

Preface

Unlike diamonds, which are supposed to be forever, cities and their surrounding regions seldom stay the same for long. Populations expand and contract; neighborhoods transform; some industries thrive, while others fail; economic boundaries shift, even if political boundaries do not. All these changes have enormous implications for the quality of city life and for the public policies that can affect it.

As a consequence, cities, regions, and their people need to be revisited and reexamined on a regular basis. Alterations in the demographic and industrial landscape need to be considered; the attitudes and opinions of the citizens who live in the region, both new and old, need to be probed; the success and failure of the region's labor markets need to be constantly appraised. These needs are the motivation behind this study of the Greater Boston Metropolitan Area. Undertaken in the late 1990s, it is almost certainly the last effort in the twentieth century to consider how the region has changed in the post-World War II era and what this means for the diverse populations who live there. We were particularly interested in how these changes have affected the way racial and ethnic groups treat each other in their communities and at work; how migration and immigration have affected the pattern of housing segregation; and how changes in the region's industrial structure have affected the absolute and relative labor market success of individual racial and ethnic groups.

The Ford Foundation and Russell Sage Foundation-funded Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality, initiated in 1993, provided the opportunity to carry out this research. Boston was chosen—along with Detroit, Atlanta, and Los Angeles—as a site for a major household survey to investigate racial and ethnic attitudes, patterns of residential segregation, and labor market outcomes. In addition to the Greater Boston Social Survey (GBSS) of households, the foundation provided the resources for a separate survey of regional firms, many of which were chosen be-

PREFACE

cause they employed respondents in the household survey. The results from these two surveys comprise the raw data we analyze in the second half of this book, while an investigation of dozens of historical studies and the decennial censuses from 1950 on provide much of the context we provide in the first half.

Whether you have lived in the Boston area your whole life, visited it as a tourist, or never even been there, the analysis contained in these pages will reveal some surprising phenomena. And while Boston is certainly unique in many ways, we believe there are lessons to be learned here that will prove useful elsewhere. Boston's triple revolution—in demography, industrial structure, and space—that underlies contemporary racial attitudes, patterns of residential segregation, and the distribution of success in the labor market, has its counterparts in other cities and regions.

A project of this magnitude can never be successfully undertaken without the help of dozens of researchers and colleagues. We benefited immensely from all those who helped develop and carry out the Greater Boston Social Survey and analyzed this enormously rich source of data. In particular, we would like to thank the Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The center's staff of researchers and interviewers worked tirelessly to gather the information on which much of the analysis in this volume is based. We also received a great deal of help in the design of the survey from those who carried out comparable studies in Atlanta, Detroit, and Los Angeles. In addition, three of the chapters of this book were written by our colleagues Michael Massagli, Philip Moss, and Chris Tilly. Mike was responsible for chapters 6 and 7. Philip and Chris undertook the Boston survey of employers and drafted chapter 10.

We would also like to thank the following colleagues and friends. Miren Uriarte, James Jennings, Edwin Meléndez, Paul Watanabe, and Peter Kiang provided initial assistance in framing the questions for the project. Bess Beatty and Susan Porter provided assistance on the history chapters. Jane West, Carson Tsao, and Randall Wilson prepared wonderful analyses of census data which helped inform our understanding of Boston's triple revolution. James Butler, a master of Maptitude, prepared the maps that helped us convey the drama of the region's spatial transformation. Russell Williams helped prepare the industry-occupation data we used in the labor market analysis, and Alan Clayton-Matthews served as a consultant on a range of knotty technical issues that cropped up throughout the study's statistical analysis. We also express appreciation to Reynolds Farley for assistance on the residential segregation section of the book.

In terms of the final editing and preparation of the manuscript, we

PREFACE

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BARRY BLUESTONE
MARY HUFF STEVENSON

