

**A Book Review:**

**HOMES ABOVE ALL: HOMELESSNESS AND MISALLOCATION OF GLOBAL RESOURCES** by The Building and Social Housing Foundation. Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicester, England: Russell Press Ltd., 1987, 235 pp (paperback).

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It was Peter Elderfield, Director of the building and Social Housing Foundation, who had the idea to develop this handbook while he lay critically ill in a mission hospital in Africa. According to Elderfield, the contributors, all 17 of them, were selected because of their "independence of thought and cogency of argument." Elderfield's desire to make a statement during the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless centers around his belief that there has and continues to be a misallocation of the world's resources.

The contributors to this handbook represent eight different countries. They detail the need to invest a larger percentage of the world's resources on shelter for people rather than excessive military and bureaucratic expenditures. An inordinate amount of time is spent discussing the misallocation of resources due to military spending. However, other important topics such as housing the rural poor, human creativity, and investing in women are discussed.

The handbook does an outstanding job of identifying the causes and consequences of the current misallocation of global resources and attempts to present ways to improve the present situation. More concrete ways of improving the plight of third-world countries would add value to this handbook.

Homes Above All is a good resource for those interested in housing within developing countries. It is also be useful as reading material for upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses investigating the allocation of world resources. One should be cautioned, however, that the solutions to a redirection of world resources as presented in the handbook should be more specific and practical in nature.

In summary, this book would be a good addition to your housing library. It may challenge you to develop concrete strategies to alleviate the waste of scarce resources through military expenditures, misuse of developmental aid, and bureaucratic and administrative processes and delays.

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