

This PDF includes a chapter from the following book:

Just Housing

The Moral Foundations of American Housing Policy

© 2021 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

License Terms:

Made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International Public License

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

OA Funding Provided By:

MIT Libraries

The title-level DOI for this work is:

[doi:10.7551/mitpress/13587.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/13587.001.0001)

Preface

As I began to proofread the final draft of this book, the world changed. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced everyone into their homes. The housing justice community mobilized for action on behalf of those without homes and those facing housing insecurity. Several local, state, and federal government agencies in the United States responded with policies that granted temporary relief from rental and mortgage payment obligations. In May 2020, George Floyd's brutal death at the hands of the Minneapolis police catalyzed a nationwide reckoning with the durable legacies of America's racist past and present. These events, combined with the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 borne by people of color, brought attention to structural injustices that are deeply embedded within America's institutions. A variety of proposals for reform that were only in their embryonic stages in summer 2020 will likely come into full view by the time this book hits the shelves. I hope that this book offers lasting advice to US housing policymakers seeking to incorporate the lessons from 2020 into policy reforms that will chart a path toward justice. As this book goes to press, these lessons have only begun to be revealed.

