THE REVITALIZATION OF INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS:

AN UPDATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

by

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The multidisciplinary literature on inner cities, neighborhood structure and change, urban renewal, and so on is voluminous. This compilation is really much more narrowly circumscribed: Its focus is on recent urban social organizational reversals of an unprecedented scope. To be specific, the phenomenon of the unplanned, unanticipated emergence of middle-class enclaves in formerly deteriorated neighborhoods (often called "gentrification") and the displacement of lower income and minority groups from such areas are its central concerns.

This bibliography, prepared during the Summer of 1979, updates the bibliography on the same topic prepared exactly one year earlier. The present compilation includes all the core references on gentrification cited in the original plus all the items that have come to my attention in the intervening twelve months. That the number of citations has more than doubled is one indication of the continued and increasing interest in the revitalization of inner city neighborhoods. I noted in the earlier bibliography that, "Despite widespread media attention (indicated by the many
popular magazine and newspaper articles cited below), there has
been little systematic academic research conducted on this unpre-
cedented revitalization of inner city neighborhoods." This state-
ment becomes less true every day.

The broad outlines of the gentrification literature are
reflected in the works cited below. Considerable attention is
given to the causes of gentrification. Why are private individuals
choosing to purchase rundown buildings in the city, renovate them,
and assume residence? Why is this trend so recent and so extensive?
What might the relationship be between such individual, private
choices and public, political and economic decisions? etc.

Similarly, much of the literature addresses the consequences
of gentrification. On the positive side, we find a reversal of
the process of decay, increasing tax revenues, and a sense of
urban optimism. On the negative side, we confront the problem
of the involuntary displacement of the poor and the powerless from
their homes.

The revitalization of inner city neighborhoods is a topic
having important implications for both urban theory and urban
policy. It is hoped that the compilation of this updated
bibliography will facilitate further research.


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