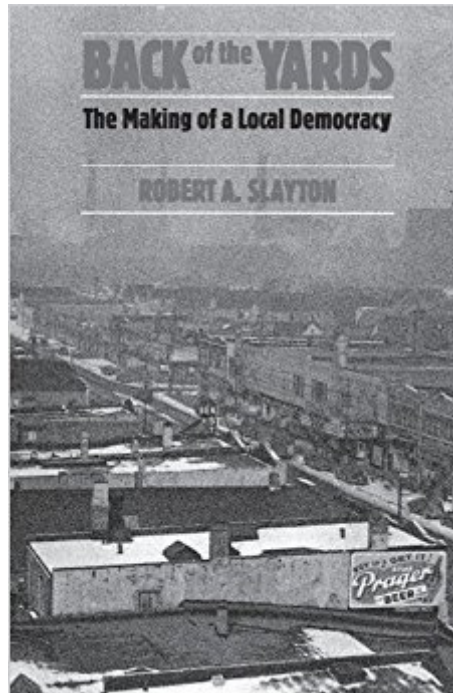




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Back Of The Yards: The Making Of A Local Democracy



Synopsis

"Robert A. Slayton's *Back of the Yards* is one of the finest accounts I have ever read on an urban, working-class neighborhood in twentieth-century America. Its focus on family, politics, and worklife is penetrating and its conclusions reinforce an emerging scholarly picture of ordinary people exercising unique forms of power." —John Bodnar, author of *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Until now, the historic Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago has been neglected by social historians. The packinghouse district, made famous by Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906), provides a case study in the evolution of an immigrant community over two generations. Originally fragmented by religion and ethnicity, people gradually were drawn together into ever-larger interest groups. Slayton's book, based partly on interviews, presents a colorful and moving picture of this diverse area, its people, their homes, and their jobs. The author's sensitivity to the community's character sometimes leads him dangerously close to veneration and a facile interpretation of democratic progress. Nevertheless, this is recommended for those interested in the emergence of cities. Charles K. Piehl, Director of Grants Management, Mankato State Univ., Minn. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoyed this book. It takes place near the Chicago stockyards and provides ample evidence on how this particular neighborhood developed over the years mainly via immigration. Much of the history takes place during the 19th century when there was no regulations regarding child labor etc. The work in the slaughterhouses was long, hard and dangerous with management paying little heed for these peoples welfare. Over the years, it all began to change when the worker's started to get some rights of their own by either taking matters in their own hands

I spent the summers of 1968 and 1969 working on the Southwest side of Chicago a community organizer. The hero and idol for most community organizers especially in Chicago is Saul Alinsky. In the 1930's Saul Alinsky worked together with the priests and Protestant clergy of the Back-of-the-Yards community in Chicago to form a powerful political organization called the Back of the Yards Council. This book is the history of the Back of the Yards neighborhood from the very beginning of settlement in the area and also contains the story of Saul Alinsky and the formation of the Back of the Yards Council. Needless to say this part was the most interesting part of the book for me because it brought back memories of my work in Chicago, during my college days.

My mom grew up Back of the Yards (1920s-1940s) and is currently spellbound reading this book. She raves daily that it is teaching her about her parents' lives as well as mentioning many people by name that she grew up with, particularly in relation to St. John of God Catholic parish. Apparently the author really researched details as well as bigger themes. My mom would rate this book 11 stars on a 10-star scale. Don't hesitate to buy if you or your older relatives are from that part of Chicago.

Purchased as a host gift. He is into tracing his ancestry and this gave a wonderful insight to the era

Received book as described. Fast shipping. Thank you.

Thank you

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