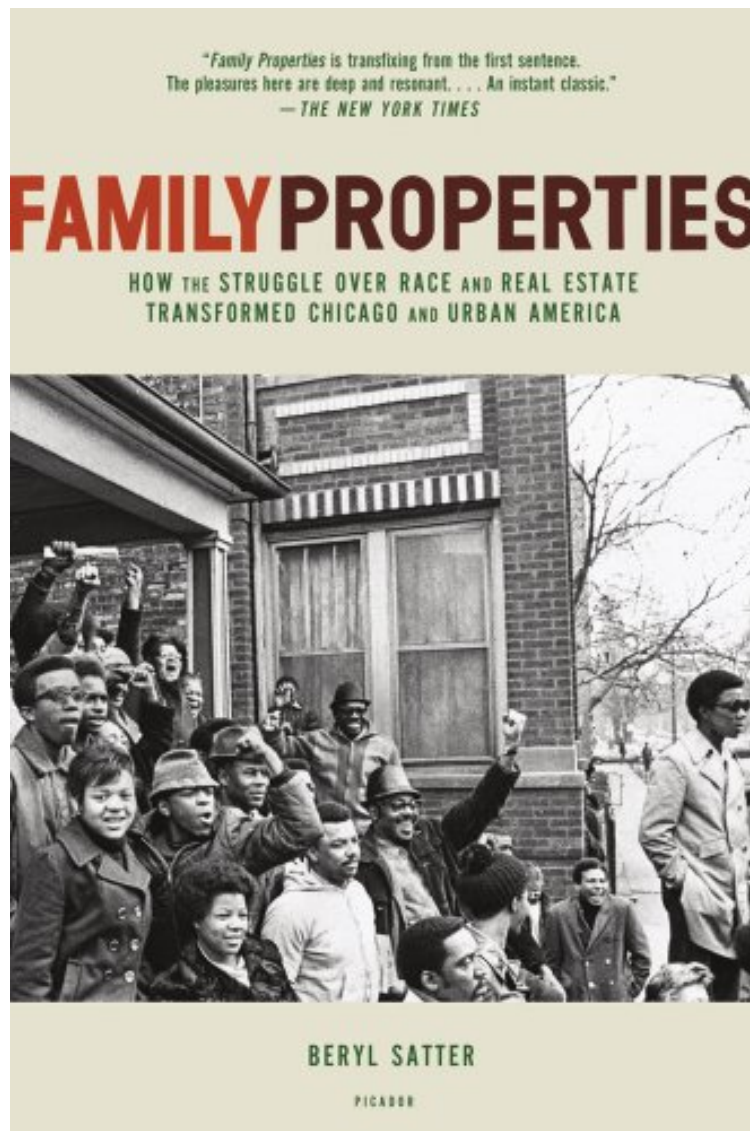


[Get free] Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America

Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America

Beryl Satter

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#55869 in Books Beryl Satter 2010-03-02 2010-03-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.31 x .96 x 6.201, 1.15 #File Name: 0805091424528 pagesFamily Properties Race Real Estate and the Exploitation of Black Urban America | File size: 40.Mb

Beryl Satter : Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A compelling historical analysis
By Simeon Simeonov
This is a well-researched and well-argued book. The author convincingly situates a microhistory of Chicago's South Side real estate market within a broader history of the negotiation of racial relations in the Civil Rights Era. Satter demonstrates that a variety of agents, from state representatives to university administrators and real estate agents championed various regulations and practices that effectively discriminated against an aspiring set of working- and middle-class African Americans migrating from the post-WWII South. These regulations and practices, Satter contends, were one of the main factors militating against the creation of a racially diverse and inclusive middle class in a period of rapid economic growth. However, since Satter is the daughter of one of the actors in this fascinating history - a fact she introduces in the beginning of her book - her interpretation of some of the historical evidence can seem biased and arbitrary.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Imminently readable historical narrative of redlining in Chicago. Rigorously well documented. Recommended without qualification.
By Joel C. Beryl Satter does an excellent job documenting in excruciating detail how segregation, particularly in northern cities, was a consequence of government policy and exploitation by the real estate industry, and how these forces in conjunction with racial animus excluded Black Americans from full participation in American life. History blended with narrative, Satter gives a compelling account of the uphill struggle that black families faced in their attempt to own a home. Often when someone gives an account of history embedded in a narrative, they gloss over their sources and the details that support their account. Not so with *Family Properties*. The book is rigorously documented with footnotes and sources. Recommended without qualification.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant
By Chris Wilson-Simpkins
If you live indoors, or ever wanted to, read this book. Did you ever wonder why housing in America is so segregated? Did you ever think that the subprime mortgage crisis couldn't have been caused by a sudden rash of "irresponsible borrowers"? This warm and humane book lays bare some of the forces that have driven residential real estate speculation since the 1950s, mixing personal stories with crystal clear analysis of the larger forces shaping our lives. Its combination of richly researched detail and beautifully crafted writing delighted me on every page. It is a pleasure that will make you smarter.

Part family story and part urban history, a landmark investigation of segregation and urban decay in Chicago -- and cities across the nation
The "promised land" for thousands of Southern blacks, postwar Chicago quickly became the most segregated city in the North, the site of the nation's worst ghettos and the target of Martin Luther King Jr.'s first campaign beyond the South. In this powerful book, Beryl Satter identifies the true causes of the city's black slums and the ruin of urban neighborhoods throughout the country: not, as some have argued, black pathology, the culture of poverty, or white flight, but a widespread and institutionalized system of legal and financial exploitation. In Satter's riveting account of a city in crisis, unscrupulous lawyers, slumlords, and speculators are pitched against religious reformers, community organizers, and an impassioned attorney who launched a crusade against the profiteers?the author's father, Mark J. Satter. At the heart of the struggle stand the black migrants who, having left the South with its legacy of sharecropping, suddenly find themselves caught in a new kind of debt peonage. Satter shows the interlocking forces at work in their oppression: the discriminatory practices of the banking industry; the federal policies that created the country's shameful "dual housing market"; the economic anxieties that fueled white violence; and the tempting profits to be made by preying on the city's most vulnerable population. *Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America* is a monumental work of history, this tale of racism and real estate, politics and finance, will forever change our understanding of the forces that transformed urban America. "Gripping . . . This painstaking portrayal of the human costs of financial racism is the most important book yet written on the black freedom struggle in the urban North."
?David Garrow, *The Washington Post*

From *Publishers Weekly*
In the early 1950s, Mark Satter opened his law practice in the Chicago suburb of Lawndale, but his life's work really began in 1957, the day a black couple, Albert and Sallie Bolton, walked through his doors needing a stay on an eviction from a home they had just purchased. Satter uncovered a citywide scheme, in which landlords sold African-Americans overpriced homes, keeping the titles until black homeowners paid them off, while charging excessive interest rates to insure they never could. Called contract selling, the practice cost thousands of migrating blacks their livelihoods. Mark Satter died of a heart condition eight years after the Boltons crossed his threshold, but nearly 50 years later, his daughter, Beryl, a history professor at Rutgers, picked up where he left off. Setting out to prove that the decline of black neighborhoods into slums had nothing to do with the absence of African-American resources and everything to do with subjugation and greed, Satter draws on her father's records to piece together a thoughtful and very personal account of the exploitation that kept blacks segregated and impoverished. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Beryl Satter's *Family Properties* is really an incredible book. It is, by far, the best book I've ever read on the relationship between blacks and Jews. That's because it hones in on the relationship between one specific black community and one specific Jewish community and thus revels in the particular humanity of all its actors. In going small, it ultimately goes big."
?Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Atlantic*
"This is rich material... Satter balances personal stories, including moments of great

bravery, with painstaking legal and historical research. Family Properties is transfixing from the first sentence. The pleasures here are deep and resonate ones... an instant classic.” ?Dwight Garner, The New York Times“Satter’s painstaking thorough portrayal of the human costs of financial racism is the most important book yet written on the black freedom struggle in the urban North. Family Properties is a superbly revealing and often gripping book.” ?David Garrow, The Washington Post“Beryl Satter has taken the hard road to glory in her study of race and housing discrimination in Chicago during the 1950s and '60s. Yet somehow she has managed to stay on course, using her considerable investigative skills and unwavering sense of fairness to write a revealing and instructive book... A cautionary tale of government complicity, Family Properties follows the social historian’s dictum of ‘asking big questions in small places.’ It reminds us that history and memory are essential tools for anyone pondering our current predicament.” ?The New York Times Book “This sweeping chronicle of greed and racism combines a noble and tragic family history with a painful account of big city segregation and courageous acts of community resistance. In riveting stories and thoughtful analysis, Satter powerfully discloses how manipulation and abuse shattered lives and deepened urban inequality.” ?Ira Katznelson, author of When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America“Beryl Satter brings Chicago’s West Side to life in this vivid history of a neighborhood fighting for survival. She gives the urban crisis a human face in unforgettable portraits of the slumlords and the activists and lawyers (including her father) who battled valiantly against them.” ?Thomas J. Sugrue, author of Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North“This history of a place called Lawndale, on the west side of Chicago, is an archetypal American story of struggle and rise, race and divisiveness, justice denied and then justice achieved. Clyde Ross, Ruth Wells, Mark J. Satter, Monsignor Egan, Jack Macnamara, and the others-- these are American heroes. I was privileged to be briefly involved, and I’m so glad to see Family Properties, after all these years, that I could hoot with joy, and then weep.” ?David Quammen, author of Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction“This is how the story of urban America after the Second World War ought to be written, with gritty realism and no illusions. Here is urban history as a drama of moral conflict and religious passion. Family Properties is a searing and deeply moving work, by a loving daughter and a great historian.” ?Robert Orsi, Professor of Religion and History, Northwestern University“One of the most contentious issues of twentieth century America was the transformation of middle-class white neighborhoods into African-American slums. The cast of characters is familiar--unscrupulous realtors, heartless slumlords, promiscuous welfare mothers, rapacious drug dealers, corrupt politicians, discriminatory savings and loan associations, and a racist government. But Beryl Satter tells a different story, a nuanced story, and a personal story in this compelling re-examination of a phenomenon everyone knows about and no one understands. Family Properties will change the way you think about history and about causation.” ?Kenneth T. Jackson, Barzun Professor of History, Columbia University

About the Author
Beryl Satter is the author of Each Mind a Kingdom and the chair of the Department of History at Rutgers University in Newark. She was raised in Chicago, Skokie, and Evanston, Illinois, and is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School and the Yale American Studies program. For her work in progress on Family Properties, Satter received a J. Anthony Lukas citation. She lives in New York City.