



The Urbanization of the Suburbs

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When we moved to the suburbs we were looking to get away from the congestion of the city. We wanted a piece of land that we could call our own and neighbors who could be seen but not close enough so that I could watch a movie really loud, have my music banging loud, my tv loud, and I could play my piano to my heart's content without having to press the mute pedal. It seems that the American dream, that dream is disappearing.

I just drove to my favorite New Jersey shopping malls in Paramus and Montvale. On every free acre they are building apartment buildings with no end. They are supposedly luxury. But I don't know how luxurious it is to have your balcony overlook a mall or the Garden State Parkway. These apartments are going up in every major suburban community. Many of these apartments sit over restaurants. It reminds me of the squalor of city living with rodents and cockroaches and the smell of greasy food coming up from the basement.

In Rockland, every little corner gets an apartment building. Are there enough people to move to Rockland to occupy all these apartments? The bigger question is, what's that going to do to the fabric of life in a suburban community? Main Street in New City is already congested. Are we going to have to build new schools? Will we need more health care facilities? And who is going to pay for all this? That is especially true when a certain percentage of the housing is required to be low income. I know these suburban communities were mandated by the federal government to have these projects. But has the federal government thought out what the impact on these communities would be and how the infrastructure would be supported?

The purpose of this, in my mind, is to create a new American ownership of property! Forget about it. Then they will regulate the rents, and the landlords will not have the money to upkeep these buildings. Look what is happening in NYC in rent-controlled apartments. So how does this work for the average person who moves to the suburbs. Will they have to leave the suburbs and suburbanize new rural area? Certainly, this has become feasible since many jobs are remote and people are leaving the cities because they don't have to go into work in the city. This is a bad cycle of building that will lead to decay eventually because there are not enough people who want to rent these apartments. Just in my view.