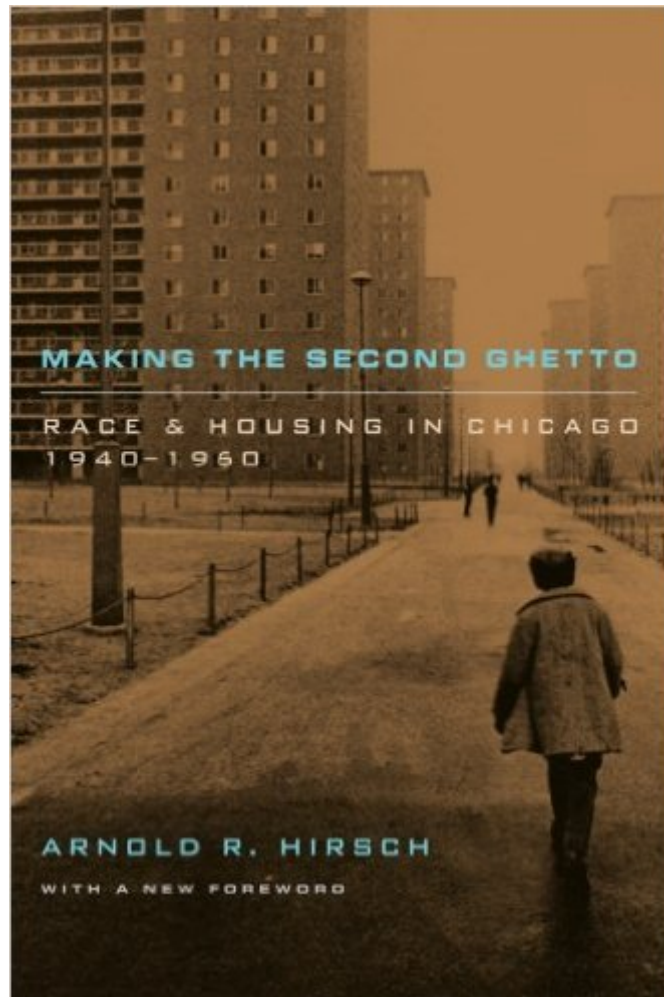


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Making The Second Ghetto: Race And Housing In Chicago 1940-1960 (Historical Studies Of Urban America)



Synopsis

In *Making the Second Ghetto*, Arnold Hirsch argues that in the post-depression years Chicago was a "pioneer in developing concepts and devices" for housing segregation. Hirsch shows that the legal framework for the national urban renewal effort was forged in the heat generated by the racial struggles waged on Chicago's South Side. His chronicle of the strategies used by ethnic, political, and business interests in reaction to the great migration of southern blacks in the 1940s describes how the violent reaction of an emergent "white" population combined with public policy to segregate the city. "In this excellent, intricate, and meticulously researched study, Hirsch exposes the social engineering of the post-war ghetto." — Roma Barnes, *Journal of American Studies* "According to Arnold Hirsch, Chicago's postwar housing projects were a colossal exercise in moral deception. . . . [An] excellent study of public policy gone astray." — Ron Grossman, *Chicago Tribune* "An informative and provocative account of critical aspects of the process in [Chicago]. . . . A good and useful book." — Zane Miller, *Reviews in American History* "A valuable and important book." — Allan Spear, *Journal of American History*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This one is a tough, but important, read. It covers the astonishingly large number of conflicts as the black population of Chicago grew during and (mostly) after World War 2. The book mainly covers the conflicts between 1945 and 1961. One of the most famous being the Cicero riot (more

below). The most difficult part of this book is the extreme detail. Virtually every conflict, from smallest to largest, is covered. You can be overwhelmed by the detail very quickly. Unless you are seriously interested in the details, I suggest that you get a copy of this book from your local library, or inter-library loan program, and peruse it before purchasing this item. Special note for those who live, or have lived in Chicago & its immediate suburbs: BUY THIS BOOK! The Cicero housing riot: This was caused when a white individual crossed the line from Chicago to Cicero (along Cicero Ave.) and rented an apartment. When it was discovered that it was a mixed race couple (the other member being black), all hell broke loose & the riot ensued with the intention of ejecting the family from their new apartment. The goal of the populace was to keep the line between Chicago & Cicero a hard demographic line between Black (Chicago) and White (Cicero). The book details the incremental growth of the ghetto on the West Side of Chicago as it grew from Black population pressure. It also details some of the initial attempts at Slum Clearance. (See also: Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing, for more details.) The problem here is that as the slums were either cleared (Slum Clearance), or re-created (the high rise Housing Projects), the city lost its tax base & many institutions that depended on paying customers began to fail.

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