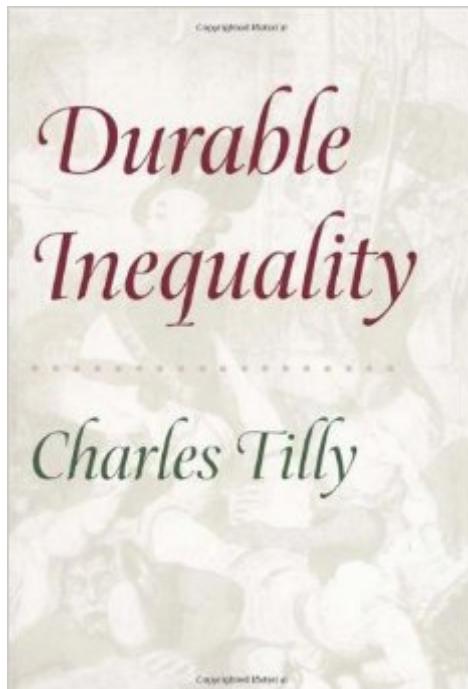


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Durable Inequality (Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture)



Synopsis

Charles Tilly, in this eloquent manifesto, presents a powerful new approach to the study of persistent social inequality. How, he asks, do long-lasting, systematic inequalities in life chances arise, and how do they come to distinguish members of different socially defined categories of persons? Exploring representative paired and unequal categories, such as male/female, black/white, and citizen/noncitizen, Tilly argues that the basic causes of these and similar inequalities greatly resemble one another. In contrast to contemporary analyses that explain inequality case by case, this account is one of process. Categorical distinctions arise, Tilly says, because they offer a solution to pressing organizational problems. Whatever the "organization" is—as small as a household or as large as a government—the resulting relationship of inequality persists because parties on both sides of the categorical divide come to depend on that solution, despite its drawbacks. Tilly illustrates the social mechanisms that create and maintain paired and unequal categories with a rich variety of cases, mapping out fertile territories for future relational study of durable inequality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Tilly, *Durable Inequality* is an excellent book. Good to use in seminars of sociology on the MA level. Good writing and easily to be understood by students.

It explains how inequality is formed and reinforced and why society will never be perfectly equal but

how things aren't set in stone. A professor recommended it to me as a way of thinking about inequality and it hit the mark.

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