

Rural Communities: Legacy and Change


By Cornelia Butler Flora, Jan L Flora




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Rural Communities: Legacy and Change examines the diversity of rural America: its unique communities, histories, and social issues. It also considers how rural communities use their increasing connectedness to creatively address modern challenges in the face of increasing globalization and climate change. Focusing on various capitals in rural areas—natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial, and built—this book provides students with an essential framework for understanding rural society based on the concepts of social science.

The fourth edition of *Rural Communities* covers vital issues such as: racial and cultural diversity in rural areas; globalization and increasing tensions over international immigration; the impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the central role of communities in organizing a sustainable future; and building community in the context of ubiquitous change. Chapter opening vignettes present real people and communities, illustrating the application of concepts. Updated with 2010 Census data, the fourth edition features new coverage of local food movements, climate change, the impacts of the global financial crisis, and updates on immigration as it relates to rural societies.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a very readable book which both students and more advanced readers will appreciate. The authors present their material in a clear and systematic way. ... It will be of particular value to rural social workers and community practitioners who will benefit from its broad conceptual framework and extensive discussion of issues and challenges facing rural communities today."

— *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*

"This book paints an illuminating picture of the complexity that is rural America today. A highly readable examination of the issues, this book sets a new standard for a publication that is both narratively approachable and theoretically rigorous."

— Karl N. Stauber, president of the Northwest Area Foundation, St. Paul, Minnesota, and former Under Secretary, USDA

"This is an exciting, practical, well-researched, and usable framework for making a difference in rural communities. Highly recommended to anyone interested in understanding how rural communities function and in being part of positive community development in rural America."

— Dick Senese, Associate Dean, Community Development & Vitality, University of Minnesota Extension Service

About the Author

Cornelia Butler Flora is professor of sociology at Iowa State University, where she is also Charles F. Curtis Distinguished Professor of Agriculture.

Jan L. Flora is an extension sociologist and professor of sociology at Iowa State University.

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