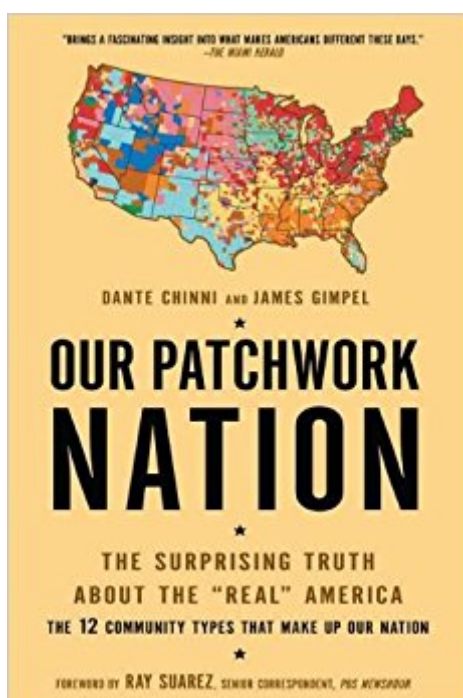**The book was found**

Our Patchwork Nation: The Surprising Truth About The "Real" America

Synopsis

A provocative counterargument to the blue/red divide that illuminates our country's multidimensional political spectrum. In a climate of culture wars and economic uncertainty, the media have often reduced America to a simplistic schism between red and blue states. In response to that oversimplification, journalist Dante Chinni teamed up with political geographer James Gimpel, using on-the-ground reporting and statistical analysis to get past generalizations and probe American communities in depth.Looking at the data, they recognized that the country breaks into twelve distinct types of communities, whose differences and specific concerns shed light on the subtle distinctions in how Americans vote, shop, and otherwise behave. Showcasing personal interviews, combined with facts and statistics, Our Patchwork Nation offers a brilliant new way to examine the issues that matter most to our communities, and to our nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The astounding diversity among the 300 million citizens of the U.S. defies easy labels of red and blue states, Republicans or Democrats. Journalist Chinni and scholar Gimpel draw on two years of research and interviews to offer regional portraits of the U.S. that drill down to a deeper look at political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives than the red and blue labels. Using data from the nationâ ™s 3,141 counties to get a flavor of local perspectives, they looked at typical demographics of race, education, income, religion, and politics and identified 12 different community types based on â œcommon experiences and shared realities.â • Their categories: boomtowns,

campus and careers, emptying nests, Evangelical epicenters, immigration nation, industrial metropolis, military bastions, minority central, monied burbs, Mormon outposts, service-worker centers, and tractor country. The first part of the book examines the characteristics of each type of county, while the second compares the types and how their characteristics drive economics, politics, and culture. The authorsâ ™ data is almost as fascinating as their conversations with people living within the defined regions. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Brings a fascinating insight into what makes Americans different these days." â ” The Miami Herald

This book is already somewhat dated in its narrative (written when it appeared Obama was a sign of generally ascendant leftist politics). Furthermore, an entire county is too large a unit to characterize as a coherent cultural entity if it is very populous. That may work for rural counties without significant towns in them, but otherwise it seems like zip codes or even census blocks are better units for cultural categorization. Nevertheless, there were interesting insights into each of the community categories.

Changes the reader's simple thinking about red states and blue states (and assumptions therein) for good. Chinni's study looks at the complexity of what it will mean to "fix" the economy, but he also ends with the note that Americans are persistently optimistic, and it may be this optimism, he argues, that will pull us through.

Decent premise and well researched. Thought the anecdotal evidence was thin at times. Think they could've gotten by with less categories, but like the idea is the county as the unit of measure.

My wife keeps referring to the types of community that surround us plus all the cities and towns we visit. Good perspectives and historical data. She agrees with most of the categorizations.

A wonderful look at how our country is laid out, NOT by the "numbers", but by the socio-geographic areas where we live. It was very readable, and gives food for thought.

If you find any of several topics fascinating, including demographics, politics, and searching for the utopian community given your predispositions, to be fun, this is a must read.

The authors use a large amount of county-level data to create 12 community types. They make the interesting argument that people living in varying communities across the US experience vastly different realities. The community types they develop possess considerable validity. However, their efforts to get beyond the "red state, blue state" stereotype really only produce 12 new stereotypes. We've gone from red and blue to "boom towns" and "minority centrals." On the other hand, the authors provide a more nuanced measure of local preferences than currently available that should be useful to any scholars doing county-level research.

Extremely interesting. No wonder most Americans can never ever agree on much of anything. I gave it 4 stars because after a while all those figures and percentages kept clogging up my brain. It is impossible to retain that many figures.I would recommend it to anyone interested in politics

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