



The Bulldozer in the Countryside

Name

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Course

Date



Introduction

The book *'The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism'* by Adam Rome is about American history after World War II. In particular, this book follows the growth of the American suburbs and the destruction of environment after World War II. Rome is putting forward two main events that were happening in America after the Second World War. One of them was the growth of the American suburbs while the second is the destruction of environment (Rome 4). In this case, Rome states that people were building homes at the expense of the environment. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate and analyze the issues surrounding the book for easier understanding of the themes.

Discussion

At first, Rome offers readers a comprehensive description of post war events that led to the need of housing for many people. Immediately after the Second World War, the housing industry significantly grew to accommodate new needs of the people (Rome 10). However, this industry disregarded many facts about environment leading to environmental degradation. The housing industry was building homes with so many electrical appliances resulting to high usage of energy. On the contrary, the most ironical issue was that many people were searching for homes with an environmental touch with many modern electrical appliances (Rome 86). In addition, these houses were poorly made.

Secondly, due to the significant growth of the housing industry in the suburbs, there was an increase in degradation of the environment. The housing industry did not consider the environment. They brought in bulldozers that were cutting down trees (Rome 90). Secondly, they were poorly building the houses costing new homeowners and country more money. In this situation, they were building houses with poor drainage system leading to the destruction of the ecosystem

with wastage (Rome 93). In addition, they were building the houses in regions not suitable for building. For example, they were building houses in areas prone to landslides.

In agreement with these arguments, Johnson and Klemens state that the suburb sprawl is the main cause of environment degradation in America during the twentieth century (Johnson and Klemens 5). According to their argument, cheap housing developments due to capitalistic ideologies led to the destruction of the environment (Johnson and Klemens 5). In addition, other scholars tend to agree with this argument stating that the urban sprawl led to fight for space by the new homeowners (McQuaid and Adam 258). As a result, there was the destruction of tracks, of quality land with conducive environment. Therefore, Rome's themes or issues are in agreement with other scholars who are proving this theory.

I agree with this argument because after the Second World War there was displacement of many people who needed housing facilities (Sloane 17). In addition, many people were migrating to America (Needham and Allen 950). In order to fulfill the housing needs of this increasing population, the housing industry took the advantage by building poor housing facilities while clearing large tracks of land (Pischler-Millanovic 117). As a result, this led to massive destruction of the environment. Therefore, I tend to agree with Rome arguments about the suburban sprawl destroying the environment.

Conclusion

According to the analysis and evaluation, Rome arguments are true because after the Second World War many people needed houses or homes. As a result, the housing industry was growing at an enormous rate. In this case, the industrialists were destroying immense tracks of land to accommodate the increasing demand. This led to clearing of excellent land with a perfect environment and building poor housing facility. However, the book fails to offer

readers alternative examples of other countries. In addition, an evaluation of other forms of destroying the environment should be done in the book. Therefore, this is creating a weakness because many forms of environment degradation exist. In spite of this fact, I still agree with Rome arguments in the book.

Works Cited

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