

Urgent Issues, Everyday Politics
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Middle Class Debt, Shame, and The Crisis of Affordability in Urban America

- I. The Decline of 'Middle Classes' Economic Security (drawing on Neal Gabler's "The Secret Shame of Middle-Class Americans," Atlantic Monthly, May 2016)
 - A. A Definitional Issue: Economic and Social Criteria of Identifying the Middle-Class
 - B. The Transformation of Middle-Class Economics Over the Last 40+ Years
 - C. The Rise in Middle-Class Debt and Decline in Savings
 - D. The Paradox: Is the Middle-Class Middle-Class?

- II. Some Main Implications
 - A. The Harms of Status-Anxiety
 - B. Children Living in Poverty
 - C. Hollowing Out of the Middle Class
 - D. New Forms of Precariousness as Illustrated by Housing

- III. Some Public Policy Proposals
 - A. Moderate Liberal Reformism
 - B. Using Law to Bolster Countervailing Powers
 - C. Using Law to Produce a More Equal Distribution of the Benefits of Post-Industrial Economic Growth