## the other america apush definition

the other america apush definition is a crucial topic for students and educators studying U.S. history, particularly those focused on the Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) curriculum. This article explores the meaning of "The Other America" within APUSH, delves into its historical context, examines the key arguments of Michael Harrington's influential 1962 book, and explains its significance in the broader narrative of postwar America. Readers will learn why this concept is essential for understanding poverty, social reform, and government policy in the mid-20th century. The discussion also covers the impact of Harrington's work on President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society programs and the War on Poverty. By the end of this comprehensive guide, readers will have a clear understanding of "the other america apush definition," its historical background, and its ongoing relevance in APUSH studies and American history.

- Understanding "The Other America" in APUSH
- The Historical Context of "The Other America"
- Michael Harrington and His Influential Book
- Main Arguments in "The Other America"
- Impact on American Society and Policy
- The Other America's Legacy in APUSH
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## Understanding "The Other America" in APUSH

The term "the other america apush definition" refers to the concept introduced by Michael Harrington in his 1962 book, "The Other America: Poverty in the United States." Within the APUSH curriculum, this definition highlights the persistent poverty and social inequality hidden beneath the surface prosperity of post-World War II America. Harrington's work brought attention to the fact that, despite the nation's economic boom, millions of Americans—especially minorities, the elderly, and rural populations—remained impoverished and largely invisible to mainstream society. In APUSH, understanding "The Other America" is essential for analyzing the complexities of American society during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the origins of federal efforts to address poverty.

### The Historical Context of "The Other America"

After World War II, the United States experienced significant economic growth, rising wages, and increased consumerism. However, these successes masked deep-seated inequalities and left many citizens behind. By the early 1960s, about one-fifth of the population was still living in poverty. The era's dominant narrative often celebrated American affluence, suburbanization, and a burgeoning middle class, but overlooked those who struggled in urban ghettos, rural areas, and among marginalized groups. This disconnect formed the backdrop for Harrington's influential work, which challenged the prevailing belief that most Americans shared in the nation's economic prosperity.

## Michael Harrington and His Influential Book

### Who Was Michael Harrington?

Michael Harrington was an American democratic socialist, writer, and activist. He dedicated his career to advocating for social justice, workers' rights, and the fight against poverty. Harrington's observations and research led him to publish "The Other America" in 1962, a book that would become a catalyst for national discussion about poverty in the United States.

### Release and Reception of "The Other America"

When "The Other America" was published, it quickly gained attention from policymakers, journalists, and the general public. The book's vivid descriptions and compelling data painted a picture of an America divided by economic class. Harrington's arguments challenged readers to reconsider the nation's progress and to recognize the millions who had been left behind during the country's postwar expansion.

## Main Arguments in "The Other America"

#### The Invisible Poor

One of Harrington's main arguments was that the poor in America were largely "invisible" to the rest of society. He explained that the middle and upper classes rarely encountered poverty in their daily lives, especially as suburbanization physically separated the affluent from impoverished urban centers and rural areas. This invisibility allowed misconceptions about

poverty to persist and made it harder to address the problem effectively.

#### Structural Causes of Poverty

Harrington argued that poverty was not simply the result of individual failings but was rooted in structural factors, such as economic shifts, job loss due to automation, discrimination, and inadequate educational opportunities. He emphasized that many of the poor were unable to escape their circumstances because of systemic barriers.

#### Call for Government Action

"The Other America" concluded with a call for federal intervention and comprehensive social reforms. Harrington believed the government had a responsibility to address poverty through targeted programs, social insurance, and policies that promoted economic opportunity and equity.

- The poor were hidden from mainstream society.
- Poverty was caused by larger social and economic forces.
- Government action was necessary to solve the problem.

### Impact on American Society and Policy

#### Influence on the War on Poverty

Harrington's book had a profound influence on policymakers, including President John F. Kennedy and, most notably, President Lyndon B. Johnson. The ideas presented in "The Other America" helped inspire Johnson's War on Poverty, a central part of his Great Society agenda. This series of programs aimed to reduce poverty, improve education, and expand social welfare initiatives across the country.

### Major Policies and Programs

As a result of the increased awareness spurred by Harrington's work, the federal government launched a range of anti-poverty initiatives, including:

- Medicare and Medicaid
- Food Stamp Act
- Economic Opportunity Act
- Head Start and other education programs
- Job Corps and community development projects

These policies reflected a new commitment to addressing the needs of "the other America" and played a significant role in shaping the nation's social safety net.

### The Other America's Legacy in APUSH

### Importance in the APUSH Curriculum

For APUSH students, "the other america apush definition" is an important concept when studying the social, economic, and political changes of the 1960s. It offers valuable insight into how Americans came to recognize persistent inequality, and how this awareness influenced government policy. The topic is often included in APUSH exam questions and essays that focus on the Great Society, the civil rights movement, and the evolution of federal social policy.

### Long-term Significance

The themes introduced by Michael Harrington continue to resonate in American history. Issues of poverty, social mobility, and economic justice remain central to political debates and public policy. "The Other America" is frequently cited by historians and social scientists as a turning point in the national conversation about poverty, making it a foundational topic for anyone studying U.S. history at the AP level.

### **Key Takeaways for APUSH Students**

Understanding "the other america apush definition" allows students to grasp the complexity of postwar American society and the origins of major social reforms. It highlights the persistent gap between national prosperity and social reality, underscoring the importance of government action in addressing systemic inequality.

- "The Other America" revealed hidden poverty during a time of widespread prosperity.
- Michael Harrington's work directly influenced major government reforms, including the War on Poverty.
- The book remains relevant for analyzing social and economic policy in the United States.
- APUSH students should understand the connection between social awareness and policy change in the 1960s.

# Frequently Asked Questions about the other america apush definition

## Q: What is the APUSH definition of "The Other America"?

A: In APUSH, "The Other America" refers to the segment of American society living in poverty during the post-World War II era, as highlighted by Michael Harrington's 1962 book. It emphasizes the hidden and persistent nature of poverty despite the nation's economic prosperity.

# Q: Who wrote "The Other America" and why was it significant?

A: Michael Harrington wrote "The Other America" in 1962. The book was significant because it brought national attention to the issue of poverty in the United States and influenced federal anti-poverty policies, especially during the 1960s.

# Q: How did "The Other America" influence government policy?

A: The book inspired policymakers, especially President Lyndon B. Johnson, to launch the War on Poverty and implement key Great Society programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, and the Economic Opportunity Act.

### Q: What are some key points from "The Other America"?

A: Key points include the invisibility of the poor in American society, the structural causes of poverty, and the need for government intervention to address social and economic inequalities.

# Q: Why is "The Other America" important for APUSH students?

A: Understanding "The Other America" helps APUSH students analyze the social and political changes of the 1960s, the origins of federal welfare programs, and the ongoing struggle against poverty in the United States.

# Q: What social groups did Michael Harrington highlight as being most affected by poverty?

A: Harrington focused on minorities, the elderly, rural residents, and urban dwellers who were disproportionately affected by poverty and often overlooked by mainstream society.

# Q: How does "The Other America" connect to the Great Society?

A: The book's findings and arguments helped shape the Great Society's focus on eradicating poverty and expanding social welfare programs to support disadvantaged Americans.

# Q: What long-term impact did "The Other America" have on American society?

A: It shifted public awareness, influenced government policy, and remains a foundational text for discussions on poverty, social justice, and economic reform in the United States.

### Q: What was the main message of "The Other America"?

A: The main message was that poverty persisted in America despite overall prosperity, and that government action was necessary to address the systemic causes and effects of poverty.

# Q: How might "The Other America" appear on the APUSH exam?

A: It can be referenced in essay prompts or multiple-choice questions related to postwar society, the Great Society, social reform movements, or changes in federal government policy during the 1960s.

#### **The Other America Apush Definition**

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# The Other America APUSH Definition: Understanding Poverty and Inequality in Post-War America

The post-World War II era in the United States is often romanticized as a period of prosperity and growth. Images of burgeoning suburbs and a booming economy dominate popular narratives. However, a darker reality existed beneath the surface – a reality Michael Harrington powerfully illuminated in his 1962 book, The Other America. This blog post delves into the meaning of "The Other America" within the context of APUSH (Advanced Placement United States History), exploring its definition, significance, and lasting impact on understanding American society. We'll examine the social and economic inequalities that persisted despite the overall national affluence, providing a nuanced understanding of this critical period in American history.

### What is "The Other America" in the Context of APUSH?

Within the framework of APUSH, "The Other America" refers to the significant and often overlooked reality of widespread poverty and economic inequality in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s. Contrary to the popular image of widespread prosperity, Harrington's book exposed a persistent underclass facing systemic disadvantages, including inadequate housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This "other America" wasn't a geographically isolated region, but rather a hidden population existing within the larger American society, often marginalized and invisible to the mainstream.

### Harrington's Key Arguments and Their Historical Context

Harrington's central argument was that poverty wasn't simply a matter of individual failings or laziness, but rather a product of systemic issues deeply embedded within the American economic and social structures. He highlighted several key factors contributing to this persistent poverty:

#### #### 1. The Invisible Poor:

Harrington's crucial contribution was making the poor visible. He argued that the burgeoning middle class, focused on their own prosperity, largely ignored the plight of the impoverished. The media, too, often failed to accurately portray the extent and nature of poverty.

#### #### 2. The Culture of Poverty:

While not endorsing the idea that poverty was solely a cultural phenomenon, Harrington acknowledged the ways in which poverty could become self-perpetuating. Limited access to education, healthcare, and resources often created a cycle of disadvantage that was difficult to break.

#### #### 3. Regional Disparities:

Harrington highlighted the significant regional variations in poverty rates, with certain areas of the country experiencing much higher levels of deprivation than others. This underscored the uneven distribution of economic opportunity across the nation.

#### #### 4. Racial and Ethnic Inequality:

While not the sole focus, Harrington recognized the deeply intertwined nature of poverty and racial inequality. African Americans, particularly in the South, faced systemic discrimination that severely limited their access to economic and social mobility.

## The Impact of "The Other America" on the Civil Rights Movement and the Great Society

Harrington's work had a profound impact on the social and political landscape of the United States. His book helped galvanize support for the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement and directly influenced President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" programs. The Great Society initiatives, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the War on Poverty, aimed to address some of the systemic issues identified by Harrington.

### **Critiques and Limitations of Harrington's Work**

While highly influential, The Other America has also faced criticism. Some scholars argue that Harrington overstated the extent of poverty, while others criticize his focus on economic factors while overlooking cultural and individual aspects. However, the book's enduring legacy lies in its ability to expose the widespread existence of poverty and inequality in a nation that often portrayed itself as a land of opportunity for all.

# The Enduring Relevance of "The Other America" in Modern APUSH

Understanding "The Other America" remains crucial for comprehending modern American society. The issues of poverty, inequality, and systemic disadvantage continue to be relevant today. Analyzing Harrington's work allows students to connect past social and economic trends with present-day challenges and fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities of American history and the ongoing struggle for social justice. The book serves as a powerful reminder that the pursuit of a truly equitable society is an ongoing process, not a historical accomplishment.

#### Conclusion:

Michael Harrington's The Other America remains a landmark work in understanding the complexities of American poverty and inequality. Its impact resonated far beyond academic circles, influencing social policy and shaping the national conversation about social justice. Studying "The Other America" within the context of APUSH provides a crucial lens through which to analyze the enduring challenges of poverty and inequality in the United States, highlighting the importance of systemic change and the ongoing struggle for social and economic justice.

#### FAQs:

- 1. Was Harrington's book entirely accurate? While hugely influential, some argue Harrington overestimated the extent of poverty and didn't fully account for cultural factors. However, his work undeniably highlighted a significant and overlooked problem.
- 2. How did "The Other America" influence the War on Poverty? Harrington's book directly influenced President Johnson's policy initiatives, providing a compelling case for government intervention to alleviate poverty.
- 3. What are some of the lasting legacies of "The Other America"? The book's lasting legacy is its impact on the national conversation surrounding poverty, inequality, and social justice. It continues to be relevant in discussions about systemic change and social policy.
- 4. Did "The Other America" focus solely on economic inequality? While economics were central, Harrington also acknowledged the interconnectedness of poverty with racial inequality and other social factors.

5. How can students use "The Other America" in their APUSH essays? Students can use Harrington's work as primary source evidence to support arguments about poverty, inequality, and the limitations of the "American Dream" narrative in the mid-20th century.

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the other america apush definition: The Negro Motorist Green Book Victor H. Green, The Negro Motorist Green Book was a groundbreaking guide that provided African American travelers with crucial information on safe places to stay, eat, and visit during the era of segregation in the United States. This essential resource, originally published from 1936 to 1966, offered a lifeline to black motorists navigating a deeply divided nation, helping them avoid the dangers and indignities of racism on the road. More than just a travel guide, The Negro Motorist Green Book stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and resistance in the face of oppression, offering a poignant glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of the African American experience in the 20th century.

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the other america apush definition: The Federalist Papers Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, 2018-08-20 Classic Books Library presents this brand new edition of "The Federalist Papers", a collection of separate essays and articles compiled in 1788 by Alexander Hamilton. Following the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, the governing doctrines and policies of the States lacked cohesion. "The Federalist", as it was previously known, was constructed by American statesman Alexander Hamilton, and was intended to catalyse the ratification of the United States Constitution. Hamilton recruited fellow statesmen James Madison Jr., and John Jay to write papers for the compendium, and the three are known as some of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Alexander Hamilton (c. 1755–1804) was an American lawyer, journalist and highly influential government official. He also served as a Senior Officer in the Army between 1799-1800 and founded the Federalist Party, the system that governed the nation's finances. His contributions to the Constitution and leadership made a significant and lasting impact on the early development of the nation of the United States.

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William Manchester set out, at the request of the Kennedy family, to create a detailed, authoritative record of the days immediately preceding and following President John F. Kennedy's death. Through hundreds of interviews, abundant travel and firsthand observation, and with unique access to the proceedings of the Warren Commission, Manchester conducted an exhaustive historical investigation, accumulating forty-five volumes of documents, exhibits, and transcribed tapes. His ultimate objective -- to set down as a whole the national and personal tragedy that was JFK's assassination -- is brilliantly achieved in this galvanizing narrative, a book universally acclaimed as a landmark work of modern history.

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the other america apush definition: The Crack in the Picture Window John Keats, 2016-08-09 In this amusingly written yet serious report about housing developments, author John C. Keats discusses every aspect of life in a development. His account is supported by solid facts and figures and presented in personal terms to convey an existence that combines all of the worst aspects and none of the advantages of suburban living. "If you ever wondered what goes on under those regimented roofs, this book will tell you. And if you already know, it will make you want to get up and break something. Fortunately the book also tells you how to put the pieces back together."

the other america apush definition: The Organization Man William H. Whyte, 2013-05-31 Regarded as one of the most important sociological and business commentaries of modern times, The Organization Man developed the first thorough description of the impact of mass organization on American society. During the height of the Eisenhower administration, corporations appeared to provide a blissful answer to postwar life with the marketing of new technologies—television, affordable cars, space travel, fast food—and lifestyles, such as carefully planned suburban communities centered around the nuclear family. William H. Whyte found this phenomenon alarming. As an editor for Fortune magazine, Whyte was well placed to observe corporate America; it became clear to him that the American belief in the perfectibility of society was shifting from one of individual initiative to one that could be achieved at the expense of the individual. With its clear analysis of contemporary working and living arrangements, The Organization Man rapidly achieved bestseller status. Since the time of the book's original publication, the American workplace has undergone massive changes. In the 1990s, the rule of large corporations seemed less relevant as small entrepreneurs made fortunes from new technologies, in the process bucking old corporate

trends. In fact this new economy appeared to have doomed Whyte's original analysis as an artifact from a bygone day. But the recent collapse of so many startup businesses, gigantic mergers of international conglomerates, and the reality of economic globalization make The Organization Man all the more essential as background for understanding today's global market. This edition contains a new foreword by noted journalist and author Joseph Nocera. In an afterword Jenny Bell Whyte describes how The Organization Man was written.

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the other america apush definition: The History of the Standard Oil Company Ida Minerva Tarbell, 2020-09-28 One of the busiest corners of the globe at the opening of the year 1872 was a strip of Northwestern Pennsylvania, not over fifty miles long, known the world over as the Oil Regions. Twelve years before this strip of land had been but little better than a wilderness; its chief inhabitants the lumbermen, who every season cut great swaths of primeval pine and hemlock from its hills, and in the spring floated them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburg. The great tides of Western emigration had shunned the spot for years as too rugged and unfriendly for settlement, and yet in twelve years this region avoided by men had been transformed into a bustling trade centre, where towns elbowed each other for place, into which three great trunk railroads had built branches, and every foot of whose soil was fought for by capitalists. It was the discovery and development of a new raw product, petroleum, which had made this change from wilderness to market-place. This product in twelve years had not only peopled a waste place of the earth, it had revolutionised the world's methods of illumination and added millions upon millions of dollars to the wealth of the United States. Petroleum as a curiosity, and indeed in a small way as an article of commerce, was no new thing when its discovery in quantities called the attention of the world to this corner of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The journals of many an early explorer of the valleys of the Allegheny and its tributaries tell of springs and streams the surfaces of which were found covered with a thick oily substance which burned fiercely when ignited and which the Indians believed to have curative properties. As the country was opened, more and more was heard of these oil springs. Certain streams came to be named from the quantities of the substance found on the surface of the water, as "Oil Creek" in Northwestern Pennsylvania, "Old Greasy" or Kanawha in West Virginia. The belief in the substance as a cure-all increased as time went on and in various parts of the country it was regularly skimmed from the surface of the water as cream from a pan, or soaked up by woollen blankets, bottled, and peddled as a medicine for man and beast. Up to the beginning of the 19th century no oil seems to have been obtained except from the surfaces of springs and streams. That it was to be found far below the surface of the earth was discovered independently at various points in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania by persons drilling for salt-water to be used in manufacturing salt. Not infrequently the water they found was mixed with a dark-green, evil-smelling substance which was recognised as identical with the well-known "rock-oil." It was necessary to rid the water of this before it could be used for salt, and in many places cisterns were devised in which the brine was allowed to stand until the oil had risen to the surface. It was then run into the streams or on the ground. This practice was soon discovered to be dangerous, so easily did the oil ignite. In several places, particularly in Kentucky, so much oil was obtained with the salt-water that the wells had to be abandoned. Certain of these deserted salt wells were opened years after, when it was found that the troublesome substance which had made them useless was far more valuable than the brine the original drillers sought.

the other america apush definition: Contract with America Newt Gingrich, Richard K. Armey, 1994 The November 1994 midterm elections were a watershed event, making possible a Repbulican majority in Congress for the first time in forty years. Contract with America, by Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker of the House, Dick Armey, the new Majority Leader, and the House

Republicans, charts a bold new political strategy for the entire country. The ten-point program, which forms the basis of this book, was announced in late September. It received the signed support of more than 300 GOP canditates. Their pledge: If we break this contract, throw us out. Contract with America fleshes out the vision and provides the details of the program that swept the GOP to victory. Among the pressing issues addressed in this important book are: balancing the budget, stopping crime, reforming welfare, reinforcing families, enhancing fairness for seniors, strengthening national defense, cutting government regulations, promoting legal reform, considering term limits, and reducing taxes.

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**the other america apush definition:** The Significance of the Frontier in American History Frederick Jackson Turner, 2014-02-13 2014 Reprint of 1894 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition. The Frontier Thesis or Turner Thesis, is the argument advanced by historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1894 that American democracy was formed by the American Frontier. He stressed the process-the moving frontier line-and the impact it had on pioneers going through the process. He also stressed consequences of a ostensibly limitless frontier and that American democracy and egalitarianism were the principle results. In Turner's thesis the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs. The frontier had no need for standing armies, established churches, aristocrats or nobles, nor for landed gentry who controlled most of the land and charged heavy rents. Frontier land was free for the taking. Turner first announced his thesis in a paper entitled The Significance of the Frontier in American History, delivered to the American Historical Association in 1893 in Chicago. He won very wide acclaim among historians and intellectuals. Turner's emphasis on the importance of the frontier in shaping American character influenced the interpretation found in thousands of scholarly histories. By the time Turner died in 1932, 60% of the leading history departments in the U.S. were teaching courses in frontier history along Turnerian lines.

the other america apush definition: On the Constitutionality of a National Bank Alexander Hamilton, 2016-12-10 In 1791, The First Bank of the United States was a financial innovation proposed and supported by Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury. Establishment of the bank was part of a three-part expansion of federal fiscal and monetary power, along with a federal mint and excise taxes. Hamilton believed that a national bank was necessary to stabilize and improve the nation's credit, and to improve financial order, clarity, and precedence of the United States government under the newly enacted Constitution. Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804) was a founding father of the United States, one of the most influential interpreters and promoters of the Constitution, the founder of the American financial system, and the founder of the Federalist Party. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was the primary author of the economic policies for

George Washington's administration. Hamilton took the lead in the funding of the states' debts by the federal government, the establishment of a national bank, and forming friendly trade relations with Britain. He led the Federalist Party, created largely in support of his views; he was opposed by the Democratic Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, which despised Britain and feared that Hamilton's policies of a strong central government would weaken the American commitment to Republicanism.

the other america apush definition: The Market Revolution in America John Lauritz Larson, 2009-09-14 The mass industrial democracy that is the modern United States bears little resemblance to the simple agrarian republic that gave it birth. The market revolution is the reason for this dramatic - and ironic - metamorphosis. The resulting tangled frameworks of democracy and capitalism still dominate the world as it responds to the panic of 2008. Early Americans experienced what we now call 'modernization'. The exhilaration - and pain - they endured have been repeated in nearly every part of the globe. Born of freedom and ambition, the market revolution in America fed on democracy and individualism even while it generated inequality, dependency, and unimagined wealth and power. In this book, John Lauritz Larson explores the lure of market capitalism and the beginnings of industrialization in the United States. His research combines an appreciation for enterprise and innovation with recognition of negative and unanticipated consequences of the transition to capitalism and relates economic change directly to American freedom and self-determination, links that remain entirely relevant today.

**the other america apush definition:** *The American Pageant* Thomas Andrew Bailey, David M. Kennedy, 1991 Traces the history of the United States from the arrival of the first Indian people to the present day.

the other america apush definition: The Feminine Mystique Betty Friedan, 2010 When Betty Friedan produced The Feminine Mystique in 1963, she could not have realized how the discovery and debate of her contemporaries' general malaise would shake up society. Victims of a false belief system, these women were following strict social convention by loyally conforming to the pretty image of the magazines, and found themselves forced to seek meaning in their lives only through a family and a home. Friedan's controversial book about these women - and every woman - would ultimately set Second Wave feminism in motion and begin the battle for equality. This groundbreaking and life-changing work remains just as powerful, important and true as it was forty-five years ago, and is essential reading both as a historical document and as a study of women living in a man's world. 'One of the most influential nonfiction books of the twentieth century.' New York Times 'Feminism ..... began with the work of a single person: Friedan.' Nicholas Lemann With a new Introduction by Lionel Shriver

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published in 1907, Patten tried to modify traditional assumptions about the permanence of poverty, the effects of a more equitable distribution of wealth, and the possibility of substantial improvements in the standard of living. The new basis of an abundant civilization required, in his view, new strategies and tactics for planning and implementing social change. In his Introduction, Daniel M. Fox examines the reasons Patten accepted the idea of abundance half a century before it achieved popularity, and shows how the concept of abundance became part of the way a significant number of Americans look at the world.

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