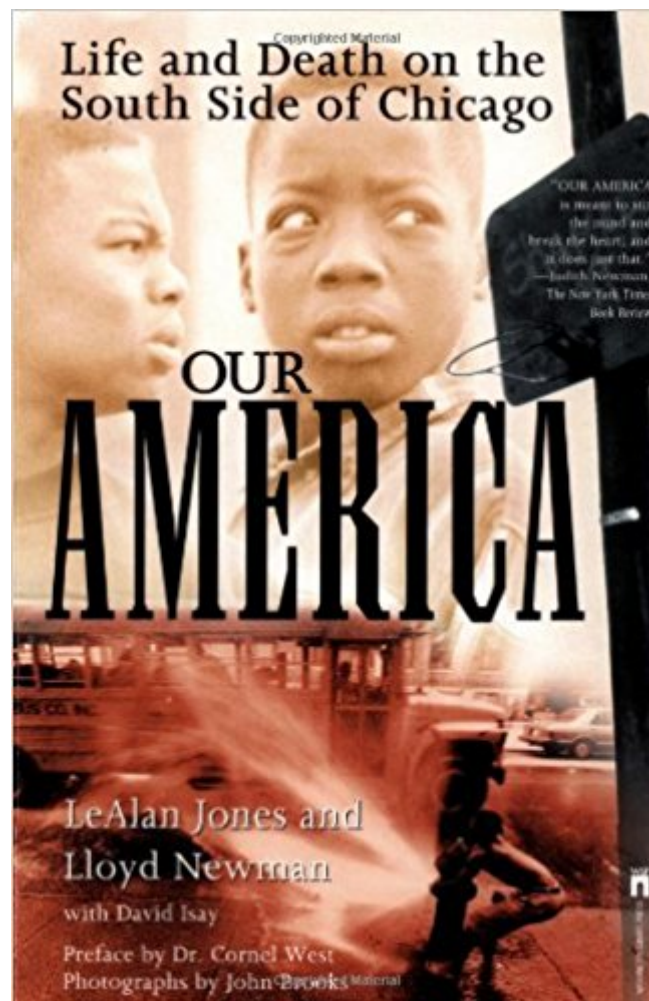


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# Our America: Life And Death On The South Side Of Chicago



## Synopsis

Through two award-winning National Public Radio documentaries, and now this powerful book, LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman have made it their mission to be loud voices from one of this country's darkest places, Chicago's Ida B. Wells housing project. Set against the stunning photographs of a talented young photographer from the projects, *Our America* evokes the unforgiving world of these two amazing young men, and their struggle to survive unrelenting tragedy. With a gift for clear-eyed journalism, they tell their own stories and others, including that of the death of Eric Morse, a five-year-old who was dropped to his death from the fourteenth floor of an Ida B. Wells apartment building by two other little boys. Sometimes funny, often painful, but always charged with their dream of *Our America*, LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman reach out to grab your attention and break your heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This heartbreaking and inspiring book goes a long way toward fulfilling the wish one of its authors, LeAlan Jones, makes in his epigraph: "You must learn our America as we must learn your America, so that, maybe, someday, we can become one." Based on hours and hours of taped interviews that Jones and Lloyd Newman, two high school students, conducted for two National Public Radio documentaries they prepared in 1993 and 1995, *Our America* is a no-holds-barred look at the devastatingly poor Chicago neighborhood in which they live. It's a world where elementary school students learn about sex and drugs before they learn how to read, and where many boys do not

expect to live to be 20. You finish the book marveling not that so many of those who people it are trapped, but wondering that anyone survives at all. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When they were 13, Jones and Newman gained notoriety by telling personal stories of life in the poor, violent, and desolate world of Chicago's Ida B. Wells Homes in the award-winning National Public Radio (NPR) documentaries "Ghetto Life 101" and "Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse." Drawing from more than 100 hours of tapes unused in the original broadcasts, the now 17-year-old authors, with assistance from NPR producer Isay, have created a frank and provocative view of America's minorities from the inside out and bottom up. Scrutinizing life in their poor South Side neighborhood through the experiences of friends, families, and teachers, the authors reveal how disenfranchised from mainstream America the ghetto has become. Jones poignantly states in the opening, "We live in a second America where the laws of the land don't apply and the laws of the street do." A powerful, rousing message for all concerned readers. ?Michael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Lib., Ind. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book

A powerful and moving read. Highly recommended.

Great read. I was born and raised in those same projects before they turned into a war zone. Still I love Chicago and everything about it. I even cried reading this story. I even did some follow up research on some of the characters. Very informative

I teach at a middle school that might as well be the school these boys go to. They are incredible articulate and really know how to tell a story, but the story they are telling is (so sadly) not unique. It's depressing how many Americans go about their business without knowing or acknowledging the huge divide that exists in our society. Definitely approachable for anyone 11+ but pretty chilling if you're really paying attention.

Bought this book for class. Easy read. Pretty good book too easy

It was delivered on time and as described.

A book all American's should read.

This book should be a required read in all high school and/or college curriculums!

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