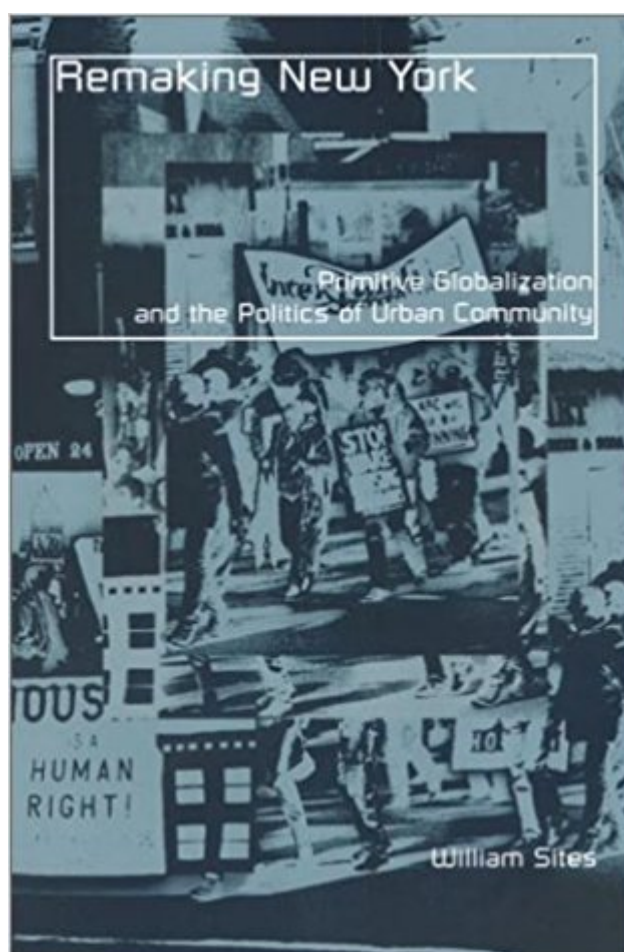


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Remaking New York: Primitive Globalization And The Politics Of Urban Community, Vol. 12 (Globalization And Community)



Synopsis

Inequality increases, instability grows, communities fragment: this is the fate of a city in the wake of globalization--but is globalization really the cause? Proposing a new perspective on politics, globalization, and the city, this provocative book argues that such urban problems result in part from U.S. policies that can be changed. William Sites develops the concept of primitive globalization, identifying a pattern of reactive politics--ad hoc measures to subsidize business, displace the urban poor, and dismantle the welfare state--that uproots social actors (corporations, citizens, urban residents) and facilitates a damaging, short-term-oriented type of international integration. In light of this theory, Sites examines the transformation of New York City since the 1970s, focusing on the logic of political action at national, local, and neighborhood levels. In the process, the story of late twentieth-century New York and its Lower East Side community emerges as something different: not a tale of globalist transformation or of local resurgence but a distinctly American case, one in which urban politics and the state, in their own right, exacerbate inequality and community fragmentation within the city.

Book Information

Series: Globalization and Community (Book 12)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: University Of Minnesota Press; 1st edition (May 9, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816641560

ISBN-13: 978-0816641567

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #888,756 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #156 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Regional Planning #567 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > State #940 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > City Planning & Urban Development

Customer Reviews

...Despite rather heady language at the front end. Fantastic book. I've been reading all I can about NY Real Estate, gentrification and homesteading for the past 6 years and this is my personal

favorite. It's a little heady at first but if this topic interests you, it's a fascinating approach. Also, see Mele, Abu-Lughod, Patterson (for a more eclectic, less scholarly approach) but, Sites, I think, hits it on the head with this idea of Primitive Globalization. And if pressed, I could see the others taking his line as well. While most authors seem to find their own angle, I think Sites takes a universal approach and comes up with a clear-headed idea about what happened. I'd love to be able to summarize these notions into common language - and I probably will - because they're the best, most well-thought I've come across. No offense to the other fine authors mentioned above.

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