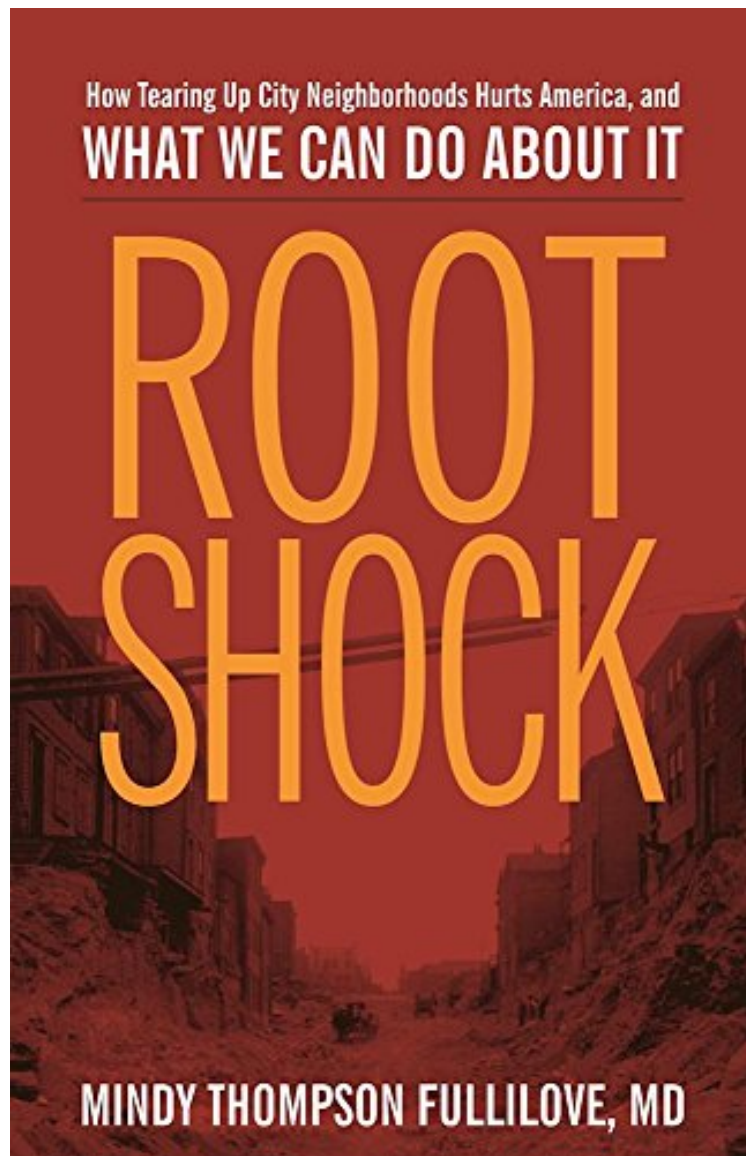


(Online library) Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It

Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It

Mindy Thompson Fullilove
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Mindy Thompson Fullilove : Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Pleasantly SurprisedBy jsmorneauWe were given this book to read for summer reading before school started this fall. I wasn't sure what to expect when I got the book. I was afraid that it was going to be a typical text book snooze fest, but I was pleasantly surprised with what I found. It's a book about people. People with stories. Stories of how their lives were affected by urban renewal. The author gives you a look at these people through a psychological perspective, and from the get go helps the reader understand root shock in a very practical way.I was waiting for her to cover the city of Detroit, but maybe that'll be in a future book that she writes. Roanoke, Pittsburgh and parts of Jersey are the cities she covers.Very well worth the read. Thumbs up.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review of Root ShockBy Huberta Jackson-LowmanThis is a very moving and highly informative discussion of a phenomenon often ignored by city planners and developers. I highly recommend it for social scientists, city planners and developers, as well as laypeople.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautifully written book that provides new and profound perspectives on ...By thomasA beautifully written book that provides new and profound perspectives on "displacement" of peoples. In this case, the black population of certain cities where, under the name "urban renewal", whole swaths of cities were destroyed and the people "relocated". Touching and wise.

Like a sequel to the prescient warnings of urbanist Jane Jacobs, Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove reveals the disturbing outcome of decades of urban renewal projects to communities of color. For those whose homes and neighborhoods were bulldozed, the urban modernization projects that swept America starting in 1949 were nothing short of an assault. Vibrant city blocks—places rich in culture—were torn apart by freeways and other invasive development, blatantly devastating the lives of poor residents.Fullilove passionately describes the profound traumatic stress—the “root shock”—that results when a neighborhood is demolished. She estimates that federal and state urban renewal programs, spearheaded by business and real estate interests, destroyed 1,600 African American districts in cities across the United States. But urban renewal didn't just disrupt black communities: the anger it caused led to riots that sent whites fleeing for the suburbs, stripping them of their sense of place as well. It also left big gashes in the centers of cities that are only now slowly being repaired.Focusing on the Hill District of Pittsburgh, the Central Ward in Newark, and the small Virginia city of Roanoke, Dr. Fullilove argues powerfully against policies of displacement. Understanding the damage caused by root shock is crucial to coping with its human toll and helping cities become whole.Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, is a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. She is the author of five books.

From Publishers WeeklyFullilove (*The House of Joshua*) looks at the effect of urban renewal on black neighborhoods across the country and finds a well of emotional pain in this engagingly written but uneven book. According to Fullilove, the federal Housing Act of 1949 and its bulldozing of neighborhoods to make room for malls, freeways and parking lots left African-Americans at an enormous social, economic and emotional disadvantage. The experience of losing one's roots, she notes, "does not end with emergency treatment, but will stay with the individual for a lifetime." To illustrate this point, Fullilove, a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University, travels to gutted neighborhoods in Philadelphia; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Roanoke, Va., and intersperses her analysis with before and after photos and testimony from displaced residents. "What must be heard in these stories of urban renewal-their emotional core-is the howl of amputation, the anguish at calamity unassuaged," she writes. She laments the disappearance of the overlapping networks that once existed in small black communities: the corner stores, shared gardens and neighbors who "automatically came." Urban renewal may have allowed some black families to move to nicer homes or neighborhoods, she concludes, but "the buffering effect of the kindness was lost." Fullilove is at her best conveying the emotions of displaced residents and their mixed feelings about relocation, gentrification and the loss of community ties. She is less successful in bringing in citations from her own studies in health policy, as well as the work of historically various urban planners such as Michel Cantal-Dupart, Georges-Eugene Haussmann and Jane Addams. The result is a somewhat disjointed examination of a complicated subject that isn't quite for general readers and isn't quite for academics, either. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Booklist*Starred * As a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia, Fullilove brings a perhaps unconventional but ideal resume to an understanding of the cultural devastation, or "root shock," that urban renewal has brought upon the African American community. By the author's estimate, some 1,600 black neighborhoods nationwide were demolished by urban renewal in the 1950s and 1960s. In their place were erected interstate highway networks, sports stadiums, office towers, woeful public housing, and vast public-works projects-- which wiped out black neighborhoods altogether, split them apart, or isolated them from the rest of their communities. Focusing on specific black neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Newark, Philadelphia, and Roanoke, Virginia, the author brings together a patchwork of oral histories, aerial photographs, charts, and personal narrative to connect the dots between a prewar black community that was richly complex and mutually supportive and a twenty-first-century community at violent odds with itself. "How easy it is to hurt each other," one interviewee explains, "because we are not that close anymore. We are not family anymore." Solutions are not easy, of course, but Fullilove puts forth an

aesthetic of true "urban renewal" from which urban planners and thinking citizens can draw inspiration. Notwithstanding its shortcomings of East Coast bias and loose organization, *Root Shock* brings transformative insights to this American dilemma. Alan Moores Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "This powerfully imaginative work by a leading social psychiatrist offers original ideas that sponsor not just a critique but ways to respond and prevent a major source of social and health problems in our time. A book of real importance."—ARTHUR KLEINMAN, Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University "Root Shock examines the impact of urban renewal and community dismemberment on Americans—especially African Americans—and challenges us to respond. This could be one of the great books of our time!"—DAVID SATCHER, M.D., Ph.D., director, National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine "Root Shock is a superbly written book, with a profoundly urgent message. In many ways the book is a mirror of the lost and lovely neighborhoods Mindy Fullilove brilliantly illuminates: courageous, powerful, and unforgettable. With *Root Shock*, Fullilove joins the ranks of William Julius Wilson, Melissa Faye Greene, Jonathan Kozol, and Barbara Ehrenreich—social critics who daringly shine a light on the neglected corners of the American Dream."—PATRIK HENRY BASS, author of *In Our Own Image* and *Like a Mighty Stream: The March on Washington, August 28, 1963* "An indispensable book that deals with human rights as they refer to the trauma that poor communities experience when the cynicism of social forces displaces them and destroys their communities." —HERBERT KOHL, Institute for Social Justice and Education, author of *36 Children* and "I Won't Learn from You" "Dr. Mindy Fullilove, one of the finest and most creative psychiatric intellects of our time, has outdone her previous seminal contributions on 'place' and 'displacement' by introducing us to the notion of 'root shock.' This wonderful, relevant, contextual text touts the importance of urbanization and how urban renewal shredded the social fabric that was a key component of mental wellness in African Americans."—CARL C. BELL, M.D., F.A.P.A., F.A.C. Psych. President and CEO, Community Mental Health Council, and professor of psychiatry and public health, University of Illinois "The eradication of 1,600 African American communities, Fullilove compellingly contends, has done far-reaching damage to the emotional ecosystem of the entire United States." —LISE FUNDERBURG, author of *Black, White, and Other* From the Hardcover edition.