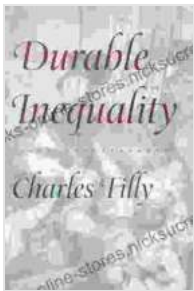


Durable Inequality: Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture

In her Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture, "Durable Inequality," sociologist Irene Bloemraad defines durable inequality as "a persistent and enduring state of inequality that is resistant to change." She argues that durable inequality is not simply a product of individual choices or circumstances, but rather is the result of structural factors that perpetuate inequality across generations.



Durable Inequality (Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture)

by Charles Tilly

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1573 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 313 pages
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Bloemraad identifies three main factors that contribute to durable inequality:

- **Economic inequality:** This refers to the unequal distribution of income, wealth, and other economic resources. Economic inequality can be caused by a variety of factors, such as differences in education, skills, and access to capital.

- **Social inequality:** This refers to the unequal distribution of social status, power, and prestige. Social inequality can be caused by a variety of factors, such as race, gender, ethnicity, and religion.
- **Political inequality:** This refers to the unequal distribution of political power and influence. Political inequality can be caused by a variety of factors, such as gerrymandering, voter suppression, and campaign finance laws.

Bloemraad argues that these three forms of inequality are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. For example, economic inequality can lead to social inequality, which in turn can lead to political inequality. Similarly, political inequality can lead to economic inequality, and so on.

The consequences of durable inequality are far-reaching. Inequality can lead to a variety of social problems, such as crime, poverty, and social unrest. It can also damage economic growth and productivity. Additionally, inequality can erode trust in government and other institutions.

Bloemraad argues that addressing durable inequality requires a comprehensive approach that tackles all three forms of inequality. She proposes a number of policy solutions, including:

- **Investing in education:** Education is one of the most important tools for reducing economic inequality. By investing in education, we can help to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background.
- **Expanding access to affordable housing:** Affordable housing is essential for creating stable communities and reducing poverty. By

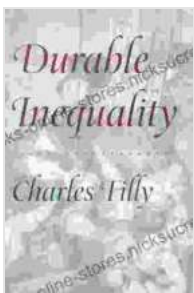
expanding access to affordable housing, we can help to reduce social inequality and improve the lives of families.

- **Reforming the criminal justice system:** The criminal justice system is a major source of inequality in the United States. By reforming the criminal justice system, we can help to reduce mass incarceration and its disproportionate impact on communities of color.
- **Expanding access to voting:** Voting is a fundamental right that should be accessible to all Americans. By expanding access to voting, we can help to reduce political inequality and make our democracy more representative.

Addressing durable inequality is a complex challenge, but it is one that we must face. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable society for all.

Additional Resources

- The Durable Inequality Project
- Individual Income Tax Returns
- Income and Poverty in the United States: 2019



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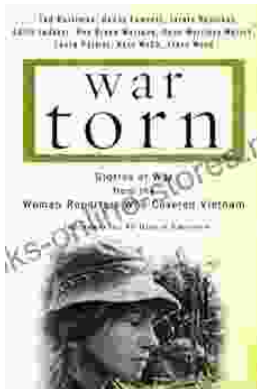
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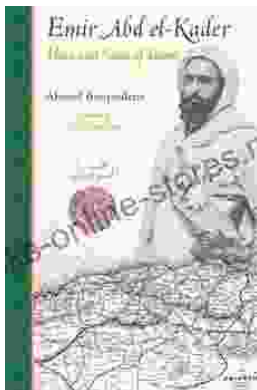
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