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BETWEEN EMINENCE & NOTORIETY Four Decades of Radical Urban Planning

Chester Hartman

Throughout the mad spree of vandalism, deceptions, and waste known as urban renewal and slum clearance, Chester Hartman's was a voice of sanity, caution, and compassion. . . . Readers of this book hold in their hands salient parts of Chester Hartman's own archive. Both his introductory memoir and the writings that make up the body of the book are history conscious, and all the more valuable for that reason.

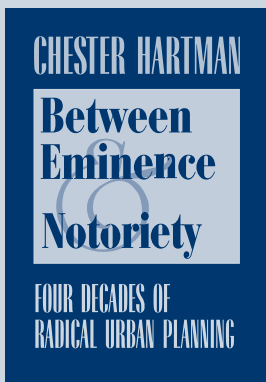
— JANE JACOBS
Foreword

BETWEEN EMINENCE & NOTORIETY

Four Decades of Radical Urban Planning

CHESTER HARTMAN

with a Foreword by
JANE JACOBS



In a career that spanned America's turbulent journey from urban renewal through the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, the affluent eighties, and the ever-widening economic chasm that engulfed whole populations as the United States entered the twenty-first century, Chester Hartman has been front and center with the energy and commitment that propelled his life's work as an urban planner and social activist.

In a 56-page autobiographical essay, Hartman contextualizes his work in the events of the time, reveals the motivations and perspective that drive his passions, and focuses a spotlight on the frailty and foibles of the planning and policy professions. The essay sets the stage for the anthology of Hartman's writings that follow, organized into five parts: DISPLACEMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL; HOUSING PROBLEMS AND POLICIES; ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM; POVERTY AND RACE; and PLANNING EDUCATION. In thirty-two colorful, no-holds-barred chapters, the reader accompanies Hartman through four decades of planning and activism for social equity. Now executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Poverty & Race Research Action Council, Hartman chronicles his work from Boston to San Francisco; from Cuba to Paris; from a focus on gentrification and displacement to public and military-family housing; from interactions with Daniel Patrick Moynihan and James Q. Wilson to Paul Davidoff and Harvey Milk; from his work with Urban Planning Aid in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the formation of the Planners Network.

Whether you are a student, educator, practitioner, historian, or political activist, these essays will inform, delight, and inspire.

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“Years ago, someone I did not know began her review of one of my books as follows: ‘Chester Hartman is one of those scholar-activists whose career has struck a balance between eminence and notoriety.’ I thought that rather nicely captured not only a reality but what I consciously have been striving for as an urban planner, an academic, and political activist. . . .”

Quality problems still plague all too many planning programs; the field—its students, faculty, and practitioners—still has far too few minorities; student participation in key decisions still is inadequate; the profession still lacks a clear definition; planning education is still insufficiently linked to other graduate school departments; the roles of politics and advocacy are poorly defined and integrated; and insufficient emphasis is given to the most pressing urban problems: poverty and racism, and their intersection.”



*CHESTER HARTMAN, founder and former chair of the Planners Network, is president and executive director of the Poverty & Race Research Action Council in Washington, D.C. He holds a Ph.D. in city and regional planning from Harvard University and has served on the faculty there as well as at Yale, the University of North Carolina, Cornell, Columbia, and the University of California—Berkeley. Dr. Hartman has served as a consultant to numerous public and private agencies, including HUD, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the Urban Coalition, and the Legal Aid Society of New York. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books (most recently, **City for Sale: The Transformation of San Francisco** [University of California Press, 2002]), and his writings have been published widely in academic and professional journals as well as in the popular press. In 2001, he received the Robert and Helen Lynd Award at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.*

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