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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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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

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "[Sugrue's] disciplined historical engagement with a complex, often inglorious, past offers a compelling model for understanding how race and the Rust Belt converged to create the current impasse."--*America*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "A splendid book that does no less than transform our understanding of United States history after 1940."--*Labor History*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "[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*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "Perhaps by offering a clearer picture of how the urban crisis began, Sugrue brings us a bit closer to finding a way to end it."--*In These Times*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "[T]he most interesting, informative, and provocative book on modern Detroit."--*Detroit Free Press*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "Superbly researched and engagingly written."--*Reviews in American History*

Praise for Princeton's previous edition: "[A] devastating critique of the currently fashionable 'culture of poverty' thesis. Must reading for anyone concerned about the current urban crisis."--**Jacqueline Jones, *Lingua Franca***

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 the David Boies Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Not Even Past: Barack Obama and the Burden of Race* (Princeton) and *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*.

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