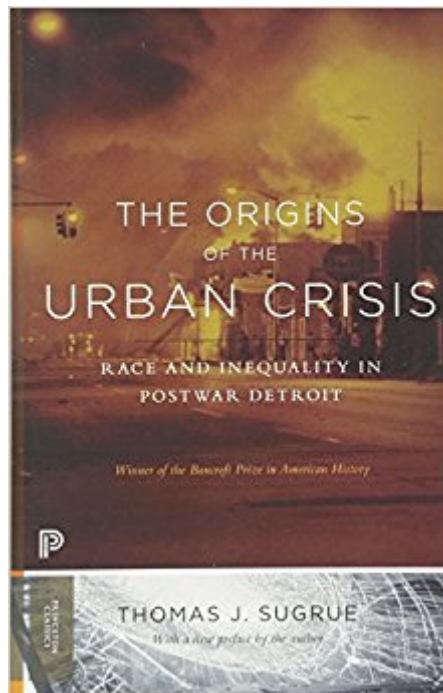




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# The Origins Of The Urban Crisis: Race And Inequality In Postwar Detroit (Princeton Classics)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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."--AmericaPraise for Princeton's previous edition: "A splendid book that does no less than transform our understanding of United States history after 1940."--Labor HistoryPraise 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."--ChoicePraise 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 TimesPraise for Princeton's previous edition: "[T]he most interesting, informative, and provocative book on modern Detroit."--Detroit Free PressPraise for Princeton's previous edition: "Superbly researched and engagingly written."--Reviews in American HistoryPraise 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*

"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* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It often seemed repetitive and disorganized. If it were not for these minor shortcomings, it would deserve five stars. As stated, the information is terrific, especially for a lifelong Michigander such as myself. It reveals the underlying and fundamental issues that have plagued Detroit for nearly a century. Sugrue does so through the corporate, economic, societal, racial, organizational, religious, and governmental roles. All of his facts and statistics are cited extensively. In short, if you are interested in such topics, *The Origins of Urban Crisis* is for you!

Impressive documentation, and most revealing, thorough.

good

I read this book during my undergraduate studies in Sociology in a course that focused in wage

labor and racial inequality. The professor that taught this course was amazing, and him recommending this book for our class to read, allowed me to open my eyes to information I already knew, and expand upon the knowledge of racial inequality in America that I did not know, especially of Detroit. I live in metro-Detroit and while I knew about the race riots, and the extreme barriers of racial populations along the 8 mile line, I did not know just how incredibly racist American history has truly been. I'm truly not that surprised. The price offers for a BRAND new copy is amazing. I rented this book from my college bookstore for \$25. It was old and heavily used. I wanted to buy and own this book, and the bookstore was going to charge me an additional \$25 to own a heavily used book. I got a newer copy for \$15 on here, works out for this college student's wallet.

If you want to know why Detroit and other northern industrial cities fell apart and generations have fallen into a cycle of poverty, this is the book to read. Sugrue explains in detail all of the deals that went down among racist/oppressive government officials, law enforcement, corporations, along with the complicity of ordinary people who destroyed a rising black middle class.

The book is just as it should be, in good shape, and captivating in the language used to describe Detroit and its glory, or lack thereof.

Gives you a clear, concise history of the some of the problems that Detroit faces prior to the fall. Good read and would recommend.

fantastic book that argues capitalism generates economic inequalities and African Americans have disproportionately experienced the impact of these inequalities. falls within other books that explore the rise of the new right, but this book is unique in its focus on suburbanization and race.re-periodizes work on deindustrialization, arguing that seeds of the urban crisis were sown in the 40s and 50s- out of the contradictions of New Deal liberalism. this book shows how the racialized new deal effectively excluded african americans- but the language of rights inherent in the new deal was used by african americans to makes claims to rights. however, at the same time whites were using the same language to make claims on property rights, which redrew racial lines.on of the key- yet somewhat unexplored points is the impact of antiradicalism and anticommunism on postwar America- generating feelings of conformity and setting limits on acceptable bounds of debate.

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