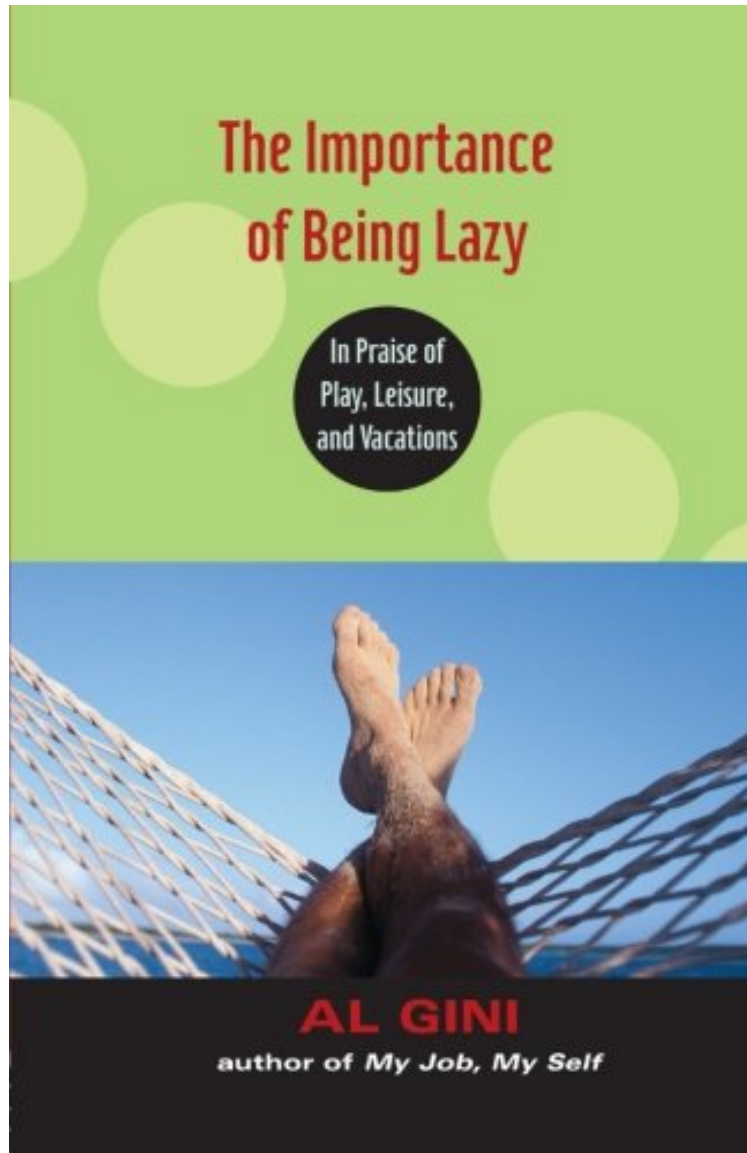


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The Importance of Being Lazy: In Praise of Play, Leisure, and Vacation

Al Gini

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#1285370 in Books Al Gini 2003-05-09 2007-02-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .44 x 5.50l, .51 #File Name: 0415978696176 pagesThe Importance of Being Lazy In Praise of Play Leisure and Vacation | File size: 62.Mb

Al Gini : The Importance of Being Lazy: In Praise of Play, Leisure, and Vacation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Importance of Being Lazy: In Praise of Play, Leisure, and Vacation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy Joseph A. PetrickExcellent book that holds its value after all these years. Well done!!!10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. "Go outside and Play!" the wise and imperative words of my mother.By fdoamericaAl Gini's book is not about the nature and characteristics of Play, but rather, it is a `working' diatribe against work; with only scant attention given to `Play, Leisure and Vacation'. Paradoxically, Al Gini failed to grasp his own message. He needs to lighten up his message and play more, either that, or change the title (a much easier solution).His book starts with the chapter "The Problem," and the problem is, of course, that we work too much; we work ourselves out of both health and holiday. I believe the problem started with Walt Disney and his seven dwarfs, those midget miners who plagued America with that addictive workaholic song - "Whistle while you . . ." In other chapters Gini covers various social attitudes, such as "The Overspent America." This is an interesting chapter on how TV and shopping are the chief cultural activities in America. In another chapter he discusses our national addiction to sports, "the spectacle of sports anesthetizes us to that which we are either unable or unwilling to deal with, in our own lives." Other chapters include: Retirement, The Sabbath, Weekends and Traveling. All interesting and serious stuff, but . . .In "The Importance of Being Lazy," we have a commendable sermon, with serious stats, against work; but, there is little new insight on "how" to play, neither does Gini bring any new ideas regarding leisure that challenge the reader to chill out and vacate their busy lives.So, fellow workaholics, if you are going to be speaking at Toastmasters, the week before Labor Day, then this is the material you will want to quote: "The workaholic lacks boundaries," "We made a fetish out of work," "Work preoccupies our life" and "Workaholics no longer show up for life," etc., etc., etc. On the lighter side consider Dale Anderson's playful book "Never Act Your Age." Conditionally Recommended.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not a lazy readBy Kaeli VandertulipThe Importance of Being Lazy: In Praise of Play, Leisure, and Vacations, by Al GiniFirst and foremost, this book is not a lazy read-it requires attention and commitment from the reader. It is informative and clearly well-researched. I find it amusing that a book on laziness requires so much of its readers.Gini's main thesis in this book is that Americans aren't necessarily overworked, but we are defiantly under-rested. We work more hours a week than anyone (even the Japanese, he repeatedly points out), but take far less vacation, not even the vacation we're due. And when we aren't working, we certainly aren't resting. He likens the need for leisure and relaxation with the concept of the Sabbath, a useful analogy he continues through the book. Leisure time should be unwired, reflective, even spiritual-a way to look at ourselves and grow as people, bettering ourselves and becoming more connected to our communities and families.Gini considers many reasons for us not embracing leisure and play. Primarily, we work too much-our careers define us. And even if we don't let our careers define us, we need more stuff (so does consumerism cause workaholism or is it the other way around?) Even during weekends and vacations, our time is packed with structured and prepackaged activities that claim to offer us whatever we feel is lacking in our lives for a few hundred bucks. And then it's all supposed to come to a screeching halt at retirement. We would be better served, he suggests, to find ways to improve ourselves and become more comfortable with who we are inside than flitting away all our time and money on flashiness (except when he says it, it doesn't sound nearly so shallow and new-agey).Generally, if you have time and attention to read this book, you are not one of the ones who needs to read this book. Perhaps we are suppose to go out and proclaim the good news of laziness to others, or maybe we are suppose to pat ourselves on the back for not spending too much time at work and in front of the TV to enjoy other parts of life. Or maybe we should get our noses out of books for a little while and go play...

Drawing upon in-depth case studies of vacation habits and the observations of philosophers, writers, and sociologists such as Aristotle, Mark Twain and Thorstein Veblen, Al Gini argues why vacations are so venerated and why 'doing nothing' is a fundamental human necessity. From shopping sprees and extreme sports to the ultimate vacation - retirement - The Importance of Being lazy demonstrates that without true leisure, we are diminished as individuals and as a society.

'The Importance of Being Lazy solidifies Al Gini's reputation as a leading philosopher of contemporary American culture.' - Ronald M. Green, Ethics Institute, Dartmouth College, USA 'Finally - a book written around the thesis that "doing nothing" is one of life's necessities!' - Publishers Weekly 'Gini is so persuasive I kept putting the book down to go play!' - Chicago TribuneAbout the AuthorAl Gini is a Philosophy Professor at Loyola University Chicago and a member of Loyola's Institute of Human Resources and Industrial Relations. He is the co-founder and Associate Editor of the journal Business Ethics Quarterly and the author of Why IT's Hard to Be Good(Routledge).