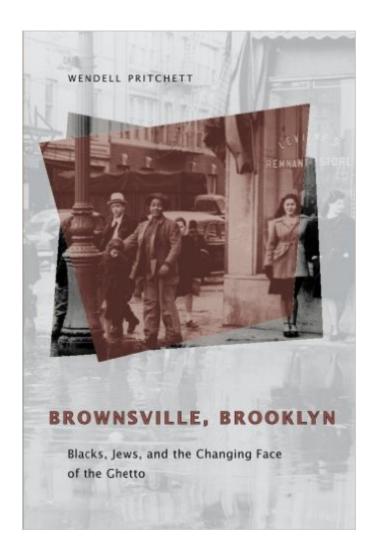
The book was found

Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks, Jews, And The Changing Face Of The Ghetto (Historical Studies Of Urban America)





Synopsis

From its founding in the late 1800s through the 1950s, Brownsville, a section of eastern Brooklyn, was a white, predominantly Jewish, working-class neighborhood. The famous New York district nurtured the aspirations of thousands of upwardly mobile Americans while the infamous gangsters of Murder, Incorporated controlled its streets. But during the 1960s, Brownsville was stigmatized as a black and Latino ghetto, a neighborhood with one of the city's highest crime rates. Home to the largest concentration of public housing units in the city, Brownsville came to be viewed as emblematic of urban decline. And yet, at the same time, the neighborhood still supported a wide variety of grass-roots movements for social change. The story of these two different, but in many ways similar, Brownsvilles is compellingly told in this probing new work. Focusing on the interaction of Brownsville residents with New York's political and institutional elites, Wendell Pritchett shows how the profound economic and social changes of post-World War II America affected the area. He covers a number of pivotal episodes in Brownsville's history as well: the rise and fall of interracial organizations, the struggles to deal with deteriorating housing, and the battles over local schools that culminated in the famous 1968 Teachers Strike. Far from just a cautionary tale of failed policies and institutional neglect, the story of Brownsville's transformation, he finds, is one of mutual struggle and frustrated cooperation among whites, blacks, and Latinos.Ultimately, Brownsville, Brooklyn reminds us how working-class neighborhoods have played, and continue to play, a central role in American history. It is a story that needs to be read by all those concerned with the many challenges facing America's cities today.

Book Information

Series: Historical Studies of Urban America

Paperback: 340 pages

Publisher: The University of Chicago Press (December 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226684474

ISBN-13: 978-0226684475

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #91,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Politics & Social

Sciences > Anthropology > Physical #163 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social

Sciences > Specific Demographics > Minority Studies #313 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Anthropology

Customer Reviews

New Yorkers see constant small changes in their city, and the cumulative effect of those changes can remake the character and composition of a neighborhood almost overnight. That is what happened in Brownsville during the late 1950s and early 1960s. What had been an entirely Jewish neighborhood of sidewalk synagogues and old-world customs became an entirely black and Latino neighborhood. Pritchett captures that period of change and the various players -- community activists, business interests, government agencies and politicians -- masterfully. He tells a poignant story of idealistic neighborhood leaders who fought for integrated public housing to meet the needs of their community and were instead given massive projects built to house the city's poor who had been displaced by urban renewal. This is a great book for anyone interested in New York or urban history generally.

As someone who lived not far from Brownsville in the 1950s and early '60s, I can say this is an exceptionally accurate book. It is well-written and is the best attempt I've seen yet at explaining the phenomenon of the changing urban neighborhood. Not only does Pritchett provide many well-reserached, well-thought-out answers but, just as important, he raises insightful, penetrating questions. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in American urban history, particularly as it relates to New York City.

Don't be fooled by the first part of the title; for this book is really about Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto. Pritchett studies Brownsville in details, but never forgets to see the bigger picture, which should be of interest for any historian or social scientist. Pritchett is very good at giving you the facts, the analysis and the feelings as well. This book is not just about a ghetto in Brooklyn, it is indeed about urban change and inequality.

Excellent history of this once great and now tragic neighborhood (although it does not do justice to the importance of the community in its heyday)

Mr. Pritchett has managed to take this incredibly rich subject matter and turned it into the most boring book I ever browsed through. He should have left it as his doctoral dissertation and placed it

on the shelf to gather dust.

Download to continue reading...

Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto (Historical Studies of Urban America) Face to Face with Wolves (Face to Face with Animals) America The Black Point of View - An Investigation and Study of the White People of America and Western Europe and The Autobiography of an American Ghetto Boy, The 1950s and 1960s Russian Face to Face: A Communicative Program in Contemporary Russian (Bk. 1) (English and Russian Edition) Just a Little Girl: How a Clinical Death Brought a Teenage Girl Face-to-Face With An Angel and Head-to-Head with Her Faith (Morgan James Faith) Face to Face with Orchestra and Chorus, Second, Expanded Edition: A Handbook for Choral Conductors Face to Face Smile & Succeed for Teens: A Crash Course in Face-to-Face Communication Teenagers Face to Face with Bereavement Michael Muller: Sharks, Face-to-Face with the Ocean's Endangered Predator Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship Face-to-Face with a Holy God (The New Inductive Study Series) Blood Relations: Caribbean Immigrants and the Harlem Community, 1900-1930 (Blacks in the Diaspora) White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture (American Crossroads) Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed The Path We Tread: Blacks in Nursing Worldwide, 1854-1994 The Changing Face of Health Care Social Work, Third Edition: Opportunities and Challenges for Professional Practice The Changing Face of Church: Emerging Models of Parish Leadership (Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership)

Dmca