

Citation

- Moore, L. (2017). Gullah Geechee families: Land and culture. *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*, 9(1), Article 8. Murray State University.
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Summary

- The article discusses the history, lifestyle, and current struggles of the Gullah/Geechee people of the Sea Islands. It goes into detail about the legal process known as heirs' property and how the practice has put the Gullah people at risk of cultural erasure through their land being sold by disconnected relatives being bought by developers. The article interviews an individual going by W who describes their experience as a Gullah and the numerous issues they have faced due to the heirs' property laws. The article concludes by stating the limitations and challenges regarding the research, as well as a brief closing statement.

Evaluation

- The article spends the majority of its length discussing the background of the Gullah people and the mechanics of heirs' property rights. Despite this, I believe it successfully conveys its intended message of cultural preservation and the importance of the Gullah tradition. However, I do believe that the author failed in providing a thorough ethnographic record of their conversations with W, as they seemed to only record their conversations when they fit the narrative of their thesis. The author fails to address the underlying conflicts in a way that accounts for both sides of the issue, resulting in a shallow "us vs. Them" analysis of the issue. They also fail to provide a solution to the issue, which leads to the reading seeming aimless.

Reflection

- Although the reading deepened my understanding of the conflicts seen within the Gullah community, I feel as if it fell short of its intended goal. Most of the background information (information which made up most of the reading) was already known to me, leading to the article seeming pointless. The ethnographic portion of the article enhanced my understanding of the Gullah point of view, yet there was not enough to truly deepen my understanding. For someone who has know knowledge on the topic, the article is a good introduction to the complex culture and issues faced by the Gullah people, but it fails to provide new insights into the issue to knowledgeable readers.