Understanding Poverty

Read. Watch. Listen.

READ


Poverty is the lack of enough income and resources to live adequately by community standards. Many poverty-stricken people cannot afford the food, shelter, clothing, and medical care that they need. Poverty can cause suffering, malnutrition, poor health, and loss of life. It can also lead to feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and low self-esteem. Governments and private organizations have worked to reduce or eliminate poverty, but it remains a widespread problem. More than 1 billion people throughout the world live in poverty.

Desmond, Matthew. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Penguin Books, 2017. (Title in Library Catalog: Call number “339.46 DESMOND”)

Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Evicted transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems.


DIGITAL RESOURCES

World Book
Access this resource at www.scld.org/world-book

Opposing Viewpoints in Context
Access this resource at www.scld.org/opposing-viewpoints

Search “poverty” after clicking through to these resources.

PRINT & OTHER MATERIALS IN OUR CATALOG

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WATCH


Intimate stories of one Rust Belt city’s struggle to recover in the post-recession economy. Frontline and ProPublica report on the economic and social forces shaping Dayton, Ohio, a once-booming city where nearly 35 percent now live in poverty.


Nicole Sweeney shares a ten minute explanation of how social class impacts who we become, including how we form our ideas about parenting, education, religion, health, and food.

LISTEN


On the Media’s series on poverty is grounded in the Talmudic notion that “We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are.” Brooke Gladstone traveled to Ohio to learn from people living the varied reality of poverty today, and to unpack the myths that shape our private presumptions as well as our policy decisions. In each episode, we feature the voices and complex stories of individuals, as well essential context from scholars, to lay open the tales we tell ourselves.

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