



Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World

By Sharon Zukin

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Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World By Sharon Zukin

The momentous changes which are transforming American life call for a new exploration of the economic and cultural landscape. In this book Sharon Zukin links our ever-expanding need to consume with two fundamental shifts: places of production have given way to spaces for services and paperwork, and the competitive edge has moved from industrial to cultural capital. From the steel mills of the Rust Belt, to the sterile malls of suburbia, to the gentrified urban centers of our largest cities, the "creative destruction" of our economy--a process by which a way of life is both lost and gained--results in a dramatically different landscape of economic power.

Sharon Zukin probes the depth and diversity of this restructuring in a series of portraits of changed or changing American places. Beginning at River Rouge, Henry Ford's industrial complex in Dearborn, Michigan, and ending at Disney World, Zukin demonstrates how powerful interests shape the spaces we inhabit. Among the landscapes she examines are steeltowns in West Virginia and Michigan, affluent corporate suburbs in Westchester County, gentrified areas of lower Manhattan, and theme parks in Florida and California. In each of these case studies, new strategies of investment and employment are filtered through existing institutions, experience in both production and consumption, and represented in material products, aesthetic forms, and new perceptions of space and time.

The current transformation differs from those of the past in that individuals and institutions now have far greater power to alter the course of change, making the creative destruction of landscape the most important cultural product of our time. Zukin's eclectic inquiry into the parameters of social action and the emergence of new cultural forms defines the interdisciplinary frontier where sociology, geography, economics, and urban and cultural studies meet.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"Zukin's ability to integrate spatial, economics, and cultural analysis--all in the context of vibrant industrial and community histories, and in the service of a forceful condemnation of the continuation of inequality and discrimination in the process of economic change--place her in the admirable company of such distinguished urbanists as Gordon Clark, Manuel Castells, John Logan, Harvey Molotch, Saskia Sassen, and especially David Harvey."

--Bennett Harrison, co-author of *The Deindustrialization of America*

"Now more than ever, and in the future even more than now, everybody's personal identity, and every collective hope, depend on complex mediation between the local and global. Sharon Zukin, in *Landscapes of Power*, gives us a brilliant example of the kind of multidimensional thinking we are all going to need."

--Marshall Berman, author of *All That is Solid Melts into Air*

From the Back Cover

Great social transformations mark both an end and a beginning . In the structural changes of the past twenty-years, Americans have struggled to defined which elements of their lives have been destroyed forever and which are in the process of being created. Swiftly fading from mind are the industrial prosperity that was guaranteed by U.S. dominance in the world economy and a shared middle-class way of life that was accessible by work and skill.

About the Author

Sharon Zukin is Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College and Graduate School, City University of New York. She is the author of *Loft Living: Culture and Capital in Urban Change* and co-editor of *Structures and Capital*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Sowa:

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Mary Fix:

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Louise Denison:

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