Urban Planning and the African American Community: In the Shadows

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Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1997, Vol 42(12), 1133. This book documents the many ways in which contemporary poverty, health risks, and related social problems among low-income urban African Americans are rooted in decades of urban planning that created racially based residential segregation. The book describes many examples of equity planning, which develops and implements redistributive policies that generate resources and political power for low-income and minority groups. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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Does contemporary urban planning really address and attempt to solve the social and economic problems of African Americans in cities, or does it just perpetuate ghetto conditions? What have African Americans done to confront injustices in planning? The book explores four major topics: zoning and real estate, planning and public policy, African American initiatives and responses, and planning education. In addition, it includes key race-related excerpts from many essential planning-related documents, such as pivotal court cases and federal housing manuals. Sharkey finds that young African Americans (from 13 to 28 years old) are now ten times as likely to live in poor neighborhoods, defined in this way, as young whites—66 percent of African Americans, compared to 6 percent of whites (Sharkey, 2013, p. 27, Fig. 2.1). What’s more, for black families, mobility out of such neighborhoods is much more limited than for whites. Sharkey shows that 67 percent of African American families hailing from the poorest quarter of neighborhoods a generation ago continue to live in such neighborhoods today. (1997). Urban planning and the African American community: In the shadows (pp. 282-284). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Foner, P. S. (1976). Clarifying the historical connections between the African-American population in the United States and the urban planning profession. This item: Urban Planning and the African-American Community: In the Shadows. Set up a giveaway. What other items do customers buy after viewing this item? The Death and Life of Great American Cities Paperback. Jane Jacobs. 4.6 out of 5 stars 201.