

### **Article Review**

#### ***“The Dire State of Urban Sociology and Geography”***

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Andersson, D. E. (2014). The Dire State of Urban Sociology and Geography. *Studies in Emergent Order, VOL 7*, 344-357

### **Introduction**

This is a review of an article published by David Emanuel Andersson, entitled “*The Dire State of Urban Sociology and Geography*”. *The article synthesizes the empirical and theoretical literature in the field of urban sociology and Geography; although the paper primarily teases out the urban economic processes. Hence, I have tried to acquaint the main theme, objectives, and findings of this article inspired by prominent urban geographers and sociologists while evincing the urban studies of the Marx foundation of labor theory and his methodological adoptions.*

### **The main theme of the Article**

This article primarily contends that David Emanuel Andersson’s research paper (2014), provides us with an interesting insights on “Urban studies”. It is argued that the term “Urban studies” emanates from several of disciplines and theories, but as being overviewed by Deborah Stevenson (2013), much of its idea came along with Marx’s view of the commodity and in his materialist orientation of mode of production. Besides, the article attempts to illustrate the fact that capitalism reflects the increasing power of politics that have been transformed into economic relations which categorizes people into classes and interest group in applying of suburbanization and inner-city gentrification as well as to mixed-use zoning.

Another concept which Marx gives a due emphasis in his writing of contemporary city was the ideology of Neo-liberalism. Unlike the other

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theorists, he saw the notions of Neo-Liberalism as a state market economy that has been regulated in tandem with the mere market process operating in the community. In the meantime, Neo-liberalism could have a huge contribution to aggrandize the socio-economic traits of the city as well as the spatial segregation of people through creating an inequitable distribution of resources. Besides, Neo-liberalism pretends as being the center of innovation and creativity to attract various members of the society via using of urban sociologists and geographers. Neo-liberalism provides the required resource for multinational corporations so as to boost their profit at the expense of dominations and exploitation of the poor or some deteriorated groups. So far, as being one of urban sociologist, Marx tends to see “Gentrification” as a primarily as an undesirable consequences that results from the hideous process of the capitalist market economy.

Nonetheless, there have been disagreement among scholars on the basis of whether gentrification has to come due to the supply of “capital” or it has to be created through the liberal structure of consumer value preferences. In the meantime, according to one of the urban geographers, *Nell Smith* asserts “*Capital*” plays a huge role in the forthcoming of urban neighborhood gentrifications although people who own means of production cling with the system of capitalism until they maximize the required profit infinitely. On the other hand, some scholars argue that the consumer liberal structure of the capitalists has had a great influence on the preferences of the community which contributed to the metropolitan to boost the diversity of the inner-city neighborhood and urban development agendas. So far, the article deduces the urban studies that synthesis term gentrifications that in turn resulted in Neo-liberal capitalism. Occasionally, the federal government of some countries outline the urban policies which result in the poor and deteriorated group to evict their residents or homelands through applying of some pertinent and unexpected mocking techniques such as; a decline of affordable housing, quality of health care, security, and so on.

On the contrary, Marx looked at social phenomena concerned with the three spatial adoptions of the labor theory value, mode of production or production process, and methodological collectivism which holds to promote the class interests instead of individual motives. Nevertheless, Marx argued that the interaction of the supply of land, as well as demand of the consumers, have a little role to the economic base of the community, but so far, the amount of labor produce the production process has widened the inequalities of power possessions between the two working classes. Consequently, some erudite urban sociologists and geographers accrue the development of the imprecise conception of Neo-liberalism as a geminated

structure that goes along with the system of capitalism that aims to increase the economic competitiveness of the Metropolitans.

In the meantime, the latter urban sociologists and geographers perceive the “free market” as primarily determined by the supply and demands of the consumers in analyzing the market opportunities. Nevertheless, in dealing with the urban neighborhood gentrifications, they argued that the value of properties became to be declined in the deteriorated neighborhood compared to the prestigious areas because they are easy to attract and generate the more profits they wish to have. Taking the above assumption into account, besides the governmental and non-governmental policies some scholars, little local entrepreneurship, low achievements in educations, high level of criminal behaviors, and less priority of the informal institution traced as the possible causes which aggravate the deteriorated neighborhood among the city. Besides, according to Lay and Stevenson, the pejorative deterioration of gentrification has to depend upon the locations where the people reside their neighborhood, the more prestigious neighborhood requires the higher price to enduringness of better attraction, whereas, the deteriorated place takes a little number of charges compared to the prestigious due to poverty and criminal behavior of the places. Thus, Hayek (1945), elucidates gentrification as a good phenomenon in the social value of economic actions. However, as he noted that the value of locations could provide social benefits for higher market prices and to the externalities of the environment in which people reside to sustain their livelihood.

## **Critical personal reflection on weakness and strength of the article**

### **Strength of the article**

This article contributes to the literature on urban studies bringing a new insight about the urban economic process while taking a deep look at the works of prominent urban sociologists and geographers while in analyzing of the concept of Marx labor theories and Methodological collectivism. Besides, it is being appreciated the way that the author put “ontological reality” and his “epistemological” idea in dealing with the heterogeneity of individuals and the key role which the entrepreneurs and institutions prevail. In an “*Ontological reality*” the article asserts the development of the term Neo-liberalism is explicitly or implicitly treated as the inevitable ideological superstructure of late capitalism. Whereas, in his *Epistemological premises* the writers of this article try to pose the nebulous terms which result in disagreements among urban geographers and sociologists such as; Neo-liberalism, gentrification, and urban neighborhood.

### **Weakness of the article**

The author of the article argues that “Gentrification” and the free market are consequently good as long as it is a market outcome and not the result of governmental takings. However, the author did not precisely disclose how the adoption of Neo-liberalism or free market could lead to a widening of inequalities and under a provision for long-term investment in the economy. Moreover, the document accrues that “Neo-liberalism” facilitates entrepreneurship and capital accumulation without analyzing the workers' exploitation of scarifications and unethical behavior which people bespeak in creating of standard or prestigious environment.

### **Conclusion**

This article elucidates an interesting issue written by Emanuel Anderson that contributes to the literature of “urban *studies*” bringing insights from sociologists and geographers who have enormous contributions in tackling the problem of urban dwellers through taking entrepreneurial presupposes, the author of the article teases out the term “Urban studies” in a connection with associate with Marx’s view of the commodity and in his materialist orientation of “mode of production”. Marx look at social phenomena concerned with the three spatial adoptions of the labor theory value, mode of production or production process, and methodological collectivism which holds to promote the class interests instead of individual motives. Henceforth, this article validates the key role which the entrepreneurs and institutions prevail appending with critical ontological reality and epistemological ideas. However, authors of the article did not precisely disclose how the system of neo-liberalism results in widening inequalities under the provision of long term investment in the economy.

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