

The Promised Land



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著者:Nicholas Lemann

出版者:Knopf

出版时间:1991-2-27

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780394560045

From Publishers Weekly As cotton farming became increasingly mechanized, an estimated five million blacks migrated from the rural South to the urban North between 1940 and 1970. Lemann, Atlantic contributing editor, re-creates this vast migration in microcosm by focusing on a handful of blacks who left the Mississippi Delta for Chicago's slums. Intertwined with their personal stories are several subplots: high-level wrangling in JFK's and LBJ's war on poverty; Chicago Mayor Richard Daley applying the ?? brake to integration efforts; the raging debate over the root causes of the persistence of an underclass; the crumbling of an interracial, nonviolent civil rights movement and its replacement by the furtherance of black programs as a black cause. One of Lemann's main aims is to refute the widespread belief that all the federal government's past efforts to help the black poor failed. He sketches a framework for a wholesale assault on poverty. This compellingly dramatic, vivid document speaks to the nation's racial conscience. 40, 000 first printing; BOMC, History Book Club and QPB alternates. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Focusing on the larger post-1940 complement of the black South-to-North movement--the "Great Black Migration"--that created New York's Harlem and similar black quarters in every major northern city, Lemann traces the roots of America's rotting ghettos. Moving between Clarksdale, Mississippi, Chicago, and the nation's

capital with skill, Lemann (a contributing editor at The Atlantic) particularizes and personalizes in life stories the forces that shifted five million blacks North after 1940 and then trapped most of them and their progeny in poverty. His essay in social causation and consequences rings as a manifesto of public policy for the 1990s with the clear theme that the nation can and must undo what its racism has done. It is highly recommended for all collections on contemporary America. Quality Paperback Book Club alternate.- Thomas J. Davis, Univ. at Buffalo, N.Y.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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