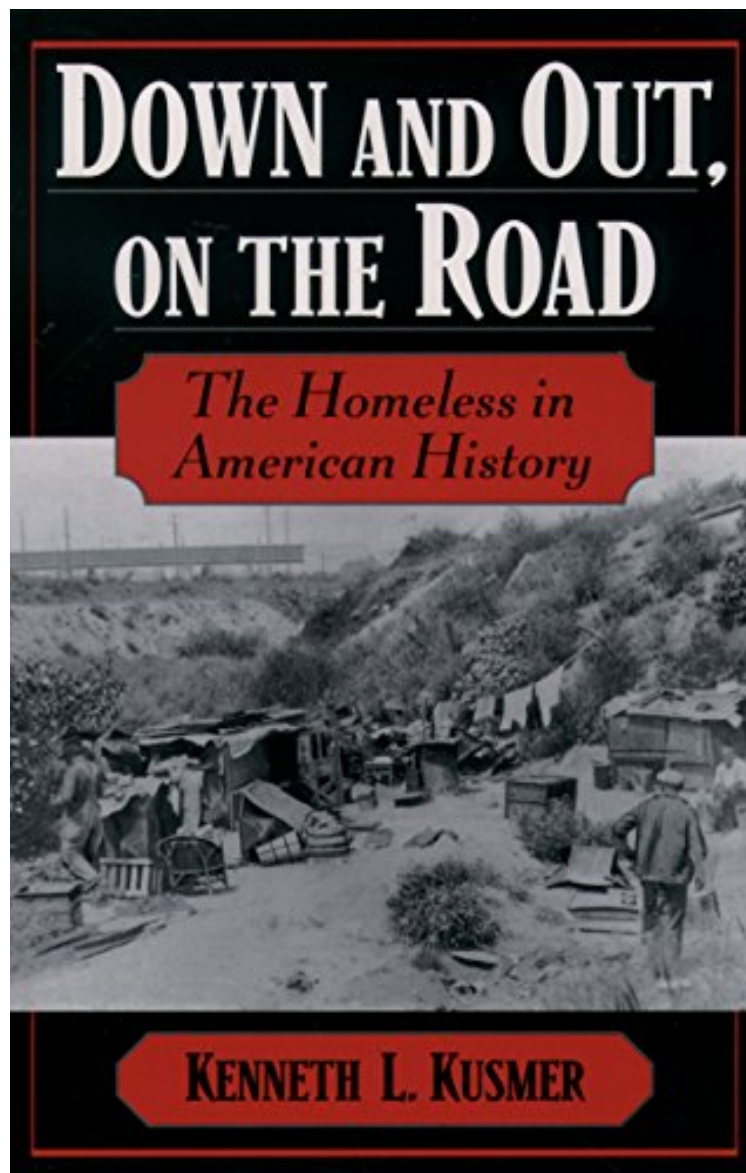


(Get free) Down and Out, on the Road: The Homeless in American History

Down and Out, on the Road: The Homeless in American History

Von *Kenneth L. Kusmer*

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2001-11-29 Erscheinungsdatum: 2001-11-29 File Name:
B00VQVNIYW | File size: 58.Mb

Von Kenneth L. Kusmer : Down and Out, on the Road: The Homeless in American History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down and Out, on the Road: The Homeless in American History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Obdachlosigkeit - eine Kehrseite der USA Von Karsten PhlKusmer erzht die Geschichte der Obdachlosigkeit in den

USA vom 18. Jahrhundert bis heute. In den USA wuteten - vom 1865 beendeten Bürgerkrieg abgesehen - niemals solche Kriege wie der 2. Weltkrieg oder der 30-jährige Krieg. Die hohe Obdachlosigkeit dort muß als ein Signum der für die Mehrheit typischen Mobilität angesehen werden - der räumlichen aber vor allem sozial-beruflichen Mobilität. Einer Mobilität, die die Möglichkeit zum Aufstieg eröffnet, aber auch das Risiko des Abstiegs im Falle von familiären, gesundheitlichen oder geschäftlichen Unglücksfällen in sich birgt. Staatliche soziale Netze hingegen sind in den USA offenbar nicht dicht genug geknüpft, um Arme vor der Obdachlosigkeit zu bewahren. Kusmer betont als Quintessenz seiner Studie, dass Obdachlose sich kaum vom arbeitenden Durchschnittsamerikaner unterscheiden. Sie sind nur rarer! Behauptungen, Obdachlose seien überwiegend psychisch krank und deswegen kaum integrierbar in die Gesellschaft, weist er zurück. Als ermutigenden Mentalitätswandel hält er fest, dass es in den USA nie so viele Menschen gegeben hat, die sich für die Rechte Obdachloser einsetzen, wie heute. Er berichtet nicht nur die Fakten, wie sie sich aus juristischen, kommunalen oder kirchlichen Quellen ergeben, sondern er erarbeitet parallel eine Mentalitätsgeschichte der Haltung der Mehrheit der Bevölkerung zu den Obdachlosen und Armen. Dabei fällt ihm auf, dass häufig die Arbeiterklasse, also Menschen, die selbst zumeist eine bescheidene und auch abwärtsgefährdete Existenz führen, am meisten Solidarität mit den sozial Abgestrzten zeigen. Aber auch viele aus dem Bürgertum gaben und geben Bettlern oder engagierten sich bei der Eröffnung von Suppenküchen, oft durchaus zum Mißfallen der Fürsorge-"Profis", also der Sozialarbeiter, die besonders im 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert häufig einen kontrollierenden und disziplinierenden Ansatz verfolgten. Mentalitätsgeschichtlich ist die interessanteste Periode - die Kusmer meisterhaft beleuchtet - die Zeit von 1865 bis zum ersten Weltkrieg, die Zeit, in der die Masse der US-Bürger überhaupt Bekanntschaft mit Obdachlosen macht. Als Reaktion folgt eine Phase der Angst vor Obdachlosen und deren Verfemung, dann Gewöhnung bis hin zu Anzeichen von Verständnis und teilweise Solidarität. Kusmer analysiert dazu Presseartikel, Romane, "Hobo"-Gedichte und die ersten Filme bis zu Chaplins "The Kid". Wo es möglich ist, stellt er dem Fremdbild des Obdachlosen die Realität gegenüber. Auch eher unerwartete Themen schneidet er an wie die Sexualität der Obdachlosen oder die Rolle der (wenigen) obdachlosen Frauen.

Kurzbeschreibung Covering the entire period from the colonial era to the late twentieth century, this book is the first scholarly history of the homeless in America. Drawing on sources that include records of charitable organizations, sociological studies, and numerous memoirs of formerly homeless persons, Kusmer demonstrates that the homeless have been a significant presence on the American scene for over two hundred years. He probes the history of homelessness from a variety of angles, showing why people become homeless; how charities and public authorities dealt with this social problem; and the diverse ways in which different class, ethnic, and racial groups perceived and responded to homelessness. Kusmer demonstrates that, despite the common perception of the homeless as a deviant group, they have always had much in common with the average American. Focusing on the millions who suffered downward mobility, *Down and Out, On the Road* provides a unique view of the evolution of American society and raises disturbing questions about the repeated failure to face and solve the problem of homelessness.

Pressestimmen "It is a pleasure to announce that the homeless, who have so little else, have at least gained in Kenneth L. Kusmer's excellent *Down and Out, on the Road, a history of their own.*" "One of the most fascinating books I've ever read" "Homelessness is not only a contemporary phenomenon in the U.S. according to this well-researched and engrossing history....Kusmer is at his best when describing the specifics of people's lives.....drawing upon sociological studies, reports from charitable institutions, the novels of William Dean Howells and Stephen Crane, and the music of blues writer and singer Ida Cox, Kusmer has produced a book that is highly engaging, emotionally absorbing, and historically consequential." "A compelling historical account of the most vulnerable segment of America's poor." --CHOICE "A unique contribution to the story of American welfare and the vast network of voluntary associations." --Business History "An informative monograph on the lives of beggars and tramps in the United States, mainly between 1865 and 1935, to which brief introductory and concluding chapters have been added to make the work seem more timely" --Ohio History "Kusmer's book could serve as a valuable tool to advocates, policy makers, and the public grappling for solutions to solve the homeless epidemic." --Journal of Children and Poverty "It is a pleasure to announce that the homeless, who have so little else, have at least gained in Kenneth L. Kusmer's excellent *Down and out, on the Road, a history of their own.*" --Barbara Ehrenreich, *The New York Times Book* "one of the most fascinating books I've ever read" --Martin F. Nolan, *The San Francisco Examiner* "Resisting abstraction at every turn, *Down and Out on the Road* focuses squarely on "the homeless in American History," drawing upon a broad range of sources to uncover the lived experiences and social impact of people variously termed vagrants, vagabonds, tramps, hoboes, bums, and streetpeople....Kusmer proves himself an expert in tying its changes to larger shifts in the culture, economy, and society of the United States over three centuries." --The Journal of American History Anyone who thinks homelessness only hit record levels over the past two decades needs to read this book. History does repeat itself when it comes to homelessness and how society responds to it. Today's "war on homelessness and welfare recipients" has historical parallels. --Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless "Homelessness is not only a contemporary

phenomenon in the U.S. according to this well-researched and engrossing history.... Kusmer is at his best when describing the specifics of people's lives...drawing upon sociological studies, reports from charitable institutions, the novels of William Dean Howells and Stephen Crane, and the music of blues writer and singer Ida Cox, Kusmer has produced a book that is highly engaging, emotionally absorbing, and historically consequential."--Publishers Weekly "A compelling historical account of the most vulnerable segment of America's poor."--CHOICE "A unique contribution to the story of American welfare and the vast network of voluntary associations."--Business History "An informative monograph on the lives of beggars and tramps in the United States, mainly between 1865 and 1935, to which brief introductory and concluding chapters have been added to make the work seem more timely"--Ohio History "Kusmer's book could serve as a valuable tool to advocates, policy makers, and the public grappling for solutions to solve the homeless epidemic."--Journal of Children and Poverty "It is a pleasure to announce that the homeless, who have so little else, have at least gained in Kenneth L. Kusmer's excellent Down and out, on the Road, a history of their own."--Barbara Ehrenreich, The New York Times Book "one of the most fascinating books I've ever read"--Martin F. Nolan, The San Francisco Examiner "Resisting abstraction at every turn, Down and Out on the Road focuses squarely on "the homeless in American History," drawing upon a broad range of sources to uncover the lived experiences and social impact of people variously termed vagrants, vagabonds, tramps, hoboes, bums, and street people....Kusmer proves himself an expert in tying its changes to larger shifts in the culture, economy, and society of the United States over three centuries."--The Journal of American History Anyone who thinks homelessness only hit record levels over the past two decades needs to read this book. History does repeat itself when it comes to homelessness and how society responds to it. Today's "war on homelessness and welfare recipients" has historical parallels.--Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless "Homelessness is not only a contemporary phenomenon in the U.S. according to this well-researched and engrossing history.... Kusmer is at his best when describing the specifics of people's lives...drawing upon sociological studies, reports from charitable institutions, the novels of William Dean Howells and Stephen Crane, and the music of blues writer and singer Ida Cox, Kusmer has produced a book that is highly engaging, emotionally absorbing, and historically consequential."--Publishers Weekly "A compelling historical account of the most vulnerable segment of America's poor."--CHOICE "A unique contribution to the story of American welfare and the vast network of voluntary associations."--Business History "An informative monograph on the lives of beggars and tramps in the United States, mainly between 1865 and 1935, to which brief introductory and concluding chapters have been added to make the work seem more timely"--Ohio History "Kusmer's book could serve as a valuable tool to advocates, policy makers, and the public grappling for solutions to solve the homeless epidemic."--Journal of Children and Poverty "It is a pleasure to announce that the homeless, who have so little else, have at least gained in Kenneth L. Kusmer's excellent Down and out, on the Road, a history of their own."--Barbara Ehrenreich, The New York Times Book "one of the most fascinating books I've ever read"--Martin F. Nolan, The San Francisco Examiner "Resisting abstraction at every turn, Down and Out on the Road focuses squarely on "the homeless in American History," drawing upon a broad range of sources to uncover the lived experiences and social impact of people variously termed vagrants, vagabonds, tramps, hoboes, bums, and street people....Kusmer proves himself an expert in tying its changes to larger shifts in the culture, economy, and society of the United States over three centuries."--The Journal of American History Anyone who thinks homelessness only hit record levels over the past two decades needs to read this book. History does repeat itself when it comes to homelessness and how society responds to it. Today's "war on homelessness and welfare recipients" has

historical parallels.--Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless"Homelessness is not only a contemporary phenomenon in the U.S. according to this well-researched and engrossing history.... Kusmer is at his best when describing the specifics of people's lives...drawing upon sociological studies, reports from charitable institutions, the novels of William Dean Howells and Stephen Crane, and the music of blues writer and singer Ida Cox, Kusmer has produced a book that is highly engaging, emotionally absorbing, and historically consequential."--Publishers Weekly

Kurzbeschreibung

Covering the entire period from the colonial era to the late twentieth century, this book is the first scholarly history of the homeless in America. Drawing on sources that include records of charitable organizations, sociological studies, and numerous memoirs of formerly homeless persons, Kusmer demonstrates that the homeless have been a significant presence on the American scene for over two hundred years. He probes the history of homelessness from a variety of angles, showing why people become homeless; how charities and public authorities dealt with this social problem; and the diverse ways in which different class, ethnic, and racial groups perceived and responded to homelessness. Kusmer demonstrates that, despite the common perception of the homeless as a deviant group, they have always had much in common with the average American. Focusing on the millions who suffered downward mobility, *Down and Out, On the Road* provides a unique view of the evolution of American society and raises disturbing questions about the repeated failure to face and solve the problem of homelessness.