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Homelessness in America Stephen Eide

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the last thirty years have witnessed an urban renaissance in america major cities have managed to drive down the murder rate improve the schools restore the built environment and revitalize their economies middle class families are putting down roots in neighborhoods once given up for dead but solutions to homelessness have eluded even the most successful cities while the south bronx was once synonymous across the globe for slum now san francisco and los angeles are just as internationally notorious for their homelessness crises indeed the same cities with the worst homelessness crises rank among america s most successful one of the crisis more perplexing features is how cities that have met with so much success with respect to economic development crime and public education have failed to even ease their homelessness crisis much less end it in homelessness in america stephen eide examines the history governmental and private responses and future prospects of this intractable challenge the chronic nature of the challenge should be understood he argues by reference to american history and american ideals the history of homelessness is bound up with industrialization and urbanization the closing of the west the great depression and the post wwii decline and subsequent revival of great american cities though we ve used different terms tramp hobo bum at other times something like homelessness has always been with us and the debate over causes and solutions has always involved conflicts over fundamental values after explaining why homelessness persists in america and correcting popular misconceptions about the issue eide offers concrete recommendations for how we can do better for the homeless population homelessness in america engages readers by answering the most common questions their audience brings to the topic and exploring other questions that are no less important for being not as commonly asked homelessness intersects with multiple other policy areas education urban development criminal justice reform mental health by exploring the intersection of homelessness with so many other policy areas this book aspires to provide a comprehensive account of the challenge

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