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Review of

HOUSING IN AMERICA: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES by Roger Montgomery and Daniel B. Mandelker, Eds.
New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1979

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This edition follows the same format as the first, but includes some newer articles to update such issues as housing economics, federal subsidies, neighborhood revitalization, and the money market. Part I focuses on an analysis of the housing economy-- its structure, the components of supply and demand, the dynamics of the market, and the politics of housing. Part II analyzes specific problems and subsequent policy responses. The topics range from intervention in capital markets to subsidies, neighborhood preservation, and racial and suburban housing policies. The general focus of this text is an economic and political rather than a social one.

The readings were selectively edited and followed by comments to clarify and supplement the information. The excerpting is frustrating at times, but it did reduce the material to manageable lengths. The readings on mobile home production, mortgages, and landlord-tenant relations are out of date. Introductions, conclusions, and suggested readings are included. In some chapters, the articles overlap and the arrangement could have been more logically sequenced.

This book is intended and is appropriate for use at the graduate and advanced undergraduate levels. Students would need to have had an introductory housing course to be able to use the readings to the best advantage. Because a glossary is not included and no other attempt has been made to define terms, a student would need a rather comprehensive background or supplemental readings. An index would have been helpful. The depth and breadth of material is impressive and the book is recommended for upper-level courses.