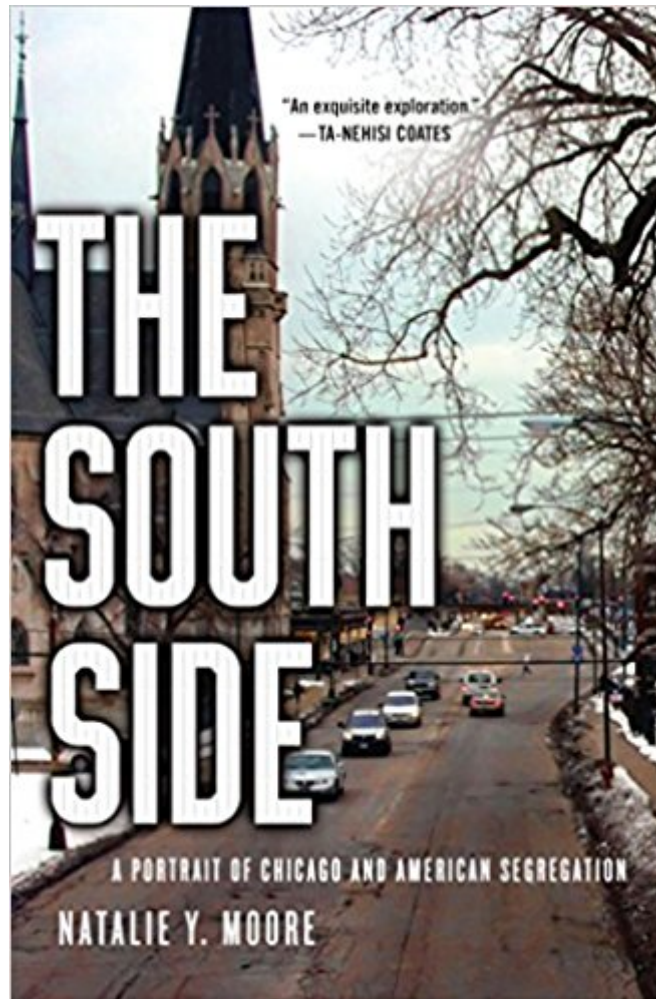


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The South Side: A Portrait Of Chicago And American Segregation



Synopsis

Mayors Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel have touted and promoted Chicago as a "world class city." The skyscrapers kissing the clouds, the billion-dollar Millennium Park, Michelin-rated restaurants, pristine lake views, fabulous shopping, vibrant theater scene, downtown flower beds and stellar architecture tell one story. Yet, swept under the rug is the stench of segregation that compromises Chicago. The Manhattan Institute dubs Chicago as one of the most segregated big cities in the country. Though other cities - including Cleveland, Los Angeles, and Baltimore - can fight over that mantle, it's clear that segregation defines Chicago. And unlike many other major U.S. cities, no one race dominates. Chicago is divided equally into black, white, and Latino, each group clustered in their various turfs. In this intelligent and highly important narrative, Chicago-native Natalie Moore shines a light on contemporary segregation on the South Side of Chicago through reported essays, showing the life of these communities through the stories of people who live in them. The South Side shows the important impact of Chicago's historic segregation - and the ongoing policies that keep it that way.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (March 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1137280158

ISBN-13: 978-1137280152

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,628 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban #52 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Minority Studies #56 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Ethnic Studies

Customer Reviews

In *The South Side*, local resident Natalie Moore weaves three themes into a long taut braid. There are her memoirs of growing up in south side Chicago, garlanded by its history and characters. There is the socioeconomic backdrop which altered that history and twisted it into less than it could have been and still could be. And there is the racism, overt, underlying and institutional that tortures

countless lives. This is a worldwide phenomenon of course, but it is worthwhile to examine it in real terms in America's Second City, which is mired in it, mostly thanks to machine local government. Moore devotes chapters to housing, schools and food, pointing out the overt, the underlying and the institutional racism they incorporate. Her own experience is straight middle class, largely free of racist incidents and overt prejudice. Nonetheless, she has developed into a thoughtful, perceptive and in her words "a happy nigger," which is really fundamental to telling this story properly. The book is not scientific, prescriptive or complete; it is personal and selective. The South Side ends on several positive notes, as barriers appear to be falling. Blacks and whites are mixing, housing is opening up some, and attitudes are slowly changing as integration and multiculturalism become assets rather than taboos. As one interviewee put it "segregation isn't the problem; the diversion of resources is the problem. Blacks need not be desegregated to thrive; they need to stand up to whites to get access to the resources they have an equal say in and right to." David Wineberg

This book seems well researched and is interestingly written. Mrs. Moore provides salient analysis of the issues of racism and segregation in Chicago and other places. Her writing humanizes and puts a face on the people whose lives are sometime reduced to newspaper headlines and sound bites. The content is historical, but it's current and relevant. It's a must read for anyone who thinks he or she understands why Chicago is the way that it is. I purchased the Kindle edition, but I intend to buy the book to add to my library.

As a person whose family is from Chicago and was born there, I related to this book so much. I realized how the politics of the city affected me and my family. The author is younger than me, but I can relate to so much of what she wrote. If you are from Chicago or ever lived on the South Side, I highly recommend this book. Extremely informative.

Really good view on the issues (and some potential solutions) affecting the South Side of Chicago. Brought in history, anecdotal stories, and studies to describe how things got to where they are, how people live their lives, and what it means for the south side and the broader Chicagoland area. Really enlightening.

This is a wonderful portrait of a part of Chicago that few outsiders ever see. It's worth reading if you're from Chicago or really anywhere else that has Chicago showing up on the nightly news.

This is a tour de force, and should be widely acclaimed. She writes with love of the South side, with deep historical insight about the toll of segregation, the leaders who have made a difference, and rich stories about the lives of every day citizens. A must read!

Moore gives a clear, thoughtful portrait of Chicago, a city that is diverse, but segregated. Mostly about the racial divide between Black and White, she does not look past important Class issues that also divide us. And she gives us the perspective of a lifelong, middle-class resident, with a journalist's eye. Her Chapter on violence -- "We Are Not Chiraq" -- is by itself worth the entire book. A great book.

Moore writes with notable objectivity about deeply personal experiences, describing those experiences in ways that leave the reader responsibility for making observations and drawing conclusions based on facts. Her style is simultaneously refreshing and powerful.

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