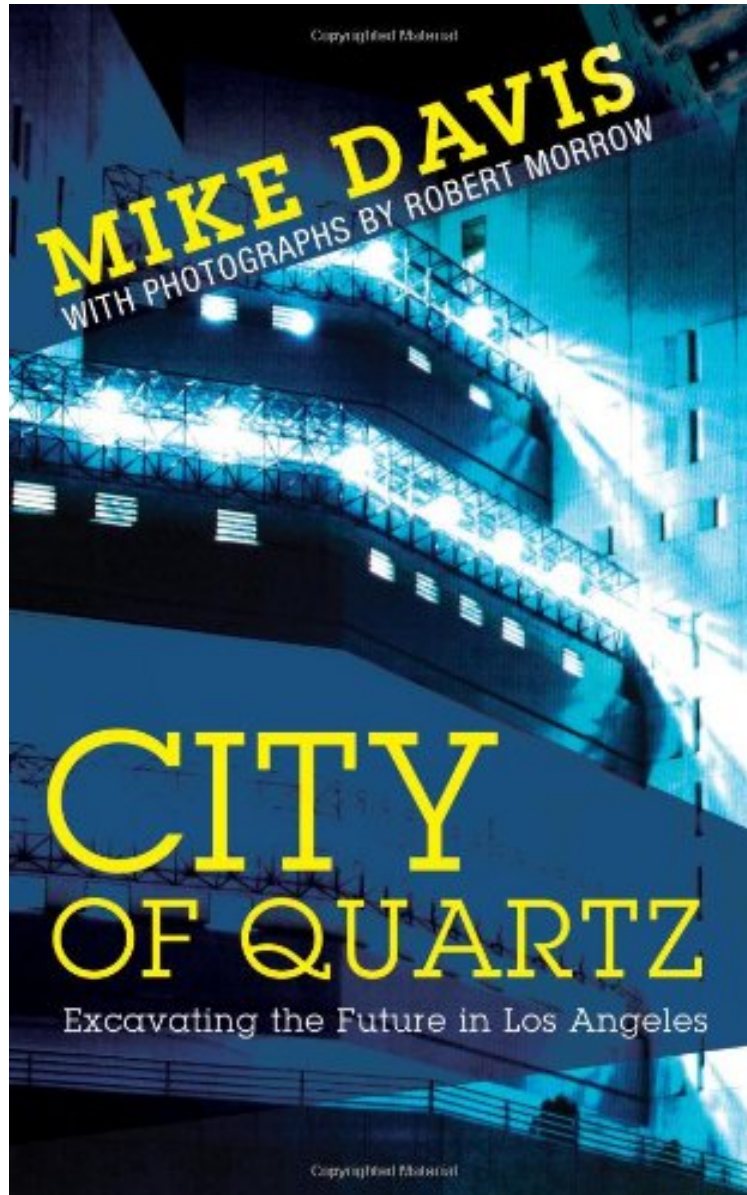


[Download free ebook] City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles

City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles

Mike Davis

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Mike Davis : City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles:

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the observations are a bit specific to Los Angeles and (ii) the book is getting kind of dated. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Impressive By Alonso Lopez I have lived 5 years in Los Angeles and I have to say reading this book has completely changed my perception of the city. Coming from another continent, names like Hollywood and Beverly Hills were familiar to me before arrival, but I knew nothing about Pasadena "Old Money" or South Central struggles. And even after years living here, I had some notions of the city history but I was far away from the rich and complex web of relationships unveiled by this book. Reading this book left me craving for more readings, I think I will go over the book again and read some of the books mentioned in the citations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential for anyone living in Los Angeles. This book ... By M S Essential for anyone living in Los Angeles. This book is your history. You need to read this and you need to realize how far the city has come.

No metropolis has been more loved or more hated. To its official boosters, "Los Angeles brings it all together." To detractors, LA is a sunlit mortuary where "you can rot without feeling it." To Mike Davis, the author of this fiercely elegant and wide-ranging work of social history, Los Angeles is both utopia and dystopia, a place where the last Joshua trees are being plowed under to make room for model communities in the desert, where the rich have hired their own police to fend off street gangs, as well as armed Beirut militias. In *City of Quartz*, Davis reconstructs LA's shadow history and dissects its ethereal economy. He tells us who has the power and how they hold on to it. He gives us a city of Dickensian extremes, Pynchonesque conspiracies, and a desperation straight out of Nathaniel West's city in which we may glimpse our own future mirrored with terrifying clarity. In this new edition, Davis provides a dazzling update on the city's current status.

.com Mike Davis peers into a looking glass to divine the future of Los Angeles, and what he sees is not encouraging: a city--or better, a concatenation of competing city states--torn by racial enmity, economic disparity, and social anomie. Looking backward, Davis suggests that Los Angeles has always been contested ground. In the 1840s, he writes, a combination of drought and industrial stock raising led to the destruction of small-scale Spanish farming in the region. In the 1910s, Los Angeles was the scene of a bitter conflict between management and industrial workers, so bitter that the publisher of the *Los Angeles Times* retreated to a heavily fortified home he called "The Bivouac." And in 1992, much of the city fell before flames and riot in a scenario Davis describes as thus: "Gangs are multiplying at a terrifying rate, cops are becoming more arrogant and trigger-happy, and a whole generation is being shunted toward some impossible Armageddon." Davis's voice-in-a-whirlwind approach to the past, present, and future of Los Angeles is alarming and arresting, and his book is essential reading for anyone interested in contemporary affairs. --Gregory MacNamee From *Library Journal* Eschewing the character study that comprises most Los Angeles history, Davis concentrates on the ongoing and ignored ethnic and class struggles, formerly manifested by booster (pro-growth) exploitation, now replaced by exclusionary (no-growth) neighborhood incorporation, and by police control of Afro-American and Latino neighborhoods. His analysis of recent Los Angeles history is often chilling and--sad to say--more true than false. Small inaccuracies sometimes afflict the narrative, and the breathlessness of Davis's writing will probably confuse readers who are unfamiliar with the region. But these criticisms quibble with an otherwise important and necessary work. Recommended. - Tim Zindel, *Hastings Coll. of the Law, San Francisco* Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Absolutely fascinating."--William Gibson "Few books shed as much light on their subjects as this opinionated and original excavation of Los Angeles from the mythical debris of its past and future."--*San Francisco Examiner* "A history as fascinating as it is instructive."--Peter Ackroyd, *The Times*