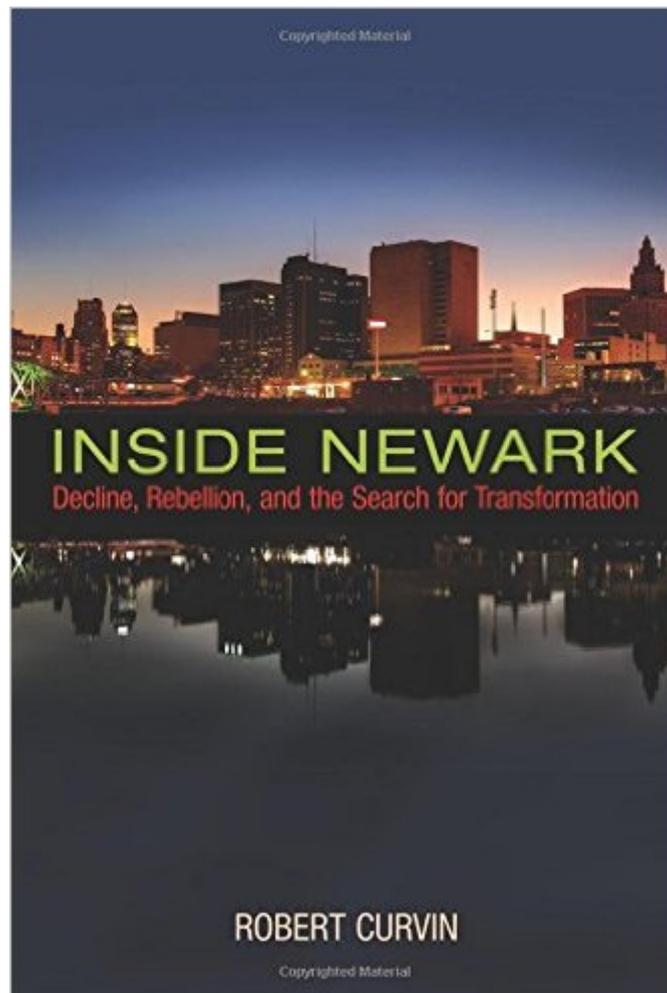


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Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion, And The Search For Transformation (Rivergate Regionals Collection)



Synopsis

For decades, leaders in Newark, New Jersey, have claimed their city is about to return to its vibrant past. How accurate is this prediction? Is Newark on the verge of revitalization? Robert Curvin, who was one of New Jersey's outstanding civil rights leaders, examines the city, chronicling its history, politics, and culture. Throughout the pages of *Inside Newark*, Curvin approaches his story both as an insider who is rooting for Newark and as an objective social scientist illuminating the causes and effects of sweeping changes in the city. Based on historical records and revealing interviews with over one hundred residents and officials, *Inside Newark* traces Newark's history from the 1950s, when the city was a thriving industrial center, to the era of Mayor Cory Booker. Along the way, Curvin covers the disturbances of July 1967, called a riot by the media and a rebellion by residents; the administration of Kenneth Gibson, the first black mayor of a large northeastern city; and the era of Sharpe James, who was found guilty of corruption. Curvin examines damaging housing and mortgage policies, the state takeover of the failing school system, the persistence of corruption and patronage, Newark's shifting ethnic and racial composition, positive developments in housing and business complexes, and the reign of ambitious mayor Cory Booker. *Inside Newark* reveals a central weakness that continues to plague Newark—that throughout this history, elected officials have not risen to the challenges they have faced. Curvin calls on those in positions of influence to work for the social and economic improvement of all groups and concludes with suggestions for change, focusing on education reform, civic participation, financial management, partnerships with agencies and business, improving Newark's City Council, and limiting the term of the mayor. If Newark's leadership can encompass these changes, Newark will have a chance at a true turnaround. Watch a video with Robert Curvin: Watch video now. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-d6zV2OQ8A>).

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Customer Reviews

Excellent, only the author pass away a week after I purchased the book..

Very informative of the phases that Newark went through over the years. Well written and the photographs brought the narrative history to life.

Having worked in Newark as a teacher and then an administrator, I am awed by the scope, depth, and dedication Dr. Curvin gives to helping readers understand America today through Newark's last 50 years. I lived in Newark in the 60's and early 70s. Dr. Curvin brings it all back with the inside story making sense of the turbulence and failures, the headiness of hope with each new election, and the reality of lost opportunities for change. Inside Newark is open, direct, highly intelligent writing, offered with grace and patience. He is fair, careful not to jump to condemnation and conclusion without careful appreciation of the fullness of each mayor and community leaders personalities and characters. The major players are all there. He is determined to bring readers who care about American cities, the education of our children, the lives of those who struggle for decency and hope who live in the hard core of the city, to a higher understanding of how government and its officials really work. He provides recommendations based on careful analysis and exceptional vision of what can be, as a realist. Inside Newark is for anyone who seriously wants to learn about urban complexities, the rotting politics, the ambitious leaders, the community activists, the citizens of cities who cannot see behind the closed doors of power and money, just how corrupting it can be. This author provides a serious study for universities preparing students for work in cities. This is a book that should be required reading. I believe the damage is great for those who turn their backs on cities like Newark. To understand Newark is to understand American cities. Dr. Curvin is not melancholy. He offers the opportunity to use his reporting meaningfully, identifying new approaches and offering ideas that require commitment and sustainability. Outstanding. Dr. Linda Newman Gallanter

well written. Inside history of Newark through to mid 20th century.

I was born and raised in Newark; graduated from Rutgers and was a member of Baraka's organization, the Committee for a Unified Newark from 1967 to 1974 when I moved to Maryland. I worked with Bob during the organizing for the Black and Puerto Rican Convention. I think he gets right the role and significance of the United Community Corporation (UCC) as an incubator for some who had their eyes set on elective office as well as his role in being a central, credible figure in bridging the gap among the various groups struggling to put back together the broken pieces left by the corrupt Addonizzio administration. My election to the presidency of UCC coincided with that of Ken Gibson's victory as mayor of Newark. I had worked assiduously to get Gibson and the rest of the Community's Choice ticket elected; but that did not stop him from quietly fielding a slate of his own - a slate that was soundly defeated. Curvin has told the inside Newark story; Junius Williams has informed us of an "unfinished Agenda". I hope to complete my memoir of inside the Committee for A Unified Newark" to add to the body of work giving personal accounts of this turbulent time in Newark. Kudos to Bob Curvin for his invaluable contribution to this important chapter of Newark's evolution from the Addonizzio ashes.. David H. Barrett

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