



# The Price of Poverty: Money, Work, and Culture in the Mexican American Barrio

*Dan Dohan*

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## **The Price of Poverty: Money, Work, and Culture in the Mexican American Barrio** Dan Dohan

Drawing on two years of ethnographic fieldwork in two impoverished California communities—one made up of recent immigrants from Mexico, the other of U.S.-born Chicano citizens—this book provides an invaluable comparative perspective on Latino poverty in contemporary America. In northern California's high-tech Silicon Valley, author Daniel Dohan shows how recent immigrants get by on low-wage babysitting and dish-cleaning jobs. In the housing projects of Los Angeles, he documents how families and communities of U.S.-born Mexican Americans manage the social and economic dislocations of persistent poverty. Taking readers into worlds where public assistance, street crime, competition for low-wage jobs, and family, pride, and cross-cultural experiences intermingle, *The Price of Poverty* offers vivid portraits of everyday life in these Mexican American communities while addressing urgent policy questions such as: What accounts for joblessness? How can we make sense of crime in poor communities? Does welfare hurt or help?

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