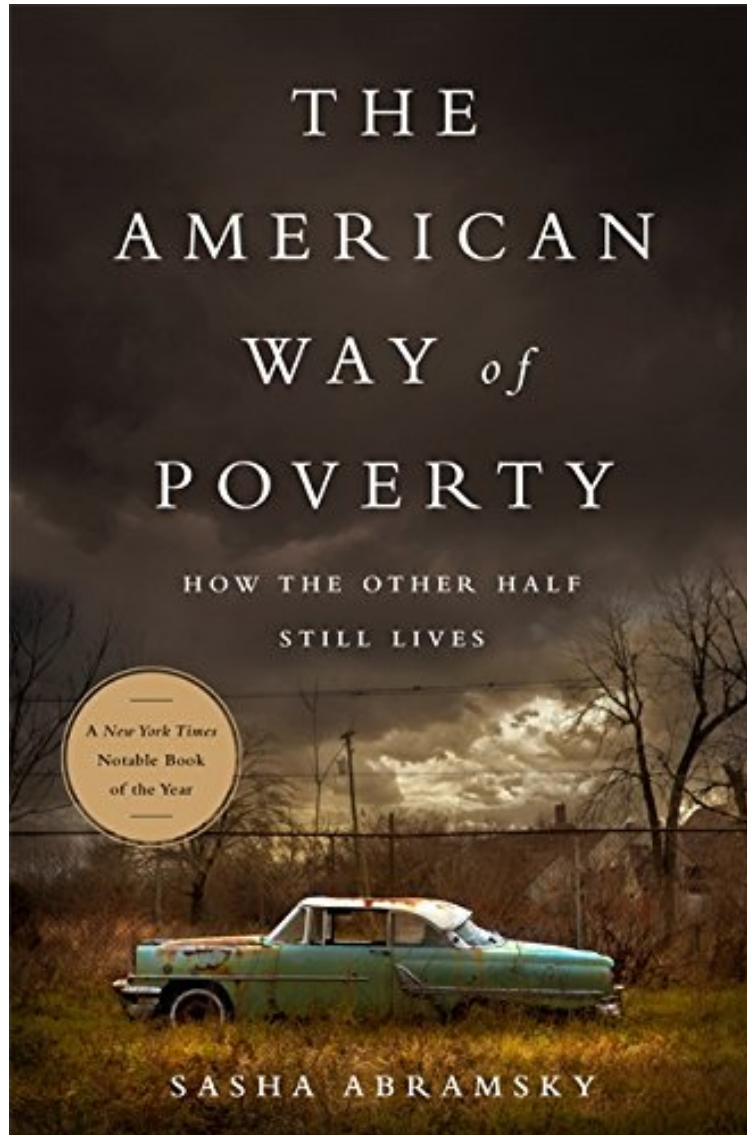


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The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives

Sasha Abramsky

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Sasha Abramsky : The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. very well presented By barbarajeane oriani I was enlightened by new ideas to help the indigent. Although I am a staunch Republican and the ideas presented were left leaning in that we need to redistribute incomes by taxation, it was wonderful how these new ideas would not only empower those that

need the help up but would also help to mainstream them into society and at the same time reduce the ridiculous number of welfare programs that have not worked for decades in the fashion they have been utilized. We can only expect failure by doing the same as we have for the poor, from LBJ's time to present. The present system IS NOT working. Perhaps Abransky's ideas should be analyzed and be implemented into present programs. It is hopeful that a new system might work. It is not only the moral thing to do for those people entrenched in the cycle of poverty but also makes great economic sense for our American society as a whole.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. The growth of Inequality in the US By Robert Williams This is a fast and dirty analysis of this work. I am still in the process of evaluating and researching some of the conclusions the author proposes. Mr. Ambramsky without a doubt has identified the extent of poverty in the current conditions in the United States today. He has well documented this case in current pockets of poverty. As a current member of a board in my community that is working to provide affordable housing for extreme low income and the working poor in my community, I can see where his analysis and the conditions he sites exist in my community. I worked in the Civil Rights movement on the issues of poverty, access to jobs with livable wages and quality education. During the "war poverty" there were excesses by poverty pimps who feathered their own nests at the expense of the masses of folks. However, on the whole a lot of people were able to see their standard of living increase, kids could gain access to higher education and infant mortality rates drop -- particularly in the South -- where there is still the "Shadow of the Plantation". Most of the advanced capitalist countries either subsidize education for their nationals, or have waivers for those who work in programs in the national interests. In the US, our kids come out of college with so much debt that they are forced to try to acquire the most highest paying jobs to retire their student loans (eg. a doctor has to decide to do tummy tucks and nose bobs as opposed to basic scientific research to improve the status of preventive medicine. Our MBAs are running to Wall Street where they transfer money as opposed to building sustainable businesses. Human beings are treated as commodities (ie. what have you done for me Today, as opposed to retraining them for the 21st Century jobs. Some of the proposals Mr. Ambramsky advocates can help raise the poor into the "middle class" over a period of decades. However, there is no political will in Congress to take this up. In fact, the US is losing a lot of its institutional knowledge in Congress due to the fact that a lot of members are retiring because they cannot get any thing done in this dysfunctional environment. The future is still bright. The Millenilals and Gen Y kids are rising to the challenge. They do not have the super pacs deniro, but they are making their voices heard. To paraphrase the late Sam Cooke, "change is going to come".¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read Book For Both Politicians and the Public By John Schaeffer While we have reduced poverty in the United States, there is still quite a ways to go. Poverty isn't confined to places such as Detroit and Appalachia, but also exists in the suburban neighborhoods as well. Abramsky lays out numerous policy proposals to resolve this crisis that exists today. Candidates running in 2016 should read this book and fully embrace these ideas, both on the campaign trail and inside the Beltway. There shouldn't be any hesitation or timidity in calling for a deep commitment to reducing poverty further in this country.

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year Fifty years after Michael Harrington published his groundbreaking book *The Other America*, in which he chronicled the lives of people excluded from the Age of Affluence, poverty in America is back with a vengeance. It is made up of both the long-term chronically poor and new working poor the tens of millions of victims of a broken economy and an ever more dysfunctional political system. In many ways, for the majority of Americans, financial insecurity has become the new norm. *The American Way of Poverty* shines a light on this travesty. Sasha Abramsky brings the effects of economic inequality out of the shadows and, ultimately, suggests ways for moving toward a fairer and more equitable social contract. Exploring everything from housing policy to wage protections and affordable higher education, Abramsky lays out a panoramic blueprint for a reinvigorated political process that, in turn, will pave the way for a renewed War on Poverty. It is, Harrington believed, a moral outrage that in a country as wealthy as America, so many people could be so poor. Written in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse, in an era of grotesque economic extremes, *The American Way of Poverty* brings that same powerful indignation to the topic.

From Booklist Not since the Great Depression have so many Americans been counted among the poor. Freelance reporter Abramsky explores poverty in America 50 years after Michael Harrington's groundbreaking book, *The Other America*. Abramsky offers historical perspective, detailing how poverty as well as social attitudes and public policy regarding poverty have changed. He points to the antitax policies of conservatives that have contributed to growing income inequality in the U.S. and growing concerns most evident in the Occupy movement and protest for the 99 percent versus the 1 percent. From Appalachia to Hawaii, from inner cities to rural areas, from families suffering intergenerational poverty to victims of the recent housing crisis, Abramsky's portraits of the poor illustrate three striking points: the isolation, diversity of people with no jobs and people with multiple jobs and resilience of the poor. Drawing on ideas from a broad array of equality advocates, Abramsky offers detailed policies to address poverty, including reform in education, immigration, energy, taxation, criminal justice, housing, Social Security, and Medicaid, as well as analysis of tax and spending policies that could reduce inequities. --Vanessa Bush [This] portrait of poverty

is one of great complexity and diversity, existential loneliness and desperation but also amazing resilience. Abramsky's well-researched, deeply felt depiction of poverty is eye-opening, and his outrage is palpable. He aims to stimulate discussion, but whether his message provokes action remains to be seen. Kirkus s "Abramsky's portraits of the poor illustrate three striking points: the isolation, diversity-people with no jobs and people with multiple jobs-and resilience of the poor. Drawing on ideas from a broad array of equality advocates, Abramsky offers detailed policies to address poverty, including reform in education, immigration, energy, taxation, criminal justice, housing, Social Security, and Medicaid, as well as analysis of tax and spending policies that could reduce inequities." Booklist "Sasha Abramsky takes us deep into the long dark night of poverty in America, and it's a harrowing trip. His research and remarkable insights have resulted in a book that is stunning in its intensity." Bob Herbert, Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos and former Op-Ed columnist for the New York Times "Incisive and necessary, The American Way of Poverty is a call to action." Lynn Nottage, Pulitzer-prize-winning playwright "Abramsky has written an ambitious book that both describes and prescribes. He reaches across a wide range of issues-including education, housing and criminal justice-in a sweeping panorama of poverty's elements. Assembling them in one volume forces him to be superficial on occasion, but that price is worth paying to get the broad scope... Abramsky has invited serious rethinking and issued a significant call to action." David Shipler, New York Times Book "[An] extraordinary book... extremely well researched and thorough..." Los Angeles of Books