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Craig Willse

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THE VALUE OF HOMELESSNESS

MANAGING SURPLUS LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

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#895114 in Books 2015-09-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.40 x .60 x 5.40l, .0 #File Name: 081669348X240 pages | File size: 57.Mb

Craig Willse : The Value of Homelessness: Managing Surplus Life in the United States (Difference Incorporated) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Value of Homelessness: Managing Surplus Life in the United States (Difference Incorporated):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Homelessness is Housing Deprivation, Not Anything Else! By Tennessee Reader Willse's argument is clear: homelessness is an issue of housing lack, if not deprivation. To treat homelessness as a "pathology" treats individuals and families as in need of "treatment," or must be "managed." Blaming the victim blinds the system and its leaders from effective change and permanent solutions. I give this book four stars not because of any lack of knowledge, insight and/or understanding by the author. The four stars represents my inability to grasp the wealth of scholarly backbone that holds the book's argument together. I will reread in order to give the full respect it deserves. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book helped me better understand the subject. By @DrCarlHoffman I am retired and served as a pastor of two churches that had a steady influx of people requesting help. We provided what we considered to be help such as; food, clothing, and transportation. I felt what we were doing was inadequate because we were financially unable to provide housing. The population that was in need became larger during the 1980's. This book provided answers to my questions and hope for my heart. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Challenging to face: Homelessness is big business. By Professor A good discussion of the impact of social services and policy on homelessness. The homeless are not necessarily who we think they are and this book challenges how we are handling this problem (criminalizing behavior). It's easy to see the parallel to the prison industry.

It is all too easy to assume that social service programs respond to homelessness, seeking to prevent and understand it. *The Value of Homelessness*, however, argues that homelessness today is an effect of social services and sciences, which shape not only what counts as such but what will? or ultimately won't? be done about it. Through a history of U.S. housing insecurity from the 1930s to the present, Craig Willse traces the emergence and consolidation of a homeless services industry. How to most efficiently allocate resources to control ongoing insecurity has become the goal, he shows, rather than how to eradicate the social, economic, and political bases of housing needs. Drawing on his own years of work in homeless advocacy and activist settings, as well as interviews conducted with program managers, counselors, and staff at homeless services organizations in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, Willse provides the first analysis of how housing insecurity becomes organized as a governable social problem. An unprecedented and powerful historical account of the development of contemporary ideas about homelessness and how to manage homelessness, *The Value of Homelessness* offers new ways for students and scholars of social work, urban inequality, racial capitalism, and political theory to comprehend the central role of homelessness in governance and economy today.

"Finally, in all the work done on homelessness, Craig Willse puts the focus on the complexity of violence and the ways in which housing intersects with poverty, class, sexuality, and, especially, race." Vincent Lyon-Callo, Western Michigan University