

EXURBIA NOW

The Battleground of American Democracy

David Masciotra

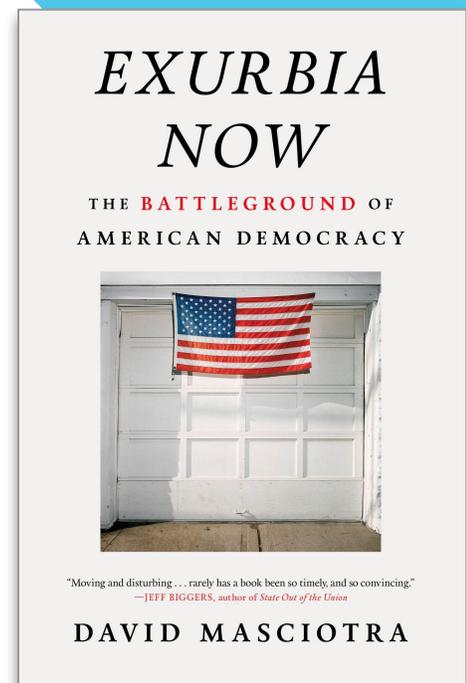
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“A timely appraisal of an American political landscape marked by dangerous isolation...an urgent work of political analysis that treats small-town life as the center of the battle for American national identity.”
— **Foreword Review**

“Masciotra brings his personal experience to his cogent and frightening analysis of the mindset that has taken hold in so many American small towns and rural communities, offering insight and a fresh perspective on the culture wars dividing the country. Highly recommended.” — **Booklist STARRED Review**

“Reading this book, it’s absolutely clear how the far right has managed to transform extant suburban fears of economic and social upheaval into conspiracy theories, paranoia, and authoritarian ideation. This is an enlightening and discomfiting look at how the place I spent much of my life in is becoming unrecognizable.” — **Mike Rothschild, author of *The Storm Is Upon Us***



NOTE TO THE READER

The suburbs have become too liberal and diverse for many white American conservatives, so “exurbia”—areas outside the cities and their suburbs—are becoming the staging ground for the radical right extremist insurgency . . .

Combining interviews, research, and anecdote—and anchored in personal experience—*Exurbia Now* delivers a powerful ballad on the state of small-town America, and provides a sense of the fight for democracy, on the ground, in the heartland.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is “exurbia,” and how does it differ from suburbia?
2. How has suburbia changed in the past thirty years, and how has that transformation led to the growth of exurbia?
3. Why is exurbia the most important political territory for the radical right wing?
4. What are the factors that make the exurbs advantageous and attractive to reactionary Republicans?
5. What does the popularity of heavy duty pickup trucks suggest about American culture and politics?

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6. What are the meanings of the terms "Nowhere, USA" and "The Liberal City"?
7. How do the economics of exurbia complicate the prevalent media story of "rural" and "working class" Trump support?
8. Why do the voting patterns of young Americans, and the changes in large metro suburbs, indicate a more progressive future?
9. Who is Robert Cotton, and why should his story inspire progressive Americans?
10. The mainstream media often neglects geography in its assessment of elections and current events. Why is political geography crucial to understanding the present and future of American politics?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Masciotra is the author of six books, including *I Am Somebody: Why Jesse Jackson Matters* and *Mellencamp: American Troubadour*. A journalist, political analyst, and arts critic, he has written for the *New Republic*, *Salon*, *Progressive*, *Washington Monthly*, *No Depression*, *CounterPunch*, *CrimeReads*, and many other publications about politics, literature, and music. He and his wife live in Indiana, where he teaches at Indiana University Northwest.

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