

(Mobile book) The Moral Order of a Suburb

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M. P. Baumgartner

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#249441 in Books 1991-02-28 1991-02-28Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #1 5.38 x .58 x 8.311, .53 #File Name: 0195069951192 pages | File size: 22.Mb

M. P. Baumgartner : The Moral Order of a Suburb before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Moral Order of a Suburb:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Champions and StrangersBy John GrantI read this book years ago and have gone back to it many times. It's message about suburbs is vital and right-on. Her thesis of suburbanites nestled in their homes desiring to avoid conflict and confrontation and delegating that role to its "champions," the

police and other members of officialdom has been proven to be right-on for me in my little suburb outside Philadelphia. Not facing the crime challenges of city cops, suburban champions are delegated to keep a vigilant eye out for "strangers" and errant youth. A wonderful, tidy study with much food for thought.

Surrounding all major cities in the United States are numerous smaller communities collectively known as suburbia. The most popular place of residence in America, the suburbs are peaceful and tranquil environments, where civility prevails and disturbances of the peace are uncommon. Drawing on research, observation, and hundreds of in-depth interviews conducted during a twelve-month study of an affluent New York City suburb, M.P. Baumgartner reveals that the apparent serenity of the suburb is caused by the avoidance of open conflict. She contends that although nonviolence, nonconfrontation, and tolerance produce a superficial social harmony, these behaviors arise from disintegrative tendencies in modern culture--transience, fragmentation, weak family and communal ties, isolation, and indifference--conditions customarily viewed as sources of disorder, antagonism, and violence. A kind of moral minimalism pervades the suburbs, a disorganized social order that, with the suburbs' rapid growth in America, promises to be the moral order of the future. A valuable contribution to the literature on social control, this study of conflict management should attract general readers and scholars alike.

"Excellent social overview of suburban life."--Ken Munsell, Central Washington University
"A refreshing addition to existing critiques of contemporary urban design and planning. It makes planners and designers ponder what kind of life the suburban built environment supports and facilitates."--Journal of the American Planning Association
"In this litigious and impatient society, it is rare to find a documentation of community in which an underlying minimalist moral order produces an outer harmony that hides a level of detachment."--Marc Pilisuk, University of California--Davis
"A very stimulating and well-written monograph, which should be appreciated by many undergraduate and graduate students."--Contemporary Sociology
"An important contribution to our knowledge of social control in an increasingly significant segment of society, the metropolitan suburb. The study is rich with insight and understanding of the meanings of events in the context of suburban life."--Matthew Silberman, Bucknell University
From the Back Cover
In *The Moral Order of a Suburb*, sociologist M. P. Baumgartner explores the patterns of conflict and conflict management that lie behind suburbia's peaceful way of life. Based on detailed ethnographic research in an affluent suburb of New York City, her book describes the sources of friction in a suburban environment and documents the pronounced aversion to conflict that prevents most tensions there from escalating into hostile confrontation.
About the Author
M. P. Baumgartner is at Rutgers University.