

and pioneered an area of trendy bars and restaurants along the Cuyahoga River. Likewise, incipient gentrification seemed to revive the near West Side neighborhood of Ohio City. Yet at the close of the 1970s, Cleveland suffered the ultimate blow when it became the first major American city since the Great Depression to default on its debt payments.

From “Best Location” to bankruptcy, Souther ably guides his reader through Cleveland’s efforts to cope with decline. He evenhandedly discusses the problems faced and the actors who sought to reverse the perceived downward trajectory. Despite

occasional upbeat accounts in the media, most midwestern cities still battle to adjust to economic change and the seeming inexorable shift of wealth, power, and population from the heartland to the South and West. To anyone concerned with managing decline and coping with urban change, Souther’s work is a valuable resource. It deserves the serious attention of all students of urban America.

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### *Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts, Legacies*

Edited by Joel Stone and Thomas J. Sugrue

(Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 2017. Pp. 348. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.99.)

### *The Detroit Riot of 1967*

By Hubert Locke

(Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 2017. Pp. 174. Illustrations, index. \$24.99.)

The recent passing of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 Detroit riots reminds us that there remains much to learn from the events. The two books under review take very different approaches to the task. The text edited by Joel Stone, senior curator of the Detroit Historical Society, is part of the society’s *Detroit ’67: Looking Back to Move Forward* project. Here, the riots are contextualized within three hundred years of black/white relations as

they affect and are affected by the shifting socio-economic dynamics of the city. That the book is pitched to a very general audience is witnessed by the lack of referenced material throughout its body. Hubert Locke’s book, on the other hand, travels a very different set of inroads to the riots. Locke has held many positions in Detroit through his career, from Christian minister and academic, to director of the Citizen’s Committee for Equal Opportunity and

administrative assistant to the Detroit Commissioner of Police. It was within the latter position that he chronicled the events represented in *The Detroit Riots of 1967*. This text was originally released in 1969 and was re-published in 2017. The new edition includes a “reflections” section penned in 2016 by the author. At the heart of the text is an excellent minute-by-minute account of the July 23–31 events from the perspective of City Hall, the Detroit Police Department, and the National Guard. This remarkable timeline continues to provide a wealth of data for both historical and sociocultural analysis (see also the 2016 interview with Locke in the Stone text). Flanking these details are analyses of Detroit black/white relations between 1943 and 1967, as well as a lengthy section entitled “An Interpretation of the Event.” Locke is largely liberal structuralist in his account of police reform and conservative behavioral regarding the culture of poor blacks (see pp. 131, 153).

The text of *Detroit 1967* is divided into five sections, each beginning with a short framing piece by Stone. First, economic and geographic histories of Detroit race relations are chronicled in eight chapters. The next five chapters chart the post-World War II deindustrialization of the city. Sections three and four consist of fifteen chapters and represent the riot and its immediate aftermath. The final chapters approach the city and these turbulent events from the hindsight of the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Notable chapters in the first section include

Bill McGraw’s search of the Detroit Public Library’s Burton Collection for glimpses of nineteenth-century black and Native American slaveholding in the Michigan Territory. In his discussion of Detroit race relations between 1860 and 1930, De Witt Dykes calls attention to the contradictions between anti-slavery efforts in the city and barriers erected to racial equality. The steady racial segregation of Detroit and the creation of black ghettos like Black Bottom and Paradise Valley is the subject of an excellent contribution by Kevin Boyle. Charles Hyde then lays out the Great Migrations north into wartime factories and the racial underpinnings of Fordist industrialization (Detroit was termed the “Arsenal of Democracy”). Here, we get a good sense of the race and class-based labor struggles that largely worked toward the establishment of and the politics specific to a surplus work population. The section nears its end with Sumner’s description of the June 1943 race riot, where some 6,000 federal troops entered the city and in which 34 people lost their lives.

Section two begins with Thomas Klug’s important account of the suburbanization, automation, and shutdowns of the city’s automotive production facilities. Jeffrey Horner details discrimination in the housing and employment markets, recreation spaces, and public schools. William Winkel then bores down on struggles by white homeowner associations to keep neighborhoods segregated, showing how local officials side-stepped

such federal equal rights efforts as the *Shelley v. Kraemer* Supreme Court decision on restrictive covenants. Finally, Alex Elkins details the heavy-handed, violent tactics of the Detroit Police Department from the beginning of the 1960s to the August 1966 Kercheval “mini-riot” that largely involved members of the Afro-American Youth Movement. Not addressed here, unfortunately, are the ties between the 1943 race riots, the Kercheval incident, and the riots of 1967.

Sections three and four, focusing squarely on the 1967 riot itself, begin with a thorough chronology of the disturbance that complements the one offered in Locke’s book. In subsequent chapters we see the unfolding of the disturbance, as it enrolls complicated alliances and rifts between black and whites, enacts instant urban renewal on already unevenly developed urban spaces, and enables poor Detroit blacks to posit their rights to the city. The great strength of these chapters is the range of vantage points presented on the events. These accounts move from Stone’s narrative of Officer Tony Fierimonte’s and resident William Scott’s actions at the riot’s start and Danielle McGuire’s detailed description of the Algiers Motel incident; to media accounts of the ongoing disturbance by Timothy Kiska; and a wonderful set of oral history accounts by a retailer, a firefighter, and a physician all working at the time.

Next, Ken Coleman offers a somewhat thin discussion of the important

issue of how to name these collective actions (riot, rebellion, protest, etc.), while Steven Balkin collects remembrances and drawings by children affected by the riots. Finally, three excellent chapters by Stone, Betty DeRamus, and Mike Hamlin explore the civil rights and Black Nationalist groups active during the time of the riots. The last section of the book includes a much needed comparison by Peter Hammer of the geographies of oppression constituting the Detroit of 1967 and today. What results from this chapter can be read as a portrait of the city as a sort of material and subjective palimpsest.

In his foreword to *Detroit 1967*, city native and scholar Thomas Sugrue critiques the widely held, but sadly reductive narrative of the 1960s riots as exploding black frustrations. He writes that the disturbance was “an outgrowth of years of protest . . . [wherein] black Detroiters engaged in an uprising against a racially unequal status quo . . . [and] a rebellion against brutal police and exploitative shopkeepers” (p. xi). This is an important beginning to a possible theoretical approach that understands the riots as decidedly political in their efforts to demonstrate both a city and a people to come.

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