

GLOBALISATION

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| GUIDELINE | New York : Urban dynamics |
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Document 1. View of Manhattan from the Queens



Document 2. By Timothy Williams, from *NY Times*, June 13, 2008

It isn't news that just two or three years ago, Harlem had a paucity of bank branches, grocery stores and other basic amenities, or that now that more affluent people have started to move there, upscale shops and restaurants have followed.

But change can have surprising results. While welcoming safer, cleaner streets, longtime residents have found themselves juggling conflicting emotions. [...]

"The majority of the stores, the 99-cent stores, they're gone," said Gwen Walker, 55, a longtime resident of the General Grant Houses in West Harlem, giving one view. "The Laundromat on the corner is gone. The bodegas are gone. There's large delis now. What had been two for \$1 is now one for \$3. [...].

Gentrification, it turns out, can have an odd psychological effect on those it occurs around. No one — almost no one — is wishing for a return of row upon row of boarded-up buildings or the summer mornings when lifeless bodies turned up in vestibules, or the evenings when every block seemed to have its own band of drug dealers and subordinate crackheads.

But residents say they do miss having a neighborhood with familiar faces to greet, familiar foods to eat, and no fear of being forced out of their homes. [...]

The psychological hold Harlem has on African-Americans has endured even as the neighborhood's devolution became so complete that between about 1960 and 1990, Harlem had lost a third of its population and half of its housing stock.

In 1990, during the height of the crack epidemic, 261 people were murdered in the police precincts that cover Harlem. Last year, there were about 500 murders in the entire city.

Those who stayed during the worst years say they developed an even stronger psychological attachment to Harlem, its flaws not unlike their own. The perceived diminution of that neighborhood, caused in part by an influx of middle class people of all races, can feel like a loss of self, they say.

Ms. Walker, who has lived in the sprawling General Grant Houses, a public housing complex, on and off since the 1950s, said she often sat talking with her neighbors about their changing surroundings, wondering whether any of them will be there in three to five years.

She said they speculated that by then, they will have been relocated to "a rural area in the Bronx" — even though a city housing project would seem to be safe from gentrification. "Change is good, and progress is inevitable," she said. "But the feeling is, 'What are we going to do? Where are we going to go?'" [...].