



The Underclass

By Ken Auletta

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The Underclass By Ken Auletta Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Ken Auletta's *The Underclass*, first published in 1982, proposes to uncover who constitutes the poorest of Americans, and how they might best be aided by government and industry. While updated and revised to consider changes in both poverty and policy over the past 20 years, the book remains centered on Auletta's research of the late 1970s. Auletta, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, focuses primarily on the very poor students attending basic skills classes through the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC), a Manhattan-based antipoverty nonprofit that had been having good results helping members of the "underclass" become working members of society. For contrasting examples, he also briefly explores the extreme poverty of whites living in Appalachia and rural blacks in Mississippi. The problems he finds are complex, but not necessarily intractable. Positioning himself as neither a liberal or a conservative, Auletta calls himself "too optimistic to accept the laissez-faire theory, and too pessimistic to embrace wholesale government solutions." Instead, he encourages programs such as the MDRC, which use what he calls a "tough love" approach to helping the very poor. How many people constitute "the underclass"? What role does race play? Who is responsible for the problem of poverty in America? Readers who ask these questions will find answers, and much to debate, in this well-researched study. --*Maria Dolan*

From Library Journal

LJ's reviewer dubbed this 1982 volume, now out of print, "a moving narrative on the American 'underclass' that 30 percent of the nation's poor who cannot readily enter the mainstream." In this updated edition, the author adds an analysis of the situation since the original publication. (LJ 5/1/82)
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Darlene Johnson:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you that The Underclass book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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