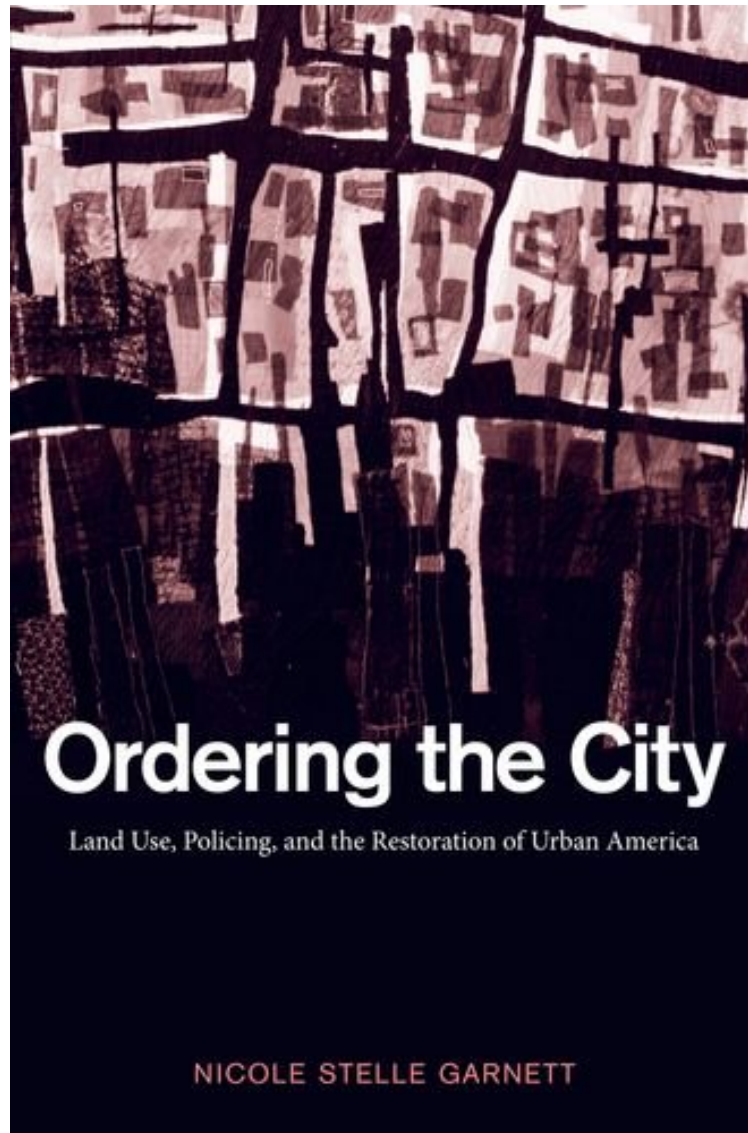


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# Ordering the City: Land Use, Policing, and the Restoration of Urban America

*Nicole Stelle Garnett*

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#1263686 in Books Nicole Stelle Garnett 2009-12-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .56 x 6.00l, .85 #File Name: 0300124945290 pages Ordering The City | File size: 67.Mb

**Nicole Stelle Garnett : Ordering the City: Land Use, Policing, and the Restoration of Urban America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ordering the City: Land Use, Policing, and the Restoration of Urban America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. two topics that don't ordinarily go together: civic order and zoning By Michael Lewyn Most of this readable little book focuses on the interaction of land use regulation and

preservation of order - by which she means not merely prevention of predatory crime, but also of the sort of low-level obnoxious behavior which, although often not criminal, nevertheless makes a place unpleasant to live in (such as panhandling or litter-creating businesses). Garnett notes that for much of the 20th century, governments sought to reduce disorder by separating disorder-creating commerce from housing. Although this strategy was popular in suburbs, it did not work so well in cities: many poor urban neighborhoods have very little economic activity, and nevertheless are very disorderly places. Similarly, downtowns dominated by 9-to-5 businesses tend to be scary places after dark. Today, the intellectual trend tends to be in favor of mixing land uses. Garnett sympathizes with this view. Although she favors a more go-slow approach than some might, she favors more aggressive deregulation in poorer areas where the status quo has clearly not worked. She also discusses new urbanist form-based codes; she approves of their general intent to mix uses, but wonders whether they are too prescriptive regarding architectural details. Garnett also discusses policies designed to deal with prostitution and homelessness; she points out that governments have gone back and forth between concentrating disorderly activity in red-light districts (thus causing crime to "spill over" into nearby neighborhoods) and dispersing such activities throughout the city (creating a risk of widespread problems). She suggests that neither strategy is a clear winner. Similarly, public housing projects sought to concentrate poverty in a few "bad areas", and now seek to disperse the poor into a broader variety of neighborhoods.

This timely and important book highlights the multiple, often overlooked, and frequently misunderstood connections between land use and development policies and policing practices. In order to do so, the book draws upon multiple literatures especially law, history, economics, sociology, and psychology as well as concrete case studies to better explore how these policy arenas, generally treated as completely unrelated, intersect and conflict. Nicole Stelle Garnett identifies different types of urban disorder, some that may be precursors to serious crime and social deviancy, others that may be benign or even contribute positively to urban vitality. The book's unique approach to analyze city policies through the lens of order and disorder provides a clearer understanding, generally, of how cities work (and why they sometimes do not), and specifically, of what disorder is and how it affects city life.

"This book is a wonderful re-articulation and deepening of Nicole Garnett's thinking that is sure to shape debates over urban land use policy and regulation for a long time to come." Sheila R. Foster, Albert A. Walsh Professor of Law, Fordham University