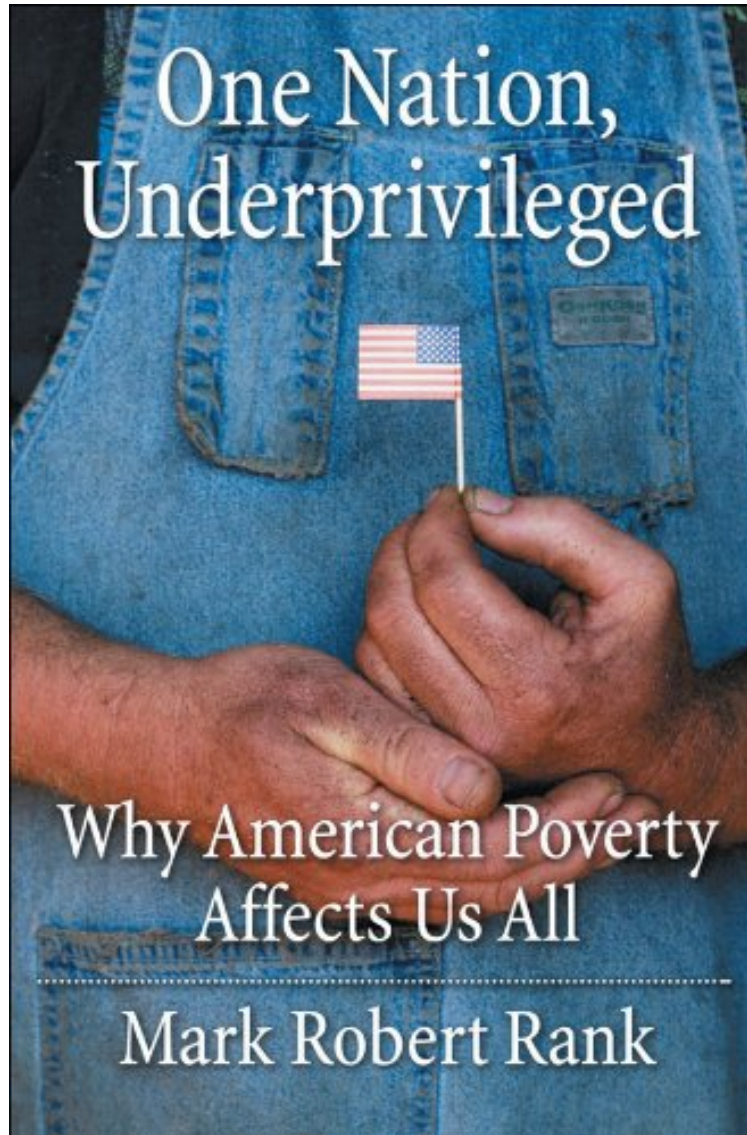


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One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All

Mark Robert Rank

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Mark Robert Rank : One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The strategies include better paying jobsBy Billie PritchettMark Rank's One Nation, Underprivileged shows the extent that poverty directly affects most American's lives and offers strategies to deal with these problems. Rank writes, "The typical pattern is that households are impoverished for one, two, or three years and then manage to get above the poverty line. They may stay there for a period of time, only to

experience another fall into poverty at some later point." This flies in the face of the accepted opinion that poverty affects the very few. Yet the statistics show that "three-quarters of Americans will experience poverty or near-poverty during their adulthoods." This is a sobering reality. Rank proposes several strategies that could be helpful in addressing this widespread poverty. The strategies include better paying jobs, access to social goods like health care and education, support for families in crises (like divorce or loss of a parent), and providing a social safety net for those who through bad luck or under duress fall into poverty. Rank admits that these strategies will not take place over night and they certainly won't take place without the free exchange of ideas and an informed citizenry making both grassroots efforts and political appeals to reform the way government deals with poverty. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rank does an excellent job with this primer on inequality and poverty in ...By Stephanie G. Rank does an excellent job with this primer on inequality and poverty in the US. While many don't need to be personally affected by poverty to understand why it's problematic, Rank largely addresses the collective disadvantages we face as a result of our tolerance of poverty and inequality. This is an excellent popular press book for an undergraduate-level sociology, poverty, public policy, or economics course. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book By me Surprising... the book is very interesting and eye opening. Got it for class and actually enjoy reading it. I would recommend for most anyone.

Despite its enormous wealth, the United States leads the industrialized world in poverty. One Nation, Underprivileged unravels this disturbing paradox by offering a unique and radically different understanding of American poverty. It debunks many of our most common myths about the poor, while at the same time provides a powerful new framework for addressing this enormous social and economic problem. Mark Robert Rank vividly shows that the fundamental causes of poverty are to be found in our economic structure and political policy failures, rather than individual shortcomings or attitudes. He establishes for the first time that a significant percentage of Americans will experience poverty during their adult lifetimes, and firmly demonstrates that poverty is an issue of vital national concern. Ultimately, Rank provides us with a new paradigm for understanding poverty, and outlines an innovative set of strategies that will reduce American poverty. One Nation, Underprivileged represents a profound starting point for rekindling a national focus upon America's most vexing social and economic problem.

From Booklist Professor Rank, author of *Living on the Edge: The Realities of Welfare in America* (1994), meticulously builds the case that, despite America's great wealth, society as a whole has abnegated its responsibility to ease the burdens of the nation's poor even while creating an economic system that structurally ensures that a great portion of its citizens will live in poverty. The author debunks the traditional belief that the poor are largely responsible for their own condition. He equates the economy to a game of musical chairs, with a limited amount of jobs substituting for chairs. Thus in this book an amazing statistic is brought out for the first time: nearly one-half of all people in America spend at least one year of their lives in poverty. Rank argues for a recapturing of our Judeo-Christian ethic and that individuals must pay more than lip service to the principles of liberty, justice, equality, and democracy so that the promise of the Pledge of Allegiance will not be "liberty and justice for some," but for all. Allen Weakland Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "An admirable and thoughtful book...Social Forces" A vital book that reminds us of the greatest blind spot in American politics." --Gregg Easterbrook, *The New Republic* "Rank's book is a must read for students and scholars studying the poverty problem. It is emotionally moving, intellectually stimulating and it inspires us to action." --International Journal of Social Welfare "Amid the commercial babble of most messages heard in a land of plenty, Rank's thesis definitely deserves a higher profile." --St. Louis Post-Dispatch An analytical yet passionate critique of the harsh economic reality of poverty, which will affect most of us during our lives --Z "Rank stands out amid the rising chorus of authors who are decrying wage stagnation and widening income gap in that he tackles the very concept of poverty and its dimensions to demonstrate how and why its pervasiveness makes it a moral and political problem that affects everyone." --America, the National Catholic Weekly "...an engaging book, nontechnical in its presentation of the facts, and written with great compassion for the least fortunate among us. This volume also brings together a large and complex literature on poverty and new empirical evidence on the dynamics of poverty." --Daniel T. Lichter, *Ohio State University Journal of Marriage and Family* "Rank writes well, and his proposals reflect the state of the policy art on the more liberal end of the political spectrum. Amid all the political discourse about individual deficiencies, his focus on the structural causes of poverty is especially welcome." --Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare "Deconstructing the dominant ideology and poverty, Rank insists that since the poor are poor for structural reasons, we should stop thinking about them as a tribe apart...Rank writes well, and his proposals reflect the state of the policy art on the more liberal end of the political spectrum. Amid all the political discourse about individual deficiencies, his focus on the structural causes of poverty is especially welcome." --Joel Blau, *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* "One Nation, Underprivileged, calls the social worker in community practice to act on a new definition of poverty that addresses the structural inequities in our economic system rather than the implied failure of individuals and families....This is a book for practitioners whose work will be renewed and affirmed by Rank's energy and his reminder of the power of coalitions to affect political

change. Equally, this book is a text that will give students in the social sciences direction as they consider their place as providers in confronting the tremendous momentum of America's capitalism and its impact on the poor....a passionate treatment of poverty that will benefit and inspire the practitioner and citizen activist alike."--Journal of Community Practice
About the Author Mark Robert Rank is at Washington University.