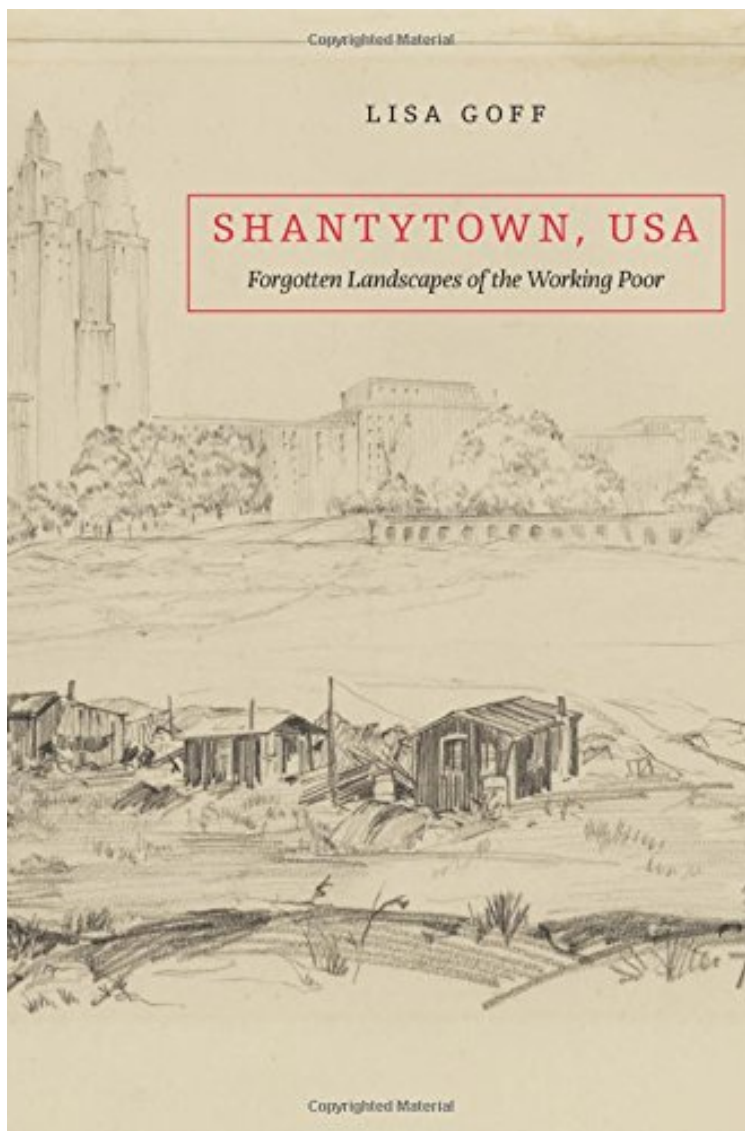


[Ebook pdf] Shantytown, USA: Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor

Shantytown, USA: Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor

Lisa Goff

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#1536231 in Books Goff Lisa 2016-04-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 0674660455320 pages Shantytown USA Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor | File size: 56.Mb

Lisa Goff : Shantytown, USA: Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shantytown, USA: Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor:

The word shantytown conjures images of crowded slums in developing nations. Though their history is largely

forgotten, shantytowns were a prominent feature of one developing nation in particular: the United States. Lisa Goff restores shantytowns to the central place they once occupied in Americas urban landscape, showing how the basic but resourcefully constructed dwellings of Americas working poor were not merely the byproducts of economic hardship but potent assertions of self-reliance. In the nineteenth century, poor workers built shantytowns across Americas frontiers and its booming industrial cities. Settlements covered large swaths of urban property, including a twenty-block stretch of Manhattan, much of Brooklyns waterfront, and present-day Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. Names like Tinkersville and Hayti evoked the occupations and ethnicities of shantytown residents, who were most often European immigrants and African Americans. These inhabitants defended their civil rights and went to court to protect their property and resist eviction, claiming the benefits of middle-class citizenship without its bourgeois trappings. Over time, middle-class contempt for shantytowns increased. When veterans erected an encampment near the U.S. Capitol in the 1930s President Hoover ordered the army to destroy it, thus inspiring the Depression-era slang Hoovervilles. Twentieth-century reforms in urban zoning and public housing, introduced as progressive efforts to provide better dwellings, curtailed the growth of shantytowns. Yet their legacy is still felt in sites of political activism, from shanties on college campuses protesting South African apartheid to the tent cities of Occupy Wall Street demonstrations.

Lisa Goff's *Shantytown, USA* is not your ordinary American Studies cuppa joe. But its one of those books you might pick up in a loose-change moment of curiosity and find yourself utterly unable to put down because it's so unexpected, so smart, so good. (Dana D. Nelson *American Literary History* 2016-10-01) In her broadly researched debut book, Goff traces the history of shanties in America, beginning with Thoreaus famous cabin on Walden Pond. (Kirkus s 2016-01-15) Goffs book excavates the long, untold history of American shantytowns from their emergence in the 1820s to the present day, providing a vivid look at an easily overlooked yet omnipresent and consequential American urban phenomenon. Her engaging work reveals much about the working poor, urban growth, and changing ideas about public space. (William A. Gleason, author of *Sites Unseen: Architecture, Race, and American Literature*) Lisa Goff guides us energetically and engagingly through the shanties and shantytowns of the United States. These ubiquitous, ever-present settlements have rarely attracted more than a passing glance and quick condemnation from outsiders. Goffs prodigious detective work and empathy restore a significant corner of the American landscape to our view and our understanding. (Dell Upton, Professor of Art History, University of California, Los Angeles) About the Author Lisa Goff is a member of the Department of English and of the American Studies Program at the University of Virginia.