



After the World Trade Center: Rethinking New York City (Cultural Spaces)

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The terrorist attacks of September 11 have created an unprecedented public discussion about the uses and meanings of the central area of lower Manhattan that was once the World Trade Center. While the city sifts through the debris, contrary forces shaping its future are at work. Developers jockey to control the right to rebuild "ground zero." Financial firms line up for sweetheart deals while proposals for memorials are gaining in appeal. In *After the World Trade Center*, eminent social critics Sharon Zukin and Michael Sorkin call on New York's most acclaimed urbanists to consider the impact of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and what it bodes for the future of New York. Contributors take a close look at the reaction to the attack from a variety of New York communities and discuss possible effects on public life in the city.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Beginning as a local tragedy, the attack on the World Trade Center towers quickly assumed both national and international import. This collection of essays, edited by social critics Sorkin (editor, *The Next Jerusalem*) and Zukin (*Landscapes of Power*), seeks to revisit the tragedy as a local event and consider September 11 in light of New York's urban history. The essays, by the editors and 17 urbanists, examine how the towers came to be built and the neighborhoods that had to be destroyed to make way for this paean to international commerce. They also examine the chilling parallels between this attack and the Wall Street bombing of 1920, as well as the violation of the building codes that took place during construction of the towers. Throughout, there is deep concern for what the towers' construction and demolition and likely plans for reconstruction have to say about democracy in the nation's financial capital. Collectively, all the contributors (e.g., Marshall Berman, Beverly Gage, Edwin G. Burrows) call for a more democratic New York, one where the voices of all the people can be heard, not just the economically and politically powerful. Recommended for academic and larger public library collections in urban studies and New York history. Christopher Brennan, SUNY at Brockport Lib.
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From [Booklist](#)

Amid the flood of glossy picture books memorializing September 11 comes a rare collection of essays on the fallen World Trade Towers. Written by social critics and urbanists, the essays provide a multidimensional portrait of the towers and New York in the aftermath of September 11. The Lower Manhattan site is presented as a complex, contested landscape rich in historical, social, and political context. Lower Manhattan experienced violence associated with world trade in the early seventeenth century, and terrorist disaster, attributed to the radical left, struck Wall Street in 1920. A theme running through the essays is the need for a more democratic city. Will the Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation, granted freedom from democratic oversight, recover the site for all of New York, or just for the developers and power brokers? Reconstruction is envisioned not in building another mammoth center but, rather, in a lower-scale Downtown where all can participate. Global and local in outlook, reaching beyond the personal-tragedy, American-values perspective that has dominated the media, this thoughtful volume is not just for New Yorkers. *Philip Herbst*
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Review

The contributors read like a who's who of progressive Manhattan. -- The San Francisco Chronicle
After the World Trade Center... is a rare and unflinching lesson book on New York among the truckloads of books emerging with the anniversary of the attacks. Michael Sorkin, arguably America's most provocative architecture critic, edited the book along with sociology professor Sharon Zukin... As a whole, the book offers an unapologetic, left-of-center viewpoint. But its mining of Manhattan's deep past and often ironic present offers some important insights for the city's future. -- The Oregonian
vividly of a moment, capturing on paper what hovers in the air...And that's the value of *After the World Trade Center*: It shows how, as New York faces a challenge once inconceivable, the people who love it are fearful that belligerent panic will trample deeper issues and needs. -- San Francisco Chronicle
Global and local in outlook, reaching beyond the personal-tragedy, American-values perspective that has dominated the media, this thoughtful volume is not just for New Yorkers. -- Booklist
[A] singularly politically incorrect radical rethinking of the whole event and the great city in which it

happened...one of the most provocative and perhaps most important books yet to come out of the event. --
The Buffalo News

After the World Trade Center... is a rare and unflinching lesson book on New York among the truckloads of books emerging with the anniversary of the attacks. Michael Sorkin, arguably America's most provocative architecture critic, edited the book along with sociology professor Sharon Zukin. As a whole, the book offers an unapologetic, left-of-center viewpoint. But its mining of Manhattan's deep past and often ironic present offers some important insights for the city's future. -- Portland *Oregonian*

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