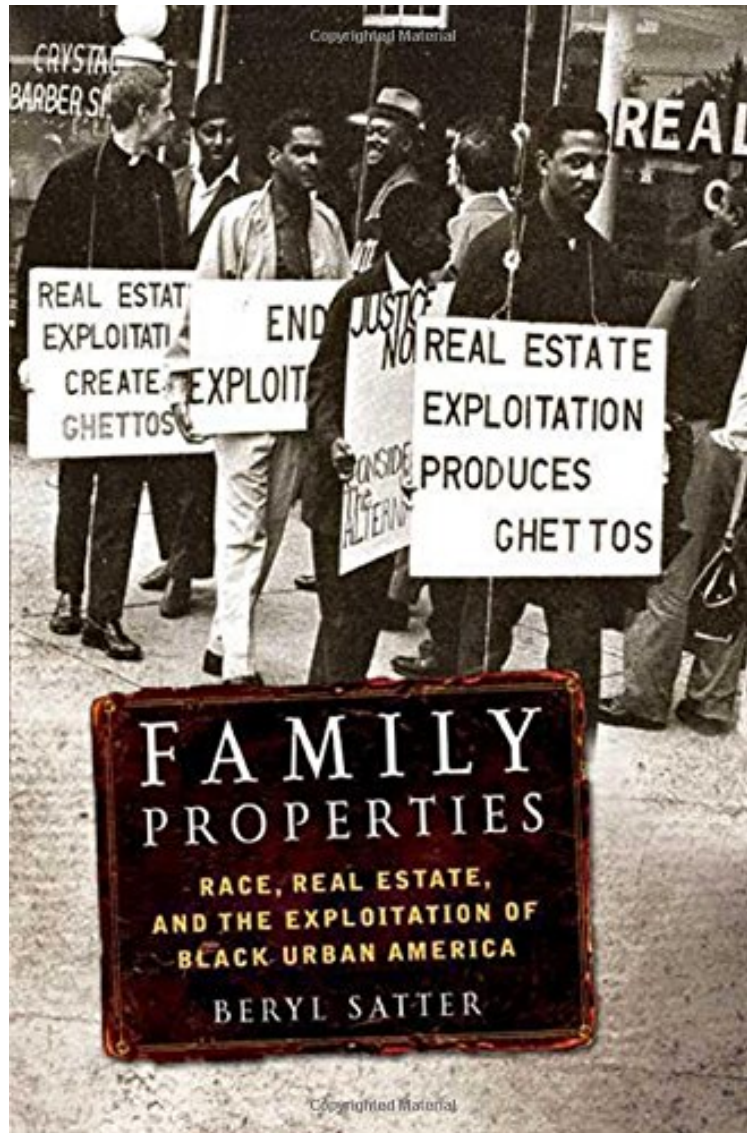


(Download) Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America

Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America

Beryl Satter

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Beryl Satter : Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A compelling historical analysisBy Simeon SimeonovThis 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 a 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. 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.

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*