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# Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence And Survival In Honduras



## Synopsis

"Honduras is violent." Adrienne Pine situates this oft-repeated claim at the center of her vivid and nuanced chronicle of Honduran subjectivity. Through an examination of three major subject areas—violence, alcohol, and the export-processing (maquiladora) industry—Pine explores the daily relationships and routines of urban Hondurans. She views their lives in the context of the vast economic footprint on and ideological domination of the region by the United States, powerfully elucidating the extent of Honduras's dependence. She provides a historically situated ethnographic analysis of this fraught relationship and the effect it has had on Hondurans' understanding of who they are. The result is a rich and visceral portrait of a culture buffeted by the forces of globalization and inequality.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (May 7, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520255437

ISBN-13: 978-0520255432

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,535,465 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > History > Americas > Central America > Honduras #3557 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Violence in Society #4420 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Substance Abuse

## Customer Reviews

“Pine has written a path-breaking book that forms an analytical bridge between the structures of neoliberalism and daily life for the poor who live within its midst.” (Estudios Interdisciplinarios De America Latina Y El Caribe (Eial) 2011-03-15)

"A theoretically cutting edge ethnography of neoliberalism as suffered by most poor people across the globe. Pine creatively links macro-structural forces in Honduras to the everyday life of factory workers, shanty town dwellers, gang kids, alcoholics and crack smokers within the context of globalized consumerism and the history of U.S. domination of Central America." (Philippe)

Bourgois, author of *In Search of Respect*"Gutsy fieldwork. A compassionate analysis of the links between work, violence, corporate capitalism, American empire, and self-worth. It will make your blood boil."&#151;Laura Nader, University of California, Berkeley"Using largely the voices of others, Pine's rigorous but sensitive anthropological approach interweaves gangs, work, religion, drink, politics, and even globalization to show clearly how violence pervades the everyday life of many Hondurans. It is a realistic tour de force!"&#151;Dwight B. Heath, Brown University

This book was interesting and I would recommend it to anyone traveling to Honduras or to anyone who has an interest in the country.

Working Hard and Drinking Hard is required reading for people who are concerned about the real-life consequences of globalization and misguided US policy in Latin America. It connects empirical (often times gut wrenching) evidence of the affect of gang violence, and substance abuse in Honduras, without being maudlin. The book is a triumph and a challenge to those "whose compassion may wither" if not put into action. Readers of Shock Doctrine by Naomi Klein will enjoy Working Hard and the real life details Pine weaves through the book.

I was disappointed with this book - it is too loosely argued with too much academic jargon. It reads like a student dissertation intended for mentors.

Pine's "Working Hard, Drinking Hard" left me feeling impressed with her grasp and relay of the often confusing social and economic landscape in Honduran life. Her willingness to grapple with modern issues of inequality, globalization, and violence were an eye-opening and shocking view into modern Honduras. Similarly, the sensitivity and commitment to both macro and micro level issues was refreshing and thought provoking. Pine has a real knack for making often overwhelming issues very digestible to academicians and non-academicians alike. This is a satisfying read that imparts important and valuable knowledge. It deserves a place on the shelves of all persons concerned about and interested in social, political, and economic change.

This is a graduate thesis disguised as a book . It is too short . As a thesis it is ok . As a book it is overpriced . The cover and title are misleading . Very Academic . Not for less than graduate level readers IMO

I enjoyed reading Working Hard, Drinking Hard immensely. I had very little knowledge of Honduras before reading it, but Pine's background information was more than sufficient for my understanding. It is an incredibly accessible ethnography that kept me enthralled like a novel, which I value as essential for public anthropology. Pine's book includes theory but isn't overburdened by it. It includes her personal perspective and experiences but simultaneously greatly values the perspectives of her Honduran collaborators. A fascinating read!

It is sad when scientists allow their own biases to cloud their work. Insights I believed I was gaining became more and more questionable as the author's personal agenda became more clear. If you are part of the choir, then the song in this book will be something you can endure. I hesitate to use the word 'enjoy' since the writing is a dry slog through academic jargon. Bring sandwiches and games if you are bringing your kids...or for yourself. You may find that you disagree 100% with my insight. As always, read a book for yourself.

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