

Segregation by Design

Segregation by Design draws on more than 100 years of quantitative and qualitative data from thousands of American cities to explore how local governments generate race and class segregation. Since the early twentieth century, cities have used their power of land use control to determine the location and availability of housing, amenities (such as parks), and negative land uses (such as landfills). The result has been segregation – first within cities and more recently between them. Documenting changing patterns of segregation and their political mechanisms, Trounstone argues that city governments have pursued these policies to enhance the wealth and resources of white property owners at the expense of people of color and the poor. Contrary to leading theories of urban politics, local democracy has not functioned to represent all residents. The result is unequal access to fundamental local services – from schools, to safe neighborhoods, to clean water.

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Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities

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University of California, Merced



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For Brian

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Acknowledgments

This book began in 2008 as a debate with Brian, my then partner, now spouse, while we were on a walk by the ocean in Half Moon Bay, California. We argued over the extent to which private control of coastal land would generate unequal access to the beaches and whether or not this was an important public policy concern. As this seemed like a straightforward question about control of local public goods, I went looking for evidence to support my perspective in the political science literature. I found unsatisfying answers. As I ventured into the puzzle, I realized that I had to wrestle with more essential questions about the relationship between land use control and inequality first. This book is the result of that quest. Throughout the process, Brian's views of the world, his unwillingness to adopt my perspective without evidence, and his unyielding support of my career made this work both exciting and possible. And it is to him that I dedicate this book. I am grateful for the life we have built and for the mooring that our marriage has provided in the journey.

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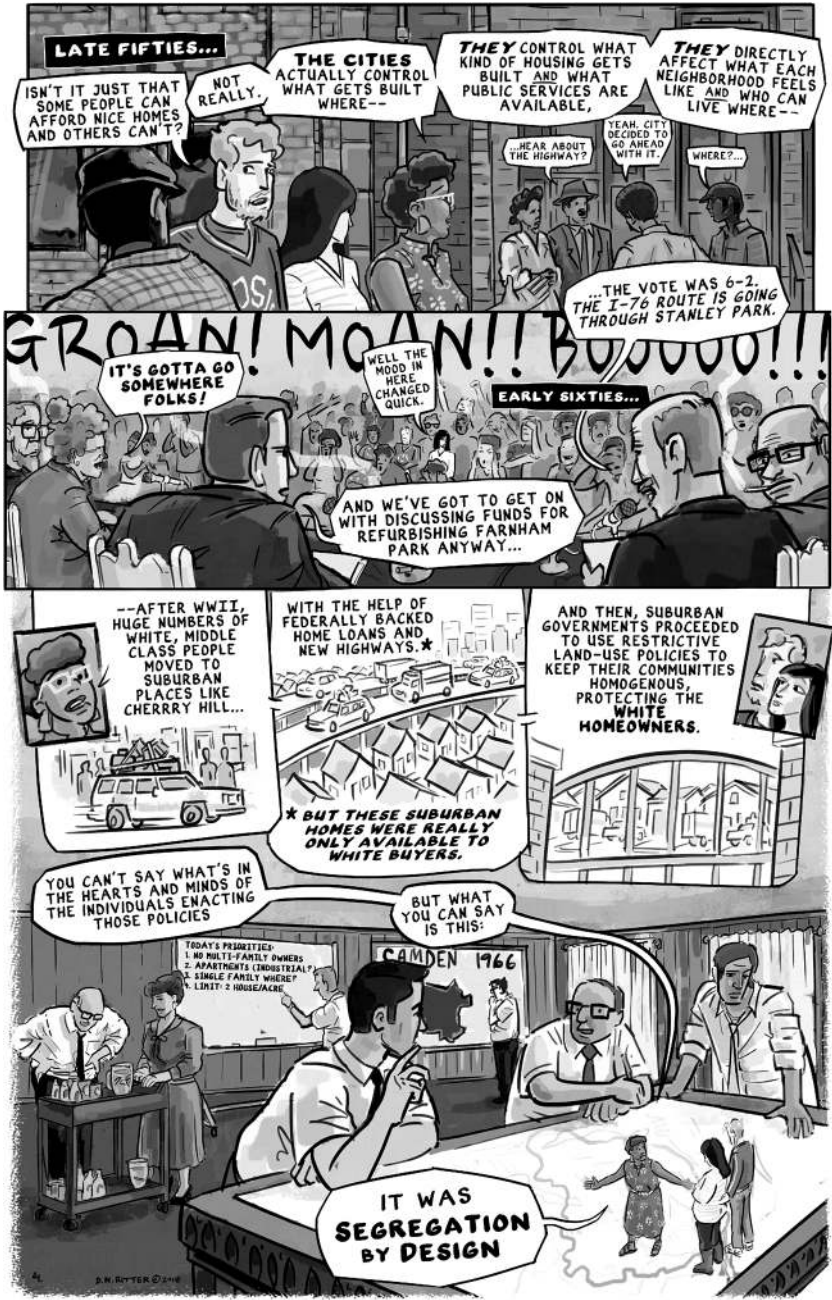
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