Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era

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About the Book

What is the impact of three decades of neoliberal narratives and policies on communities and individual lives? What are the sources of social resilience? This book offers a sweeping assessment of the effects of neoliberalism, the dominant feature of our times. It analyzes the ideology in unusually wide-ranging terms as a movement that not only opened markets but also introduced new logics into social life, integrating macro-level analyses of the ways in which neoliberal narratives made their way into international policy regimes with micro-level analyses of the ways in which individuals responded to the challenges of the neoliberal era. The book introduces the concept of social resilience and explores how communities, social groups, and nations sustain their well-being in the face of such challenges. The product of ten years of collaboration among a distinguished group of scholars, it integrates institutional and cultural analysis in new ways to understand neoliberalism as a syncretic social process and to explore the sources of social resilience across communities in the developed and developing worlds.

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Available from March 2013 | 416 pages
22 b/w illus. | 9 tables
Hardback | 978-1-107-03497-6
List Price: USD 99.00
Discounted Price: USD 79.20

Paperback | 978-1-107-65984-1
List Price: USD 34.99
Discounted Price: USD 27.99

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Praise for the Book

“This remarkable book shows the unexpected responses to the freemarket, doityourself ideology that has taken hold especially in the United States, but also elsewhere, in the past thirty years. Many groups and many individuals in many walks of life have pushed back with ingenuity to save the day against those who seek to impose neoliberalism on all of us, whatever its costs may be. Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era tells us how to fight for a successful society, even in a brave new world.”

—George A Akerlof, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001

“In response to the gospel of markets, political and commercial elites have unleashed profound new forces of disruption into an already unsettled economic world. How well have societies adapted to these fundamental changes and with what consequences for health, happiness, social cohesion, and economic security and equality? Building on ten years of unique interdisciplinary collaboration, this volume offers a sweeping yet ordered vision of the transformation of advanced societies over the past generation. The perspectives are rich, diverse, and deeply informative.”

—Jacob S. Hacker, Stanley Resor Professor of Political Science, Director, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University

“This is a creative, insightful, and scholarly book, articulating the impact of neoliberalism and the sources of social resilience in unusually wideranging terms. It is pioneering in two ways. First, it carefully captures how marketoriented values and policies transformed and structured our social lives as neoliberalism unfolded on the global stage. Second, it elegantly frames the concept of social resilience, our strategic capacity to respond to cultural, political, and economic challenges through the interplay of culture and institutions. The result is a major contribution on social resilience and cultural frameworks in action.”

—Catherine PanterBrick, Professor of Anthropology, Health and Global Affairs, Yale University