



The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit (Princeton Classics)

By Thomas J. Sugrue

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Once America's "arsenal of democracy," Detroit is now the symbol of the American urban crisis. In this reappraisal of America's racial and economic inequalities, Thomas Sugrue asks why Detroit and other industrial cities have become the sites of persistent racialized poverty. He challenges the conventional wisdom that urban decline is the product of the social programs and racial fissures of the 1960s. Weaving together the history of workplaces, unions, civil rights groups, political organizations, and real estate agencies, Sugrue finds the roots of today's urban poverty in a hidden history of racial violence, discrimination, and deindustrialization that reshaped the American urban landscape after World War II.

This Princeton Classics edition includes a new preface by Sugrue, discussing the lasting impact of the postwar transformation on urban America and the chronic issues leading to Detroit's bankruptcy.

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- Sales Rank: #304299 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-04-27
- Released on: 2014-04-27
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Review

Winner of the 1998 Bancroft Prize in American History

Winner of the 1997 Philip Taft Prize in Labor History

Winner of the 1996 President's Book Award, Social Science History Association

Winner of the 1997 Best Book in North American Urban History Award, Urban History Association

One of *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Titles for 1997

"In this important new history of post-World War II Detroit, Sugrue solidly refutes conservative theories about welfare dependency and deepens liberal thinking about the underlying causes of urban poverty."--**Jim McNeil, *In These Times***

"[A] first-rate account. . . . With insight and elegance, Sugrue describes the street-by-street warfare to maintain housing values against the perceived encroachment of blacks trying desperately to escape the underbuilt and overcrowded slums."--***Choice***

"Perhaps by offering a clearer picture of how the urban crisis began, Sugrue brings us a little closer to finding a way to end it."--**Jim McNeill, *In These Times***

From the Back Cover

"This superb study offers a richly detailed account of the rise and fall of twentieth-century Detroit.... Must reading for ... everyone concerned about the current urban crisis."--**Jacqueline Jones, author of *The Dispossessed: America's Underclass from the Civil War to the Present***

"Sugrue's incredibly rich, nuanced, multilayered account of the transformation of Detroit provides the

historical perspective missing in virtually all accounts of the crisis ravaging today's inner cities."--**Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class***

About the Author

Thomas J. Sugrue is Associate Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania.

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