

Cyberhood (www.thecyberhood.net) Book Review

Hartman, Chester and Squires, Gregory D. 2010. *The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2010. 285pp.

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Despite decades of abundant legal mandates, social science research reports, and advocacy activities that have endorsed the pursuit of integration in the United States, segregation still remains a despotic reality in virtually all cities and their surrounding areas. While some progress has been made toward ending discrimination since the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision of 1954, discrimination undeniably still persists with calamitous consequences for those who are victimized.

In this edited book, Hartman and Squires has convoked together an impressive array of scholars and researchers to explore both long-time and emerging controversies over America's ongoing struggles with segregation and discrimination. The book contains seventeen chapters covered in 285 pages and offers guidance on how barriers associated with discrimination and segregation can be overcome to attain authentic integration. The contributors employ the perspective that the Civil Rights Act of 1968, commonly known as the Fair Housing Act still remains unfinished business.

Hartman and Squires in chapter one, acknowledges continuing devastating costs of discriminatory practices for those victimized. They base their conclusion on reviews of current debates over the merits of racial integration and current policy initiatives to desegregate the nation's housing opportunities. In addition to truly enforcing the Fair Housing Act, the authors recommend that a more balanced, equitable development to replace the ghettos and patterns of uneven development are policy objectives. In chapter two, Smith and Cloud identified reasons for the persistence of discrimination and segregation in housing. They contend that: (1) the federal Fair Housing Act could be used as a valuable tool to promote integration and need to be enforced properly; and (2) the achievement of diverse communities has been hindered by the actions of the estate community that include discriminatory practices and must be legally addressed. Nancy Denton in chapter three advances an awesome idea of how current and future demographic changes in the nation's population composition offer possibilities for progress toward more integration.

Chapters four, five, six, and seven mostly offer plans regarding utilization of legal strategies to achieve integration. Pelman, Schlactus, and Goel emphasizes use of the judicial system to promote integration programs. Seng and Caruso support the use of private litigation as a primary approach for enforcement of substantive provisions of the Fair Housing Act, including many of its recent amendments. They recommend statutory and regulatory reforms that would sanction litigation as a fair and just means to achieve integration. Roisman offers a review of government actions and race-conscious treatments that are historically inconsistent with the Constitutional and statutory mandates for residential racial integration. The use of the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment, banning slavery, is an innovative proposal to achieving integration. Additionally, Julian and McCain contend that housing mobility should be a remedy for

the Constitutional violation of racial segregation in federally- assisted housing programs. They propose statutory language giving individuals the power to assert that right on their behalf as a strategy to bring about racially integrated neighborhoods.

Chapters eight through twelve deals with how housing segregations causes educational inequities, acknowledged by Darity, Jr. and Jolla; inequality in earnings, by Myers, Jr., Darity, Jr., and Marsh; child health disparities, by Acevedo-Garcia, Osypuk, and Mcardle; racial wealth gaps, by Lipsitz and Oliver; and racially biased law enforcement practices by Mauer. Chapters thirteen through seventeen are focused on housing policies and associated politics. Deluca and Rosenbaum examine how residential mobility may impact low-income African- Americans in such areas as education, jobs, integration, and long-term residential location. A series of urban policies that have led to the displacement of low-income minorities are covered by Mindy Fullilove, Hernandez-Cordero, and Robert Fullilove; Steinberg; Smith; and Wilkins. They propose that tools of urban design should have a repairing role to play as well as focus on reducing racism and eliminating policies that privilege the white position.

Overall, this book offer s a systematic, organized, and detailed perspective on the multiple complexities involved in the issue of racial segregation. The book is insightful, informative and thought-provoking in addressing persisting racial segregation.

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