

A Book Review:

***HOUSING ISSUES OF THE 1990s* by Sara Rosenberry and Chester Hartman, Editors. New York: Praeger, 1989, 382 pages.**

Marjorie Inman

The editors begin by presenting a summary of the objectives of housing issues of the 1990s. Over the past 40 years housing policy initiatives have been divided into a dual or "two-tier" system. One level consists of the private sector for those individuals able to pay the price of housing units. The second level contains those unable to meet the rising costs of housing. The housing crisis of the early and mid-1980s brought national attention to this second, inadequate level of available housing.

In May of 1985 the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University held a conference to consider issues raised by the housing crisis of the 1980s. It was jointly sponsored by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, the Urban Affairs and Planning Program, and the Institute for Policy Studies. This book is a compilation of outstanding papers from that conference. The twenty-six selected papers fall into three topical groups: 1) criteria for evaluating the nation's aggregate housing stock, 2) characteristics and problems of groups with special housing needs, including consequences of policies which attempt to target resources and attention to these groups, and 3) policies and strategies designed to address the needs of households for whom the current market system is inadequate.

Housing Issue of the 1990s contributes to the dialogue on numerous issues relating to the adequacy of the nation's housing stock, the need for special targeting programs, and the range of programs that could be developed to improve available housing options for groups unable to compete successfully in the open housing market.

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